

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / 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 or COM 5200

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 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 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 University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

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.

