Te Kura Mahinga Tangata
Sociology and Social Policy

SOSC/SPOL 219
Ideology, Utopia, Power: Issues and Paradigms in Political Sociology

Course Outline
CRN 18026/18024: 20 POINTS: TRIMESTER 1, 2013

Trimester dates: March 4 – July 3
Teaching dates: March 4 - June 7
Easter break: March 28 – April 3
Mid-trimester break: April 22 - April 28
Study and Examination Period: June 10 - July 3

COURSE COORDINATOR: DR CHAMSY EL-OJEILI
Room: MY 1016
Phone: (04) 463-6740
Email: chamsy.el-ojeili@vuw.ac.nz

LECTURES: Friday 1:10 PM – 3:00 PM: KK LT301
COURSE COORDINATOR
Dr Chamsy el-Ojeili
Level 10, Murphy Building, MY 1016
Tel: 04 463 6740
E-mail: chamsy.el-ojeili@vuw.ac.nz

OFFICE HOURS
By appointment

LECTURES
Friday, 1:10 pm – 3:00 pm in KK LT301

TUTORIALS
Tutorial times, days, and venues will be advised during introductory lecture and on BlackBoard.

Tutorials will be held from the third week, the week beginning 18 March. There will be seven tutorial sessions in total. These tutorials are strictly voluntary. If students choose to come to tutorials, they must have read the set readings and be prepared to discuss them.

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION
Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013
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International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023
Tel: 463 6132 E-m: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz

Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101
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Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120
Tel: 463 9980 E-m: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz

School Manager: Carol Hogan, MY918
Tel: 463 6546 E-m: carol.hogan@vuw.ac.nz

School Administrators: Suzanne Weaver, Helen Beaglehole Alison Melling
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E-m: sacs@vuw.ac.nz
COURSE PRESCRIPTION

This course deals with the relationships between social identities, interests, ideologies, movements and political institutions. It examines the social roots of political action, focusing on issues such as inequality, conflict, social change, power, citizenship, violence, and globalisation. It explores the major concepts in the field, and covers the work of important sociological figures.

COMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information related to the course will be available on the Blackboard website at http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz.

The School website can be found at: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course, student should be able to demonstrate an understanding of

- the major concepts, traditions, and thinkers in the field of political sociology
- the major debates around power, ideology, social movements, social change, conflict, and division
- the relationship between political institutions and other social institutions and groupings

COURSE MATERIAL FOR SOSC/SPOL 219

There is no course text. A list of recommended readings for each lecture is listed below, and other readings will be posted on blackboard.

The following texts are useful overviews of the field of political sociology:

Dobratz, B. A. et al. (2011) Power, Politics, and Society: An Introduction to Political Sociology (Boston: Allyn and Bacon);


CLASS REPRESENTATIVE
A class representative will be recruited in consultation with the class at the beginning of the course. The class representative’s name and contact details will be available to the Victoria University of Wellington Students’ Association (VUWSA), the course coordinator and the class (on BlackBoard). The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

8 March: Lecture 1 – Introduction

Suggested Readings:


15 March: Lecture 2 – On Sociology

Suggested Readings:


22 March: Lecture 3 – Traditions and Concepts

Suggested Readings:


5 April: Lecture 4 – Social Change

Suggested Readings:


12 April: Lecture 5 – Ideologies and Utopias

Suggested Readings:


Zizek, S. (1997) “Multiculturalism, or, the Cultural Logic of Multinational Capitalism”, New Left Review, 225, September-October,

19 April: Lecture 6 – Democracy

Suggested Readings:


3 May: Lecture 7 – Identities

Suggested Readings:


10 May: Lecture 8 – Social Movements

Suggested Readings:


http://www.newleftreview.net/NLR25202.shtml

17 May: Lecture 9 – Violence

Suggested Readings:


24 May: Lecture 10 – Globalization

Suggested Readings:


31 May: Lecture 11 – Equality

Suggested Readings:


Crompton (ed.). Renewing Class Analysis (Oxford: Blackwell).


7 June Lecture 12 – Conclusions and Notes on the Examination

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

University guidelines stipulate that a one-trimester course worth 20 points should require 13 hours per week, including class time, and preparation.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Assessment consists of two essays and a two hour examination. Essay one is worth 30% of your final grade and is due in on 5 April; essay two is worth 40% of your final grade and is due on 7 June; and the exam is worth 30% of your final grade and will be held during the exam period, 14 June to 3 July 2012, with more details available after the trimester break.

ESSAY ONE

Due: 4pm, Friday 5 April Weighting: 30 % of final grade
Word limit: 2000 words

1. Write a critical essay on the major features of one tradition of political sociology (for instance, traditions deriving from the work of Marx, Durkheim, Weber, or elite theory)
2. Write a critical essay on the concept of power
3. Foucault’s rethinking of power/knowledge has been crucial in the making of a new political sociology. Critically discuss.
4. Write a critical essay on social change, with reference to one of the following concepts: post-industrial society; post-Fordism/disorganized capitalism; risk society; the post-modern condition; the information age.
6. Ideology is “the most elusive concept in the whole of social science” (McLellan, 1990). Discuss.
7. Develop your own essay topic in consultation with the lecturer.

ESSAY TWO

Due: 4pm, Friday 7 June Weighting: 40 % of final grade
Word limit: 3000 words

1. Liberal democracy may constitute the “end point of mankind’s ideological evolution” (Fukuyma, 1992). Discuss.
2. Thinkers such as Crouch, Castells, Mair, and Zolo have suggested ours is an age of “post-politics” or “post-democracy”. Critically discuss these ideas.

3. Critically discuss post-modern notions about contemporary changes to identity.

4. Numerous commentators have assessed the present period as one of resurgent “tribalism”. Assess such arguments with reference to either ethnicity, or nationalism, or religious identity.

5. “Status-groups … are blurred collective representations of classes” (Wallerstein, 1991). Discuss.

6. Write a critical essay on the development of social movement theory.

7. Drawing on concepts from social movement theory, write an essay on a social movement.

8. Develop your own topic in consultation with your lecturer.

EXAM
Due: Between 14 June to 3 July 2013  Weighting: 30% of final grade
Duration: the final exam is two hours long.
More details regarding date and structure of exam will follow closer to the scheduled date, available after trimester break.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT

The forms of assessment will assist you to achieve the learning objectives outlined above and to develop skills in dealing with the study of political sociology. All three pieces of assessment entail students demonstrating a combination of knowledge of major concepts, traditions, debates, and thinkers in the field, and an understanding of the connections between political and other social institutions and groupings.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENT

To meet the mandatory course requirements students must:

- Submit essay one and essay two
- Sit the exam

PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSION

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Note: assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or
7 days after an approved extension date. Work must still, however, be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements. 

You are advised to always keep a copy of any work you submit for assessment.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

If you decide for ANY reason at ANY stage to withdraw from SOSC/SPOL 219 (or any other course) please see the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences office, level 4 of Murphy Building. Failure to do so may have consequences for enrolment, student grants, allowances, loans, etc., i.e. you will get credited with a fail, not a withdrawal on your record if you do not act promptly. Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress

Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic

Information for Māori Students:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/maoristudents

or

www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index

Information for Pasifika students:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/slss/infofor/pasifikastudents

or

www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University’s learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University’s reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else’s work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. ‘Someone else’s work’ means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University’s website: [http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx)
School of Social and Cultural Studies
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
CRIMINOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL POLICY

Assignment Cover Sheet
(please write legibly)

Full Name: ____________________________________________

(Last name) (First name)

Student ID: ______________________ Course (eg ANTH101): __________

Tutorial Day: ________________ Tutorial Time: ________________

Tutor (if applicable): _______________________________________

Assignment Due Date: ______________________________________

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY

I certify that this paper submitted for assessment is the result of my own work, except where otherwise acknowledged.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________