

UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

The aims of the module are to analyse the politicisation of social cleavages such as class, race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, religion and nationality; to highlight (the consequences of) changing social values and attitudes, including the impact of the media thereupon; to understand processes of political engagement and participation; to grasp the causes and consequences of migration; to examine how individuals influence the institutional structure through revolutions, democratisation and the establishment of welfare states.

GENERAL INTRODUCTORY READING

- Bilton, T. et al (2002) *Introductory Sociology*. 4th edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
- Faulks, K. (1999) *Political Sociology. A Critical Introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press
- Giddens, A. (2009) *Sociology*. 6th edition. Cambridge: Polity Press
- Janoski, T., Alford, R., Hicks, A. and Schwartz, M.A. (eds) *The Handbook of Political Sociology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Nash, K. (2010) *Contemporary Political Sociology: Globalization, Politics and Power*. Second edition. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell
- Nash, K. and Scott, A. (2004) *The Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology*. Oxford: Blackwell
- Orum, A.M. and Dale, J.G. (2008) *Political Sociology: Power and Participation in the Modern World*. Oxford: OUP
- Taylor, G. (2010) *The New Political Sociology*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

Course title: UNDERSTANDING SOCIETY: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
Course code: SEESI203
CU value: 0.5 cu: 20 hours (2 hours x 10 weeks)
Availability: Taught in Term 2
Open to: First-year undergraduates
Course leader: Dr Richard Mole

Aims

The aims of the module are:

1. To analyse the politicisation of social cleavages, e.g. class, race and ethnicity, gender, religion and nationality.
2. To highlight (the consequences of) changing social values and attitudes, including the impact of the media thereupon.
3. To understand processes of political engagement and participation.
4. To grasp the causes and consequences of migration.
5. To examine how individuals influence the institutional structure through revolutions, democratisation and the establishment of welfare states.

Objectives

At the end of the course, students will have acquired:

1. an understanding of recent social explanations of political processes and events.
2. the ability to relate this theoretical understanding to empirical data and analyses for various states.
3. a grasp of the competing approaches in the field.
4. an appreciation of the roles of models and theories in social scientific knowledge.
5. familiarity with major features of contemporary societies that are relevant to politics.

Teaching & Learning Methods:

Number of Hours:

Lectures	10
Tutorials	10
Private study	130

LECTURES

The lectures are given by Dr Richard Mole on Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

ASSESSMENT

Formative assessment: all students will write a 1,000-word reflection on their own socialisation. Summative assessment: the final grade will be based on a 3,000-word essay.

CLASSES

Students must attend all classes. If you are ill, please send an apology **in advance** by contacting the Politics and Sociology PA Sasha Aleksić by e-mail (s.aleksic@ucl.ac.uk) or phone on 020 7679 8773. She will report two unexplained absences to the Department Tutor.