

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, Department of Sociology
Sociology 601.69 (Political Sociology), Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Béland

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Office Hours: T 15:30 to 17:00 hrs or by appointment

Class Hours and Room: M 15:00-18:00 hrs; Social Science 921

Academic Accommodation

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Course Description: The sub-title of this seminar is "From the Idea of Power to the Power of Ideas," and it explores the relationship between power relations and ideational processes in politics. The empirical focus of the course is public policy, with a particular emphasis on economic regulation, social policy, and war-making. Finally, the seminar takes a sociological perspective on current political events as they unfold during the semester.

Course Requirements	% of the final grade
Book Review (due date: November 5) (Review the political sociology book of your choice. Write between 1000-1200 words. The review must be typed, but cannot be submitted electronically; staple or paper clip pages together.)	10%
Class Presentation (December 10) (A 20-minute class presentation based on your final paper.)	20%
Final Paper (due date: December 17) (Prepare a paper on a topic of your choice related to class material. Please write between 5000 and 7000 words, including notes and references. The bibliography must contain at least three books and six journal articles. The paper must be typed, but cannot be submitted electronically; staple or paper clip pages together.)	40%
Take Home Exam (due date: December 17) (One essay question dealing with a key issue discussed in class. Write no more than 1200 words.)	20%
Informed Participation in Weekly Discussions (Each student must attend the lectures, read the assigned material on time, follow current political events mentioned in class, and participate in class discussion.)	10%

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+	95-100
A	90-94
A-	85-89
B+	80-84
B	75-79
B-	70-74
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	0-49

[The A+ grade is an honorific grade having the same grade point value as an A grade (4.0). It is used to indicate outstanding performance in a subject area but does not have a higher grade point value.]

Exam Policies

You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

Please note **that unexcused lateness in submitting written assignments will be penalized one grade for each day (e.g., “A” to “A-”). Students who are late in submitting their written assignments due to medical or personal circumstances must document those circumstances.**

To receive a passing grade in this course all oral and written assignments must be completed.

Ethics Research

Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Intellectual Honesty

“Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct.”

FOIP Statement

“The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students receive assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office, etc. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up their [sic] assignment from the instructor, they may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.” Please also note that no grades will be posted. Grades will be written on assignments. Always keep an extra copy of any written work you submit, as well as keeping graded assignments when they are returned.”

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor’s office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor’s office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

Safewalk

The U of C provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

Reading List and Schedule [underlined books available at the university bookstore]

Week One: September 10

Max Weber. 1946. "Class, Status, Party" in H. H. Gerth and Wright Mills (ed.), *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, New York, Oxford University Press, pp. 180-195.

C. Wright Mills. 1956. *Power Elite*. Oxford University Press, pp. 3-29; 242-297.

Robert A. Dahl. 1958. "A Critique of the Ruling Elite Model," *The American Political Science Review*, 52(2): 463-469.

Week Two: September 17

Bachrach, Peter, and Baratz, Morton S. 1962. "Two Faces of Power," *The American Political Science Review*, 56(4): 947-952.

Jacob S. Hacker. 2004. "Privatizing Risk without Privatizing the Welfare State: The Hidden Politics of Social Policy Retrenchment in the United States," *American Political Science Review*, 98(2): 243-260.

Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson. 2002. "Business Power and Social Policy: Employers and the Formation of the American Welfare State," *Politics and Society*, 30 (2): 277-325.

Week Three: September 24

Steven Lukes. 2005. *Power: A Radical View—Second Edition*. Houndmills: Palgrave, pp. 1-107.

Week Four: October 1st

Michel Foucault. 1982. "The Subject and Power," *Critical Inquiry*, 8(4): 777-795.

Steven Lukes. 2005. *Power: A Radical View—Second Edition*, pp. 108-151.

Hannah Arendt. 1972. *Crises of the Republic*. New York: Harvest Book, pp. 134-155.

Peter Morriss. 2006. "Steven Lukes on the Concept of Power," *Political Studies Review*, 4: 124-135.

Week Five: October 8—Thanksgiving Day (No Lecture)

Week Six: October 15

Karl Polanyi. 2001 [1957]. *The Great Transformation*. New York: Beacon Press, pp. xviii-xvii ("Introduction" by Fred Block) and pp. 1-89.

Week Seven: October 22

Karl Polanyi. 2001 [1957]. *The Great Transformation*, pp. 90-200.

Week Eight: October 29

Karl Polanyi. 2001 [1957]. *The Great Transformation*. Beacon Press, pp. 201-268.

Somers, Margaret, and Fred Block. 2005. "From Poverty to Perversity: Ideas, Markets, and Institutions over 200 Years of Welfare Debate," *American Sociological Review*, 70 (2): 260-287.

Week Nine: November 5 *Book Review Due

Mark Blyth. 2002. *Great Transformations*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-125.

Week Ten: November 12—Remembrance Day (No Lecture)

Mark Blyth. 2002. *Great Transformations*, pp. 126-247.

Week Eleven: November 19

Jeffrey C. Alexander. 2003. *The Meaning of Social Life: A Cultural Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 11-26.

Philip Smith. 2005. *Why War? The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf War, and Suez*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-98.

Week Twelve: November 26

Philip Smith. 2005. *Why War?* pp. 99-227.

Week Thirteen: December 3

Steensland, Brian. 2006. "Cultural Categories and the American Welfare State: The Case of Guaranteed Income Policy." *American Journal of Sociology*, 111(5): 1273-1326.

Daniel Béland. 2007. "Ideas and Policy Change: A Global Perspective." Unpublished paper.

David A. Snow and Scott C. Byrd. 2007. "Ideology, Framing Processes, and Islamic Terrorist Movements," *Mobilization*, 12(2): 119-136.

Week Fourteen: December 10 (Make-Up Class)

Student Presentations