

**Soc 213: Political Sociology
Hunter College**

Fall 2013

Tues and Fri 9:45am – 11am, W411

Instructor: Tom Buechele

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Office Hours: by Appointment

Course Description

This course is a sociological view of politics through the study of power, authority, social organization, and social movements in U.S. society and international context. This will include an examination of the interactions of government and “civil society”. Readings focus on primary documents concerning the role of social class, race, and gender in the construction of social and political inequality and will look at these constructions through both the lenses of governmental and economic policy as well as through various social movements.

Course rules and guidelines

Rules of the class

- Tolerance for all opinions as long as they are expressed politely and respectfully.
- Cheating in any form will not be accepted. Plagiarized (copied) work will not get a passing grade.
- No lateness, no absence without informing me in advance.
- Turn off cell phones before entering class.
- Accommodation of students with disabilities: see me in advance.
- Participate
 - o Ask questions
 - o Read actively; come to class with questions and comments about how the readings fit into the larger themes of the course.
 - o Bring daily readings with you to class.
 - o Take notes on the lectures and readings. Computers may be used in class, but this privilege may be revoked if it appears they are not being used responsibly.
- All writing assignments must be typed using size 12 font, double-spaced, and be edited and spell-checked. Margins should also be reasonably sized.

- **Late assignment policy:**
 - Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned day.
 - Consideration will be given to certain special circumstances, such as a documented emergency or health problems, otherwise **THERE ARE NO MAKE UPS**. It is your own responsibility to back up your work, and to keep copies of everything handed in.

- **Grading**

- short answer quizzes 45%
- Participation (**Including showing up to EVERY class ON TIME, finishing assigned readings for that class day and bringing them with you. Be prepared to discuss that day's readings! You have two unexcused absences. After that all absences will affect your grade. It is imperative that you come to class as much of the test material will be from lectures and discussions.**) 20%

Participation includes coming to class with the reading due for that day and doing the reading. This is part of the grade. After two absences each absences will result in a deduction in your participation grade. 5 absences will result in a 0 grade for participation. 6 absences will result in an automatic F for the class)

In class writings and presentations 10%

- Final Exam 25%

- **Grading Breakdown**

95-100	A
89-94	A-
86-88	B+
83-85	B
79-82	B-
76-78	C+
73-75	C
69-72	C-
66-68	D+
63-65	D
60-62	D-
Below 60	F

Textbook and reading materials:

Essays and book chapters given as handouts in

Class and/or online through the CUNY portal on *Blackboard*.

Schedule (Subject to change)

Introduction: Sociology Theory and Theories of Power

F Aug. 30 Introduction to Course

T Sept. 3 *Readings*: C. Wright Mills “The Promise”

Primary Documents of U.S. Democracy

F Sept. 6 **No Class**

T Sept. 10 “The United States Constitution” Introduction by Corey Robin (Find and read the amendments online)

F Sept. 13 **No Class**

Race and Politics in American

T Sept. 17 Madison “Federalist 10”

F Sept. 20 **Quiz #1**

Intro to Sociology of Race

T Sept. 24 Frederick Douglass, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”, and *The People v. Hall*

F Sept 27 George Lipsitz, “The Possessive Investment in Whiteness”

T Oct. 1 W. E. B. DuBois, “Black Reconstruction in America”

Film: “White Power USA”

F Oct. 4 Film “Race the Power of and Illusion”

Feminism, Gender, and Gay Rights Movements

T Oct. 8 **Quiz #2**

Intro to Sociology of Gender and Feminist Movements in the U.S.

F Oct. 11 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Address at the Seneca Falls Convention” and “Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions”

Friedan “Feminine Mystique”

T Oct. 15 **No Class**

F Oct. 18 Anne Phillips “Public Spaces, Private Lives”

T Oct. 22 Emma Goldman, “Marriage and Love” and “Woman Suffrage”
Carl Wittman, “A Gay Manifesto”

F Oct 25 West and Zimmerman “Doing Gender”

Labor, Class and Power, and its Feminist Critiques

T Oct. 29 **Quiz #3**

Karl Marx “Estranged Labour”

F Nov. 1 Karl Marx “Estranged Labour” (Continued)

T Nov. 5 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels “Manifesto of the communist Party”

F Nov 8 Firestone “Dialectic of Sex”

T Nov. 11 Federici “The means of Reproduction”

F Nov.15 **Quiz #4**

T Nov. 19 C. Wright Mills, “The Power Elite”

F Nov. 22 C. Wright Mills, “Culture and Politics” *Handout*

T Nov 26 Aronowitz, “Class Matters”

T Nov 27 Aronowitz (“Space and Time in Class Theory”)

F Dec 3 **Quiz # 5**

T Dec 10

F Dec 13 Film: “Class Dismissed: How T.V. frames the working class”
Review for Final

Final Due Date and Details TBA