

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

Prof. Susana Aguilar Fernández (UCM)

Attendance is compulsory and students' participation will be rewarded.

All the teacher's presentations (ppt) plus the readings (pdf) will be on campus virtual. Reading lists on this syllabus are not exhaustive. More texts can be found in the designated files on campus virtual.

There are two types of readings: compulsory and voluntary. Compulsory readings will be assigned either individually (a particular student will present them in class) or collectively (the whole class will do them and a debate will be organised; should this option fail to generate a debate, a randomly chosen student will do the presentation).

SYLLABUS

0. Introduction. What is Political Sociology?

Main Theories/Perspectives. Methodological Individualism and Bounded Rationality.

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

Combination of Theory and Evidence. Methodology and Techniques.

2. Social Inequalities and Politics. State and Civil Society.

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

3. 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.

4. Politics and the Social Class Cleavage.

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

5. Politics and the Religious Cleavage.

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

6. Politics and the Ethnic Cleavage.

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

7. Politics and the Gender Cleavage.

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

8. Reversing Causality: Neo-Institutionalism and the Welfare State.

Return to a Supply-Based Approach. Welfare States Models, Political Parties, and Policies.

ASSESSMENT

- A) Compulsory individual readings to be presented in class: 30% of the final mark,
- B) Compulsory collective readings (so as to assess continuous participation in class): 30% of the final mark,
- C) 2 Multiple-choice tests: 20% of the final mark,
- D) Final test: 30% of the final mark.

Failure to comply with deadline and/or the guidelines exposed below, will result in missing the 30 points related to A.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF READINGS/SHORT RESEARCH PROJECTS (GUIDELINES)

- Powerpoint or any other similar format; around 20/25 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).