

Sabancı University
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
SOC 301: Political Sociology
Spring 2021

Tuesdays 2:40-3:30 p.m. & Wednesdays 4:40-6:30 p.m.

<https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/93100179824>

Instructor: Ateş Altınordu (FASS 2083, ext. 9283, atesaltinordu@sabanciuniv.edu; meeting by appointment)

Course description: This course provides an introduction to the study of power, politics, and the state from a sociological perspective. Topics we will discuss include concepts of political power, the modern state, revolutions, social movements, political parties, nationalism, populism, and globalization.

Requirements: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and actively participate in class discussions. The other requirements include a midterm exam (April 10) and a final exam (June 1).

Evaluation: Final grades will be based on class attendance and participation (20%), the midterm exam (40%), and the final exam (40%). Letter grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

93-100 A	80-82 B-	67-69 D+
90-92 A-	77-79 C+	60-66 D
87-89 B+	73-76 C	
83-86 B	70-72 C-	0-59 F

Attendance Policy: Those who miss more than seven class meetings without official excuses will receive N/A for the course. Only (1) a report from the University Health Center or (2) a permission note from the university administration for participation at a university event *for the date of the class in question* count as official excuses. Those who enter class more than 20 minutes after its start will be considered absent on that date. *Please do not ask for exceptions.*

Academic integrity: Cases of plagiarism, cheating, and fraud will result in an F for the course grade and will be referred to the relevant Faculty Dean for potential disciplinary action. For Sabancı University's Academic Integrity Statement, see <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement> (ENG) or <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/tr/akademik-durustluk> (TR).

Readings: All readings are available as pdf files on the Soc301 page at SuCourse+.

Week 1 | Introduction & Overview of Fundamental Concepts | February 23-24

- Poggi, Gianfranco. 1990. "Social Power and Its Political Form." Pp. 3-18 in *The State: Its Nature, Development, and Prospects*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Weber, Max. 1978. "Power and Domination", "The Basis of Legitimacy." Pp. 53-54, 212-216 in *Economy and Society Vol.1*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Week 2 | Forms of Power I | March 2-3

- Lukes, Steven. 2005. *Power: A Radical View*. 2nd edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 14-59.
- Mills, C. Wright. 1956. "The Higher Circles." Pp. 3-29 in *The Power Elite*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Parsons, Talcott. 1957. "The Distribution of Power in American Society." *World Politics* 10(1): 123-143.

Week 3 | Forms of Power II | March 9-10

- Foucault, Michel. 1995. "Panopticism." Pp. 195-229 in *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Tüfekçi, Zeynep. 2014. "Engineering the public: Big Data, Surveillance and Computational Politics." *First Monday* 19(7).
- Zuboff, Shoshana. 2016. "Google as a Fortune Teller: The Secrets of Surveillance Capitalism." *FAZ.net*. <https://www.faz.net/-hzi-8eaf4>.

Week 4 | The Modern State | March 16-17

- Poggi, Gianfranco. 1990. "The Nature of the Modern State." Pp. 19-33 in *The State: Its Nature, Development, and Prospects*.
- Weber, Max. 1978. "Political and Hierocratic Organizations", "Legal Authority with a Bureaucratic Administrative Staff." Pp. 54-56, 217-226 in *Economy and Society Vol.1*.
- Scott, James C. 1998. "Cities, People and Language." Pp. 53-83 in *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Week 5 | Revolutions | March 23-24

- Skocpol, Theda. 1976. "France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 18(2): 175-210.
- Goodwin, Jeff. 2011. "Why We Were Surprised (Again) by the Arab Spring." *Swiss Political Science Review* 17(4): 452-56.

Week 6 | Social Movements | March 30-31

- McCarthy, John D. and Mayer N. Zald. 1977. "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 82(6): 1212-1241.
- Benford, Robert D. 2000. "Framing Processes and Social Movements: An Overview and Assessment." *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 611-639.
- Göle, Nilüfer. 2013. "Gezi – Anatomy of a Public Square Movement." *Insight Turkey* 15(3): 7-14.

Week 7 | No classes on April 6-7 / Midterm - April 10

Week 8 | Social Cleavages and Political Parties | April 13-14

- Schwartz, Mildred A. and Kay Lawson. 2005. "Political Parties: Social Bases, Organization, and Environment." Pp. 266-286 in *The Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Civil Societies, and Globalization*. Eds. Thomas Janoski et. al. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Kalaycıoğlu, Ersin. 2019. "Elections, Parties and the Party System." Pp. 83-102 in *The Routledge Handbook of Turkish Politics*. Eds. Alpaslan Özerdem and Matthew Whiting. Abingdon and New York: Routledge.

Week 9 | Religion & Politics | April 20-21

- Stepan, Alfred. 2011. "The Multiple Secularisms of Modern Democratic and Non-Democratic Regimes." Pp. 114-144. in *Rethinking Secularism*. Eds. Craig Calhoun, Mark Juergensmeyer, and Jonathan van Antwerpen. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Altınordu, Ateş. 2021. "Religion and Politics in Contemporary Turkey." *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of the Middle East*. Eds. Armando Salvatore, Sari Hanafi, and Kieko Obuse. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 10 | Nationalism | April 27-28

- Calhoun, Craig. 1998. *Nationalism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1-85.
- Keyder, Caglar. "A History and Geography of Turkish nationalism." Pp. 3-17 in *Citizenship and the Nation-State in Greece and Turkey*. Eds. Faruk Birtek and Thalia Dragonas. Abingdon and New York: Routledge.

WEEK 11 | Populism | May 4-5

- Brubaker, Rogers. 2017. "Why Populism?" *Theory and Society* 46(5): 357-385.
- Taşkın, Yüksel. 2020. "Populism in Turkey: Historical and Contemporary Patterns." *The Oxford Handbook of Turkish Politics*. Ed. Güneş Tezcür. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

**** Spring Break May 10-14 ****

Week 12 | Globalization and Politics | May 18

- Rodrik, Dani. 2011. "The Political Trilemma of the World Economy." Pp. 184-206 in *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

**** No Classes on May 19 ****

Week 13 | Concluding Discussion & Documentary Screening | May 25-26

**** Final Exam - June 1 ****