

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

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Attendance is compulsory and students' participation will be rewarded.

All the teacher's presentations (on power point) plus the readings (pdf) will be on campus virtual. For the collective readings, a randomly chosen student will conduct the debate.

Reading lists on this syllabus are not exhaustive. More texts can be found in the designated files on campus virtual.

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction. What is Political Sociology?

Main Theories/Perspectives. Methodological Individualism and Bounded Rationality.

2. How to Work in the Field of Political Sociology?

Combination of Theory and Evidence. Methodology and Techniques.

3. Social Inequalities and Politics. State and Civil Society

Social Stratification and Mobility. Social Capital and Social Networks. Social Movements, Interest Groups and Parties.

4. The Social Cleavages Theory. The Sociological Explanation of Politics

Definition and Typologies. The Theory: Lipset and Rokkan, and Further Developments. Bottom-up and Top-down Approaches.

5. Politics and the Social Class Cleavage

Social Class and Voting. Objective and Subjective Measures of Social Class. Measures of Class Voting

6. Politics and the Religious Cleavage

Religious Voting and the Confessional Parties. Europe's Religious Map and the Secularization Process.

7. Politics and the Ethnic Cleavage

Main Approaches to Ethnicity. Measures of Ethnic Diversity. Ethnicity, Politics, and Economics.

8. Politics and the Gender Cleavage

Is Gender a Cleavage? Political Inequality and Descriptive Representation. Women and Political Corruption.

9. Neo-Institutionalism and the Welfare State

Return to a Supply-Based Approach. Parties, Regimes and Electoral Systems. Welfare States Models.

ASSESSMENT

- A) 3 Readings provided by the teacher/student leading to debates in class: 30% of the final mark,
- B) 2 Multiple-choice tests: 20% of the final mark,
- C) Short research project (question, hypothesis, brief exploration of the literature...): 20% of the final mark,
- D) Final test: 30% of the final mark.
- E) Participation in class will add up to the final mark.

Failure to comply with deadlines or the guidelines exposed below, will result in missing the points related to A and C.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF READINGS/SHORT RESEARCH PROJECTS (GUIDELINES)

- Power point or any other similar format; never more than 30 minutes (not counting the subsequent debate).
- A research question/s, introduced at the beginning, should orient the presentation.
- Critical reading and analysis of the material.
- No summaries of the texts, instead common threads and topics addressed by the authors.
- Combine theoretical arguments with empirical evidence (the usage of additional evidence, whenever needed and suitable, is recommended: websites, leaflets, propaganda and electoral results, political speeches,

number of demonstrations, survey data, membership rates...); relatively easy to find on the Internet.

- Finally, a tentative conclusion linked to the initial question/s will be introduced as well as questions leading to generate a debate in class (this debate will not focus on opinions but on the arguments, theoretical material and empirical evidence provided).