Instructor:
Assoc. Prof. Alin Ceobanu, Ph.D.
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Classes:
Tuesdays 1:55 – 2:45 p.m. /Thursdays 1:55 – 2:45 p.m. & 3:00 – 3:50 p.m.
Turlington Hall 2319

Office hours:
Tuesdays 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. & 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.
Thursdays 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
& by apt.

Course Objectives, Topic and Goals:
This course satisfies three credits of (S) Social and Behavioral Sciences Education. In this course, students will learn key theoretical and conceptual themes used by political sociologists to understand and interpret the interplay between social and political phenomena in the United States and around the globe. Thus, students will learn how basic social processes and structures affect the political realm, and, reciprocally, how dynamics within politics have an impact on the society at large. The first objective of this class is to introduce students to a variety of theories, approaches, perspectives and debates on the social contexts in which power structures and processes are manifest. The second objective is to comparatively analyze the political embeddings of the societal spheres (e.g., the government, the state, the economy, the military, the media, or the civil society). We will look at several important theoretical problems (for example: the bases of power and legitimacy, ideology as a form of propaganda and control, political participation and elite domination, media content and political interests, representation via social movements, etc) and case studies (e.g., Western pluralist societies, elite-negotiated political transitions in the former communist countries of Europe, supra-national political institutions, expansion of the European Union, and globalization). Regarding specific learning outcomes for this course, by the end of this class, students will be able to: (a) identify the main issues related to power structures and the diffusion of power within the society; (b) critically evaluate the Political Sociology models; (c) incorporate these models into the analysis of institutions and states as systems of control; (d) assess the various uses of political power from the perspective of globalization; (e) evaluate the socio-political impact of the new social movements; and (f) apply the concepts and perspectives encompassed by Political Sociology when interpreting contemporary socio-political phenomena.

This course also satisfies three credits of (N) International General Education. Students will be instructed on the values, attitudes of norms that are prevalent in the United States and around the globe. This will enable students to develop an understanding of how geographies and societal arrangements have a different impact on political cultures. Through a comparative understanding and analysis of the American values and norms relative to those of other countries, students will be able to achieve a cross-national understanding of the dynamics in our ‘global village.’ Thus, we will see that Political Sociology is a growing field of study within social sciences covering, from a sociological perspective, a multitude of topics about power, state formation, political participation, electoral outcomes, voting behavior, revolutions, or globalization. Because power is omnipresent in human societies, the examination of power structures and processes constitutes the focus of this course. Some of the questions we will try to answer comparatively during this semester include: Who has the power? How is power acquired and for what purposes? What are the social bases of power? How is power used or administered? The course will therefore give you the tools needed to critically evaluate/analyze contemporary socio-political events. Student learning outcomes include the following: (a) helping understand the changing theoretical and empirical context that is used in the interpretation of power structures in the United States and in other countries; (b) helping you assess the relevancy of
(or discrepancy between) the perspectives offered by political sociologists and your own interpretations of the Political Sociology topics (based on your own experiences and background); and (c) helping you understand the diverse manifestations of socio-political processes in the American society, as well as in other societies around the world.

**Required Texts:**

**The Format of the Course and Evaluation:**

Classes will be conducted in a mixed, lecture-discussion format. While the professor will provide a context-setting lecture at the start of each class, students should come prepared with questions from readings – the two will form the basis of informed discussions. Students must do the assigned readings before coming to class. PowerPoint slides presented in class will not be posted on the web.

**Attendance and Class Participation:** Class participation is an important component of the learning process for this course. Attendance is not optional (attendance forms will be circulated), as engagement in classroom discussions is necessary to facilitate a strong understanding of the topics and be successful in this course. High emphasis will be placed on participation in classroom discussions (attendance and class participation count as 10% towards your final grade). Students who miss classes on a habitual basis will not be admitted in the exam, which will result in a failing grade. However, those who must miss classes because of an illness should inform the professor about this via email or telephone. Medical conditions must be documented to be excused and only the original physician’s form (no copies) will be considered.

**Exams:** The dates of the three in-class (regular) and closed-book exams (each counting as 30% towards the final grade) are included in the syllabus. It is your responsibility to be on time for the exams. Exams will typically consist of three parts: multiple choice questions, identifications (definitions), and short essays. These exams will test you on the lectures and reading materials. The second and third in-class exams are non-cumulative. Students who must miss an exam for reasons of religious observation should contact the professor during the first two weeks of the semester – otherwise I will assume that all students can make the currently scheduled examination dates. Other acceptable excuses for missing an exam include your own illness, personal injury on the day of the exam, or a tragic event in the family. Students who cannot make it to the class on the day of the exam are expected to notify the professor via email or telephone before the exam time and arrange for make-ups. Attending a wedding or a job interview, as well as early vacation plans (such as a purchased plane ticket or vacation cruise), will not be considered as valid excuses for missing an exam. As with class attendance, requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies, which can be found in the online catalog ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)).

**Academic Honesty:** All coursework must reflect your own individual effort. Cheating (including inappropriate use of copyrighted materials) is unethical and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. However, there should be no need to cheat, as my twin goal is to provide assistance to students and see everyone in the class succeed. Cheating will automatically result in a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code ([http://www.dso.ufl.edu/secr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/secr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/)) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with this class’ instructor.
Classroom Accommodation: Students requesting accommodation in the classroom for any disability must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then present this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Furthermore, students requesting accommodation are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor during the first few weeks to discuss how to best address their needs.

Grading Policy: The course grades are based on individual performance and are usually determined by each student’s ranking in the class. Classes performing exceptionally well are awarded with generous distributions. There are no extra credit assignments in this class. Per CLAS policy, incomplete grades could be assigned under special circumstances. Pending that (1) a student has done a passing work (a grade of “D” or better) in the course and (2) the instructor is contacted before the last examination or assignment, a formal arrangement (contract) could be agreed upon by both the instructor and the student. This signed contract will stipulate all conditions for completing the course requirements and earning a letter grade, including an explicit expiration date for the arrangement (see http://www.clas.ufl.edu/forms/incomplete-grade-policy-clas.pdf).

The grading scheme that will be used in this course is:

- Class attendance and participation: 10%
- First in-class exam: 30%
- Second in-class exam (non-cumulative): 30%
- Third in-class exam (non-cumulative): 30%

The following grading scale is used to evaluate students’ performance:

- A: 92-100%
- A−: 90-91.9
- B+: 88-89.9
- B: 82-87.9
- B−: 80-81.9
- C+: 78-79.9
- C: 72-77.9
- C−: 70-71.9
- D+: 68-69.9
- D: 62-67.9
- D−: 60-61.9
- F: less than 60%

Online course evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course, based on a set of 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

Cellular Phone Policy: To prevent any kind of disruptions during regular classes and exams, students are required to turn cell phones off (texting is not allowed), place them in their bags/backpacks before coming to class, and strictly adhere to this policy.

SENDING OR RECEIVING E-MAIL, TEXTING, OR INTERNET BROWSING DURING CLASS TIME IS NOT ALLOWED.
Laptop and Other Electronic Gadgets Policy: Since there are no in-class assignments requiring internet access, this is a no-laptop class. Students should be courteous to their classmates, and so they need to make sure that their iPods, iPads, mp3 players, GPS devices, etc are turned off before coming to class.

Classroom Behavior: If they must be late, students are asked to enter the classroom without disrupting the educational process. As a general policy, please be respectful in your comments to the instructor and/or your fellow classmates.

Useful info:
- University Counseling Services and Mental Health: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx or (352) 392-1575
- University Police Department: (352) 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies)

Students’ Responsibilities:
- Attend class regularly
- Complete readings by or on the date indicated in the syllabus
- Participate in class discussions
- Complete the three in-class exams

Critical Dates:
- Feb 11 (Tu) First in-class exam
- March 4 (Tu) Spring Break, no class
- March 6 (Th) Spring Break, no class
- Mar 18 (Tu) Second in-class exam
- Apr 22 (Tu) Third in-class exam

Schedule and Assigned Readings:
- Jan 7 (Tu) Course overview, introduction, no readings
- Jan 9 (Th) Power, the State, Hegemony, and Struggle (LN 1-27)
- Jan 14 (Tu) Theoretical Frameworks in Political Sociology (LN 83-108)
- Jan 16 (Th) Theoretical Frameworks in Political Sociology (LN 108-118)
- Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State (LN 31-43)
- Jan 21 (Tu) Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State (LN 43-57)
- Jan 23 (Th) Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State (LN 57-77)
- The Polity of the United States (LN 121-138)
- Jan 28 (Tu) The Polity of the United States (LN 138-168)
- Jan 30 (Th) Political Involvement and Conflict in the United States (LN 173-220)
Feb 4 (Tu)  *Political Ideas and Beliefs* (LN 285-297)
Feb 6 (Th)  *Political Ideas and Beliefs* (LN 298-329)
Feb 11 (Tu)  *First in-class exam*
Feb 13 (Th)  *Cultural Institutions and Tolerance* (LN 335-376)
Feb 18 (Tu)  *Cultural Institutions and Tolerance* (LN 376-383)
Feb 20 (Th)  *Law, Crime, and Control* (LN 389-436)
Feb 25 (Tu)  *Protest and Movements* (LN 227-239)
Feb 27 (Th)  *Protest and Movements* (LN 239-279)

March 1 – 8: Spring Break

Mar 11 (Tu)  *Political Opportunities and Constraints* (ST 71-90)
Mar 13 (Th)  *Acting Contentiously* (ST 91-105)
Mar 18 (Tu)  *Second in-class exam*
Mar 20 (Th)  *Framing Contention* (ST 106-122)
Mar 25 (Tu)  *Mobilizing Structures and Contentious Politics* (ST 123-131)
Mar 27 (Th)  *Mobilizing Structures and Contentious Politics* (ST 131-138)
            *Cycles of Contention* (ST 141-150)
Apr 1 (Tu)   *Cycles of Contention* (ST 151-160)
Apr 3 (Th)   *Reforming Social Movements* (ST 161-175)
            Film screening
Apr 8 (Tu)   *Transnational Contention* (ST 176-184)
            Film screening
Apr 10 (Th)  *Transnational Contention* (ST 184-195)
            Film screening
            *The Politics of Business Policy* (LN 441-468)
Apr 15 (Tu)  *The Politics of Business Policy* (LN 468-492)
Apr 17 (Th)  *Social Programs and Policies* (LN 497-549)
Apr 22 (Tu)  *Third in-class exam*