

Political Sociology

Sociology 3446

University of Utah, Spring 2023

Meeting time: Online, asynchronous.

Meeting place: Online, Canvas.

Instructor: Shane Miller

Contact: shane.miller@soc.utah.edu

Course Description

This introductory course in political sociology aims to challenge you to see the world as deeply political. Politics is not just about politicians and elections; nor is it necessarily something that happens far away or behind closed doors. Politics is happening all around us, with our participation, and it shapes our everyday lives. Political sociology is broadly about the organization and reorganization of social relations between people. It is thus concerned with the diffusion of ideas and institutions, the formation of groups, processes of decision-making, the allocation of resources and status, and the distribution and exercise of power.

The objectives of the course include:

—to develop an understanding of what “politics” entail, and a familiarity with core concepts within political sociology;

—to develop critical thinking skills by comparing and contrasting the perspectives of different authors within political sociology;

—to apply political sociology perspectives to the social or “real” world and evaluate their relevance.

Course and communication

This is an online course without regular meeting times. It is adapted from an in-person course that met two times per week. This being so, some of the course material may reference in class meetings or refer to specific days of the week. You may ignore these references.

The course material will be unlocked weekly on Canvas. It will consist of readings from PDFs, documentaries, and PowerPoint presentations. All material for the course will be available on Canvas, via the library, or publicly available on the internet.

Please begin by going to the “Home” page. Here you will see links to the course modules. On the Canvas sidebar you will see links to modules, discussion, assignments, etc.

I will communicate with the class in two primary ways: announcements and the Canvas email system. So that you do not miss any updates, please make sure to check regularly both the announcements page in Canvas, and the email account that is associated with your Canvas account.

The order of coursework

It is important that you do all of the required readings, watch the required documentaries, and go through the PowerPoint presentations for each week. These are designed to give you the material that you will write your essays on.

Office hours

I will hold office hours by appointment. Please email me (shane.miller@soc.utah.edu) to request a meeting.

Assignments

This course includes the assignments outlined below. You are welcome to work with other students on any of the assignments, but you must complete and submit the final product of your work individually, on your own. Below the assignments are outlined. The details of each assignment can be found on Canvas.

Discussions

For the course you will complete one online discussion where you post comments on a question posed by me. You will also complete four video chats with other students from the course and submit notes on the conversation for a grade.

Thesis and Outline

You will submit your thesis and an outline for each paper that you write in the course.

Essays

You will write five essays on subject matter from the course.

Extra Credit

You will have the opportunity to write one extra credit essay if you want to raise your grade.

Late work

Late assignments will remain open throughout the semester. They will be deducted 50% unless another arrangement has been reached with me.

Grade calculation

Your final grade will depend on the following components:

Essays 50% 5 essays, 10 points each (50 total points)

Thesis and Outline 25% 5 assignments, 5 points each (25 total points)

Discussion 25% (25 total points)

Extra Credit 5% (5 points)

You will notice that each point is worth 1% of your grade.

Final grade

It is possible to earn 100 total points in the course. The total points you earn will determine your final letter grade in the course. Each point is worth a percentage point in your grade. Percentages are converted into letter grades according to the University of Utah grading scale.

University of Utah Grading Scale

A	100%–94%	A-	93.9%–90%		
B+	89.9%–87%	B	86.9%–84%	B-	83.9%–80%
C+	79.9%–77%	C	76.9–74%	C-	73.9%–70%
D+	69.9%–67%	D	66.9%–64%	D-	63.9%–60%
E	59.9%–0%				

Institutional Polices & Procedures

- 1. *The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
 - a. *Accommodation Policy (see Section Q):***
<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>
- 2. *Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
- 3. *Drop/Withdrawal.*** Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA. See the [Academic Calendar](#) for the last day to withdraw from term, first and second session classes.
- 4. *Plagiarism/Cheating.*** It is assumed that all work submitted to your instructor is your own work. When you have used ideas of others, you must properly indicate that you have done so. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code, *"includes, but is not limited to,*

cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct." For detailed definitions and possible sanctions please see the **Student Code** below. <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>

5. **Wellness Statement.** Your personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please speak with the instructor or TA before issues become problems. And, for helpful resources, contact the Center for Student wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

6. **Veterans Support Center.** The Veterans Support Center is a "one stop shop" for student veterans to find services, support, advocacy, and camaraderie. They are located in the Park Building Room 201. You can visit their website for more information about their services and support at <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu>.

7. **LGBT Resource Center.** The University of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 of the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu>.

8. **Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language.** If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include: the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli>).

CSBS Emergency Action Plan



BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>



CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at <http://alert.utah.edu/headsup> to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.

- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus if you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!
- **Safety Escorts:** For students who are on campus at night or passed business hours and would like an escort to your care, please call 801-585-2677. You can a call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.

