COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Political Science

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: Political Sociology: Power, State and Society

Course Code: PLT 6400

Course Leader: Professor Alex Seago

Student Engagement Hours:120Lectures:22.5Seminar / Tutorials:22.5Independent / Guided Learning:75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits
3 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: PLT 4100 or SCL 4110

Aims and Objectives:

- To introduce students to various theoretical traditions of political sociology.
- To apply these various theoretical traditions to various aspects of politics: power, decision-making, democracy, social movements and revolution.
- To look at the state-society relationship especially the relationship between the process of state-formation and capitalism, war and social movements.

Programme Outcomes:

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

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

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the major thinkers and intellectual paradigms in political sociology
- 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 key texts and debates in political sociology, and the reflexive relationship between these and empirical studies of political sociology
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major thematic debates 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

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 Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

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.

Bibliography:

- Kate Nash, Contemporary Political Sociology (Wiley Blackwell, 2010)
- Drake, M., Political Sociology for a Globalizing World (Polity, 2010)
- David Held, Models of Democracy, (Polity, 2006)

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or	Nature of Change	Date Approved &	Change
Minor	_	Approval Body (School	Actioned by
Change?		or LTPC)	Academic
			Registry