



POL/SOC 201 Political Sociology

Instructor: Tatyana Dublikash, PhD

Course Description

The main objective of the course is to familiarize students with the main elements of politics such as political space, political actors and political institutions; to analyze power relations; to present sociological instruments of measuring power relations, political activity and etc. Political processes are analyzed with a sociological approach. Seminars will be devoted to the discussions of arguable points that appear in scientific literature and in the sphere of politics and public debates.

Course Evaluation

Analytical reports	20
Reports	20
Participation in discussions	20
Tests	40
Total	100

A+ = 99-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79
A = 90-98	B = 83-86	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72
F = 0-63		

Course Outline

Theme 1: <u>Introduction</u>: Contemporary challenges in world politics.
Theme 1.1: Political Sociology and Political Science: what is the difference?
Topics for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a place for Political Sociology in Political Science field? • Common Threats in Common World. • Toward the New Middle Ages? • Is there an alternative to Democracy in future world?
Theme 2: History of Political Sociology as a Scientific Discipline.
Theme 2.2: Main Paradigms in Political Sociology.
Topics for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marx and Weber analysis of politics: similarities and differences • The problem of social order and social changes • Hidden structures of political power • The need of managing the mass behavior in 19-20th centuries and the development of Political Sociology • and etc.



Theme 3: Power as social relations: sociological approach. Sociological indexes for measuring power.
Topics for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the measurement of power possible?• Rational and irrational power.• Power and resistance.• Corrosion of power.
Theme 4: Peculiarities and structure of Political Space. Stratification of Political Space.
Topics for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place and the role of chaos in political space.• Levels of political space and their interconnections.• Instability of political organizations.
Theme 5: Main actors in political space.
Topics for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should classes or personalities be the focus of political analysis?• Institutional actors as structural elements of political space.• Possibilities for development of new political actors in contemporary world.
Theme 6: Analysis of Political Parties from sociological point of view.
Topics for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass or personnel parties?• Ideological, pragmatic and charismatic parties.• Factors of parties' institutionalizations.• Social base and social support of political parties.
Theme 7: Social Movements as an actor of Civil Society in Political Space.
Theme 7.1: Interest groups as a political actor. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporative state as an alternative to representative democracy.• American and European models of lobbying.• Peculiarities of New Social Movements.• Is there a place for extremist political movements in contemporary democracies?
Theme 8: Political institutions: essence, functions and typologies. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interconnections between political and economic institutions.• Institutions of power and institutions of participation.• New institutional fields in the theories of New Institutionalism.

Information in this course syllabus may subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor or EESA.