

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	Political Science American Studies
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Political Sociology: Power, State and Society
Course Code:	PLT 6103
Total Hours	160
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credits:	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

At the heart of political sociology is a concern with the relationship between the state and society, a relationship that, as citizens, affects us all. This course explores the link between the people and the state in three interrelated respects: the concept of power, the theory and practice of revolution and the way politics affects the social fabric of daily life in technologically advanced, multi-media societies. In addition, a discussion takes place regarding the global significance of political and social change.

Pre-requisites:

One of the following:

HST 5210 Of Myths and Monsters - A History of History

SCL 5200 Social Research

PLT 5201 Research Methods: Social Sciences

PLT 5102 Democracy and its Enemies

PLT 5101 Capitalism and Its Critics

PLT 5103 Politics of Environmentalism

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to various theoretical traditions of political sociology as they apply to issues such as power, decision-making, democracy, social movements, and revolutions.
- To look at the state-society relationship especially the relationship between the process of state-formation and capitalism, war, and social movements.
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields pertaining to development studies and beyond which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of political sociology and issues of state and society.
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that will be of increasing importance in the 21st century.
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of writing skills, and the ability to present complex arguments orally.

Programme Outcomes:

American Studies: 6Aii, 6Aiv, 6Bi, 6Bii, 6Ci, 6Cii, 6Dii, 6Diii, 6Div

Political Science: 6A(ii); 6A(iii); 6B(i); 6B(ii); 6C(i); 6C(ii); 6C(iii); 6D(ii); 6D(iii); 6D(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in political sociology
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of concepts and ideas in political sociology as they apply to contemporary issues of political and social change
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the practice of political sociology as it applies to political and social change at multiple levels
- Demonstrates a systematic insight into the different dimensions of political and social changes as they are understood in political sociology
- Takes responsibility for their own learning, and completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, contextualisation, critical thinking, and reflexive normative understanding appropriate for a 6000-level course.
- Demonstrates well-developed skills that translate into the workplace by adapting communication skills to changing contexts, audiences, and degrees of complexity

Indicative Content:

- Theoretical Traditions in Political Sociology.
- Theories of Power: Lukes, Mann, Foucault.
- Marxist and Weberian Theories of the State.
- Theories of Democracy.
- Social Movement Theory.
- The Sociology of Law and Institutions.
- Theories of Revolution.
- Theories of Globalisation and Political Sociology

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate. Lectures provide a framework for the course and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate, understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion. Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group, and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent, and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Indicative Texts:

- Soborski, R. (2018) *Ideology and the Future of Progressive Social Movements*. London: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Guillaume, X. and P. Bilgin (2016) *Routledge Handbook of International Political Sociology*. Routledge.
- Clemens, E.S. (2016) *What is Political Sociology?* Cambridge and Malden MA: Polity.
- Dobratz, B.A., L.K. Waldner and T. Buzzell (2016) *Power Politics and Society: An Introduction to Political Sociology*. Oxon and New York: Routledge.
- Amenta, E., K. Nash and A. Scott (Eds.) (2016) *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology*. Malden MA: Wiley Blackwell.
- Glasberg, D.S. and D. Shannon (2011) *Political Sociology: Oppression, Resistance and the State*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- Nash, K. (2010) *Contemporary Political Sociology. Globalization, Politics, and Power*. 2nd ed. Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell.
- Janoski, T., R. Alford, A. Hicks and M.A. Schwartz (Eds.) (2005) *The Handbook of Political Sociology. States, Civil Societies, and Globalization*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	