

# Political Sociology

7.5 ECTS credits

## 1. Decision

The Syllabus is approved by the board of the Department of Sociology at Stockholm University 2011-04-28.

## 2. General information

The course consists of 7.5 ECTS credits and is at the advanced level.

## 3. Course code

SO7400

## 4. Entrance qualifications

A Bachelor's degree.

## 5. Course contents

The aim of this course is to give an overview of political sociology and to provide a deeper understanding of some of the central themes in modern political sociology.

## 6. Learning outcomes

After accomplishing this course, participants are expected to:

*In terms of knowledge and understanding:*

- Have knowledge about the principal lines of political sociology.
- Understand the meaning of central concepts and theories in political sociology.

*In terms of accomplishments and competence:*

- Be able to account for, and to analyze, the content of central texts by political sociologists in a clear, well put, and well argued manner.
- Be able to use relevant concepts and theories from political sociology to analyze political phenomena.

*In terms of values and evaluation:*

- To be able to critically assess political sociology texts in terms of their merits and limitations.

## 7. Instruction

The course is provided at half-time basis over ten weeks, from March 26 to June, 9, 2019. Teaching takes the form of 9 combined lectures and seminars, and 2 book seminars.

## **8. Examination**

Examination is in the form of two assignments. Course members are expected to write (1) a short summary of a monograph in political sociology, and (2) a course paper on political sociology. The book should be selected from the list below, and the short summary (2 pages) should be handed in at the book seminars (May 28 and May 29). The two book seminars are obligatory. The course paper should use relevant texts in political sociology to deal with a research question related to political phenomena. The paper should be at least 6-8 pages, and be structured as a research paper. The topic and research question should be discussed with the teacher (Professor Jens Rydgren). The last day to hand in the course paper is June 9.

The course work and examination is evaluated according to the following degrees:

A = Excellent. To achieve this grade the student must be able to for the content of the course literature clearly and precisely, critically analyze and compare concepts and theories, argue convincingly for interpretations and conclusions, and use relevant literature in independent analysis of political phenomena.

B = Very good. To achieve this grade the student must be able to account for the content of the course literature clearly and precisely, critically analyze and compare concepts and theories, argue convincingly for interpretations and conclusions, and use relevant literature in relatively independent analysis of political phenomena.

C = Good. To achieve this grade the student must be able to account for the content of the course literature fairly clearly and precisely, critically analyze and compare concepts and theories, provide arguments for interpretations and conclusions, and use relevant literature in relatively independent analysis of political phenomena.

D = Satisfactory. To achieve this grade the student must be able to give a fairly accurate account for the content of the course literature, analyze concepts and theories, provide arguments for interpretations and conclusions, and use relevant literature in relatively independent analysis of political phenomena.

E = Sufficient. To achieve this grade the student must be able to give a fairly accurate account for the content of the course literature.

Fx = Insufficient. To achieve this grade the student must be able to account for the course literature to some extent.

F = Fail. The student cannot account for the content of the course literature in a way that is satisfactory.

E is needed to pass the course. Students with Fx or F at an exam are entitled to take another exam as long as the course is provided in order to achieve grade E at least. A student with E is not entitled to another examination to raise his/her grade. Students can request to have examination according to this syllabus up to three semesters after it has stopped to be valid.

Students who received grade Fx or F on exams twice from the same examiner can request to be evaluated by another examiner. Such request should be sent to the Director of Studies.

## 9. Schedule

Wednesday 27/3 13-14, F413	Introduction <i>Jens Rydgren</i>
Wednesday 3/4 10-12, B413	Collective Action (Literature: Kollock 1998; Ostrom 1998) <i>Lars Udehn</i>
Wednesday 10/4 10-12, E487	The Origin of Political Order (Literature: Fukuyama 2011; 2014) <i>Göran Ahrne</i>
Thursday 25/4 13-15, D289	Welfare state (Literature: Birnbaum et al. 2017; Korpi & Palme 1998; Green-Pedersen 2004) <i>Kenneth Nelson</i>
Thursday 2/5 14-16, A5137	Radical right-wing parties (Literature: Rydgren 2007; 2008) <i>Jens Rydgren</i>
Thursday 9/5 10-12, B419	Elites (Literature: Edling et al. 2013; 2015; Higley 2010) <i>Jens Rydgren</i>
Wednesday 15/5 10-12, F497	Revolutions (Literature: Goldstone 2009; Lawson 2016) <i>Daniel Ritter</i>
Tuesday 28/5 13-16, D299	Book seminar <i>Jens Rydgren</i>
Wednesday 29/5 13-16, E371	Book seminar <i>Jens Rydgren</i>

## 10. Literature

### *Required reading:*

Birnbaum, S., Ferrarini, T., Nelson, K., Palme, J. 2017. "The Generational welfare contract on the agenda", in Birnbaum, S., Ferrarini, T., Nelson, K., Palme, J. *The Generational welfare contract: Justice, institutions and outcomes*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. Available online <https://www.elgaronline.com/view/9781783471027/9781783471027.xml>.

Edling, C., Farkas, G. and Rydgren, J. 2013. "Women in Power: Sex Differences in Local Elite networks." *Acta Sociologica* 56(1): 21-40.

Edling, C., Farkas, G. and Rydgren, J. 2015. "Integration of the Swedish Local elite: The Role of Professional and Private Networks." *Scandinavian Political Studies* 38(1): 49-74.

Fukuyama, Francis. 2011. *The origins of political order: From prehuman times to the French revolution*. (A selection of chapters)

Fukuyama, Francis. 2014. *Political order and political decay: From the Industrial Revolution to the globalization of democracy*. (A selection of chapters)

Goldstone, Jack. 2009. "Rethinking Revolution: Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East." 29(1): 18-32.

Green-Pedersen, Christoffer. 2004. The dependent variable problem within the study of welfare state retrenchment: defining the problem and looking for solutions. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, 6(1): 3–14.

Higley, J. "Elite Theory and Elites" in K.T. Leicht and J.C. Jenkins (eds.), *Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective*, *Handbooks of Sociology and Social Research*, tillgänglig online [http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-0-387-68930-2\\_9.pdf](http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-0-387-68930-2_9.pdf)

Kollock, P. 1998. "Social dilemmas: The anatomy of cooperation." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24: 183-214.

Korpi, W. and Palme, J. (1998) 'The Paradox of Redistribution and Strategies of Equality: Welfare State Institutions, Inequality and Poverty in the Western Countries', *American Sociological Review* 63 (5): 661-87.

Lawson, George. 2016. "Within and Beyond the 'Fourth Generation' of Revolutionary Theory." *Sociological Theory* 34(2): 106-127.

Ostrom, E. 1998. "A Behavioral Approach to the Rational Choice Theory of Collective Action." *American Political Science Review* 92(1).

Rydgren, J. 2007. "The Sociology of the Radical Right." *Annual Review of Sociology* 33: 241-262.

Rydgren, J. and van der Meiden, S. 2019. "The Radical Right and the end of Swedish Exceptionalism." *European Political Science*, forthcoming.

*Books to choose from:*

Bartolini, S. 2000. *The Political Mobilization of the European Left, 1860-1980: The Class Cleavage*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Beissinger, M. R. 2002. *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Brubaker, R. 1992. *Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

- Crouch, C. 2004. *Post-Democracy*. London: Polity.
- Dahl, R. A. 1961. *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Gamson, W. A. 1992. *Talking Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gould, R. V. 1995. *Insurgent Identities: Class, Community, and Protest in Paris from 1848 to the Commune*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Hamilton, R. F. 1982. *Who Voted for Hitler?* Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Hechter, M. 2000. *Containing Nationalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Katz, E. and Lazarsfeldt, P. F. 1955. *Personal Influence*. New York: The Free Press.
- Knoke, D. 1990. *Political Networks: The Structural Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kriesi, H. et al. 2008. *West European Politics in the Age of Globalization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lipset, S. M. 1981. *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.
- Lippman, W. 1965. *Public Opinion*. New York: The Free Press.
- Mair, P. 2013. *Ruling the Void: The Hollowing of Western Democracy*. London: Verso.
- Mann, M. 2004. *Fascists*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- McAdam, D. 1999. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Mills, C. W. 2000. *The Power Elite*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Moore, B. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Mosca, G. 1939. *The Ruling Class*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Oberschall, A. 1973. *Social Conflict and Social Movements*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.
- Parker, C.S. and Barreto, M.A. 2013. *Change They Can't Believe In: The Tea party and Reactionary Politics in America*. Princeton: Princeton University press.
- Pareto, V. 2000. *The Rise and Fall of Elites: An Application of Theoretical Sociology*. London: Transactions.

- Ritter, D. P. 2015. *The Iron Cage of Liberalism: International Politics and the Unarmed Revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rokkan, S. 1970. *Citizens, Elections, Parties*. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget.
- Rothstein, B. 2005. *Social Traps and the Problem of Trust*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rydgren, J. 2003. *The Populist Challenge: Political Protest and Ethno-nationalist Mobilization in France*. New York: Berghahn Books.
- Sartori, G. 1976. *Parties and Party Systems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schattschneider, E. E. 1975. *The Semisovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America*. London: Wadsworth.
- Skocpol, T. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schumpeter, J. A. 1992. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. London: Routledge.
- Svallfors, S. 2006. *The Moral Economy of Class. Class and Attitudes in Comparative Perspective*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Taylor, M. 1987. *The Possibility of Cooperation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Thompson, E. P. 1968. *The Making of the English Working Class*. London: Penguin.
- Tilly, C. 1978. *From Mobilization to Revolution*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Tilly, C. 1986. *The Contentious French. Four Centuries of Popular Struggle*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Udehn, L. 1996. *The Limits of Public Choice: A Sociological Critique of the Economic Theory of Politics*. London: Routledge.
- Varshny, A. 2002. *Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Zaller, J. R. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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