

Sociology 254
 Political Sociology
 Fall 2005
 Tuesday, Thursday, 3-4.15.

Professor Vujačić
 Office: King 305a
 Office Hours:
 Tue., 12.15-1.45, Th., 1-2.30.

Political Sociology

This course is intended as an introduction to a major sub-field of sociology, the sociology of politics. We will begin with an examination of basic concepts, traditional authority relations and the birth of the modern state and citizenship in the Western world. We will then explore such problems as the social conditions of democracy, class conflict and the Marxist theory of the state, bureaucratization and the elitist critique of democracy, the weakness of American socialism and the nature of class/elite power in the United States. In the concluding part of the course we will concentrate on the rise of Nazism in Germany in an attempt to isolate some of the factors which can lead to democratic breakdown.

Course Requirements and Grading

There will be a mid-term quiz, two papers (5-7 pages each) and a final exam. The mid-term quiz will consist of 6 short definitions of concepts and will be in class (30 minutes). The final exam will consist of 6 definitions on the mid-term pattern plus two broader questions. The two essay topics will be determined by the instructor and will require students to synthesize course material (no additional reading required).

Mid-term quiz:	15%
2 Essays (5-7 pages): 25% x 2	= 50%
Final Exam	25%
Class Attendance and Participation	10%

Week One (September 5-12). Introduction to the Field of Political Sociology

Seymour Martin Lipset, *Political Man*, 1-24.

Week Two (September 12-19). The Evolution of the State and Modern Politics in the West

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in Hans Gerth and C. Wright Mills, *From Max Weber*, pp.77-128.

Week Three (September 19-26). From Traditional Authority Relations to Modern Citizenship

Reinhard Bendix, *Nation-Building and Citizenship*, pp.37-126.

Week Four (September 26-October 3). Social Class, Politics, and the State

Karl Marx, "Marx on the History of His Opinions," pp.3-7;
 "The German Ideology," 148-163; 172 (from top of page)-200;
 "The Communist Manifesto," 473-491;
 "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte," 594-617.

all in Robert Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Fred Block, "The Ruling Class Does not Rule," in Eva Etzioni-Halevy, ed., *Classes and Elites in Democracy and Democratization*, 259-266.

Week Five (October 3-10). The Social Conditions of Liberal Democracy

Seymour Martin Lipset, *Political Man*, pp.25-86.

Evelyne Huber, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John. D. Stephens, "Economic Development and Democracy. The Role of the Subordinate Classes," in Etzioni-Halevy, ed., *Classes and Elites in Democracy and Democratization*, pp.142-149.

Week Six (October 10-17). Classes, Status Groups, and the Democratic Class Struggle

Max Weber, "Class, Status, and Party," in Gerth and Mills, pp.180-195.

Lipset, *Political Man*, pp.230-278; 303-331.

Jeff Manza, Michael Hout, and Clem Brooks, "Class Voting in Capitalist Democracies since World War II: Dealignment, Realignment, or Trendless Fluctuation?" in *Annual Review of Sociology*, vol.21, 1995, pp.137-162.

First essay due (Thursday, October 13).

Week Seven. Bureaucracy and Democracy (October 17-21)

Max Weber, "Bureaucracy" in Gerth and Mills, pp.196-244.

Mid-term quiz (half-hour in class, Thursday, October 20).

(Fall break, October 22-30).

Week Eight (October 31-November 7). Elite Theory

Robert Michels, *Political Parties*, pp.40-114, 167-202, 213-223, 277-304, 364-371.

Joseph Schumpeter, "An Elite Theory of Democracy," in Etzioni-Halevy, ed., *Classes and Elites in Democracy and Democratization*, 78-85.

Robert Harmel, "The Iron Law of Oligarchy Revisited," in Bryan D. Jones, ed., *Leadership and Politics*, 160-189.

Week Nine (November 7-14). Liberal Democracy and the Pacification of Class Struggle: American Exceptionalism?

Werner Sombart, *Why is There no Socialism in the United States?*

Week Ten (November 14-21). Power in American Society: A Critique of Pluralism from a Class-Elite Perspective.

William Domhoff, *Who Rules America*, (entire).

Week Eleven (November 22. Thanksgiving break). Charismatic Leadership

Max Weber, "Charismatic Authority" in Gerth and Mills, 245-264.

Week Twelve. (November 28-December 5). Dictatorship and The Social Base of Extremist Politics

Franz Neumann, "Notes on the Theory of Dictatorship," in F. Neumann, *The Democratic and the Authoritarian State*, pp.233-256.

Lipset, "Working Class Authoritarianism," and "Fascism--Left, Right, Center," in *Political Man*, pp.87-179.

Second essay due (Thursday, December 1)

Week Thirteen (December 5-11).

Democratic Breakdown in Weimar Germany

Theodore Abel, *Why Hitler Came into Power*, pp.1-113.

Week Fourteen (December 11-15). Nazism as a Social Movement

Abel, *Why Hitler Came into Power*, pp.113-289.

Final Exam as Scheduled