San José State University
Sociology Department
Political Sociology (SOC 169) Fall 2013

Instructor: Mitra Rokni
Office Location: DMH 210
Telephone: 408-924-5788
Email: myth_ra@yahoo.com
Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:00
Class Days/Time: MW 12:00-1:15
Classroom: DMH 231
Prerequisites: SOCI 001 or equivalent

Faculty Web Page
Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, links to documentaries, articles, etc. may be found on my faculty web page accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page (http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mitra.rokni/).

Course Description

Critical analysis of ideological, cultural, economics and institutional foundations of political policies and actions. Emphasis on how structures and modes of domination perpetuate social inequalities, in addition to ways by which various collective forces challenge and change power relations.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand the institutional basis of political structures and power relations, in a historical context, through readings of some of the most critical social theorists of modern/postmodern time, and critically reflect on the possible ways by which we can create a better world based on ideals of praxis, responsibility for justice, and human dignity.
Required Texts/Readings

Other Readings/Additional readings will be provided during the semester.

Classroom Protocol
We are all travelers on this learning journey called life. Classroom is our shared educational space for learning, understanding, discussing, and responding to one another as both students and teachers. To disregard the importance of an active engagement in this learning process could create an atmosphere of apathy, silence, and disrespect to the very spirit of education to overcome our individual and collective ignorance. It is crucial for students to take responsibility for their role in enhancing and creating the opportunities for a critical and civil dialogue on the most pressing issues of our time. **Arriving on time, staying the whole period of a class time, and turning off cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices, is part of the civility needed for a productive and engaged classroom.** A smart sense of humor and/or intelligent critical debate is always welcome. But it is important to remember, at all times, that you are here to develop your critical mind, practical skills, study, learn, and participate in building a better world. It is critical to develop a sense of social responsibility towards others, and an individual responsibility for self-development.

**NOTE:** No recording devices are allowed in this class under ANY circumstances. Arrangements will be made by the DRC students and the educator, to have access to the class notes and lectures.

Assignments and Grading Policy

**Two Take-Home Exams: Midterm & Final (each 25% of the final grade)** 3-4 essay questions to reflect all readings, lectures, documentaries, and information provided.

**Research Paper (20% of the final grade)** The 8-10 pages paper (not counting the cover page and references), on a topic related to our course content, and should demonstrate research skills, an understanding of the subject matter under study, critical thinking, analysis, as well as the implications of new knowledge. You must follow a recognized format for citations and references. The paper must be based on at least 4 books and 2 articles (you may use extra Internet educational websites). All sources must be scholarly, peer reviewed articles, and expert websites.

Check the following link for distinguishing scholarly from non-scholarly sources:
[http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill20.html](http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill20.html)

**Papers Prep (5% of the final grade)** one page prep must include:
1. Topic: Select a question and/or problematic of interest to you.
2. Develop your Thesis Statement.
3. Four scholarly books (no need to include the articles for the prep).

Check the following website for how to write a research paper including all the above three requirements.
[http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

**Responses (25% of the final grade)** Random group discussions, debates, and/or written responses on assigned readings and documentaries (minimum two pages, double spaced typed, for each assignment).

Late assignments will lose 5 points for each weekday.
University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center. It is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The LARC website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.

Peer Mentor Center

The Peer Mentor Center is located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall in the Academic Success Center. The Peer Mentor Center is staffed with Peer Mentors who excel in helping students manage
university life, tackling problems that range from academic challenges to interpersonal struggles. On the road to graduation, Peer Mentors are navigators, offering “roadside assistance” to peers who feel a bit lost or simply need help mapping out the locations of campus resources. Peer Mentor services are free and available on a drop-in basis, no reservation required. Website of Peer Mentor Center is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/muse/peermentor/.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html. Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| Aug.  | W 21 | Critical Theories of Power Egan pp. 1-26  
State, Politics & Class Domination Egan pp. 27-36 |
| Aug.  | M 26 | Capitalism, Class & State/ Karl Marx Lecture Notes/Egan pp. 4-6 |
| Aug.  | W 28 | Power and Domination/ Max Weber Lecture Notes/Weber |
| Sept. | M 2  | Labor Day - Campus Closed |
| Sept. | W 4  | Totalitarianism/ Hannah Arendt Lecture Notes/Arendt |
| Sept. | M 9  | The Power Elite/ C. Wright Mills Lecture Notes  
Who Rules America?/William Domhoff Egan pp. 37-49/79-92 Research Prep Due (see syllabus on my webpage) |
| Sept. | W 11 | Winner- Take-All Economy Hacker pp. 1-72/137-162  
Neo-liberalism/Tyranny of the Market Bourdieu/Lecture Notes |
| Sept. | M 16 | Electoral Politics Egan pp.65-78/93-114  
Winner-Take-All Politics Hacker pp. 95-136/163-306 |
| Sept. | W 18 | Feminist Theory of State/McKinnon/Abramovitz Lecture Notes |
| Sept. | M 23 | Straight State, Sexuality & Citizenship Margot Canaday/Judith Butler |
| Sept. | W 25 | The Subject & Power/ Michel Foucault Ecology of Fear/ Mike Davis Egan pp. 25-27  
Egan pp. 273-286 |
| Sept. | M 30 | Legitimation Crisis/ Jurgen Habermas Lecture Notes/Habermas |
| OCT.  | W 2  | The Welfare State Egan pp.115-150 |
| Oct.  | M 7  | Symbolic Power & Politics/Pierre Bourdieu Lecture Notes/Bourdieu |
| Oct.  | W 9  | Media & Ideology Egan pp. 151-180 |
| Oct.  | M 14 | Manufacturing Consent/Noam Chomsky Lecture Notes |
| Oct.  | M 21 | The Nation State & Global Economy Egan pp. 181-238 |
| Oct.  | W 23 | Empire & The Multitude/ Negri & Hardt Lecture/Hardt-Negri |
| Oct.  | M 28 | State, War, Genocide & Repression Egan pp. 239-272 |
| Nov.  | M 4  | The Dream Work of Political Representation Zizek pp. 1-46 |
| Nov.  | W 6  | The Middle East: Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter Zizek pp. 63-76 |
| Nov.  | M 11 | Veteran’s Day - Campus Closed |
| Nov.  | W 13 | Class Struggle/ Giovanni Arrighi/Immanuel Wallerstein Egan pp. 306-313 |
| Nov.  | M 18 | Magical Realism: Future Revolutions?/ John Foran Social Movements Egan pp. 323-332  
Egan pp. 333-400 |
| Nov.  | W 20 | Hegemony & State/ Antonio Gramsci Lecture Notes/Gramsci |
| Nov.  | M 25 | One Dimensional Man/ Herbert Marcuse Lecture/Egan pp. 6-10 |
| Nov.  | W 27 | Welcome to the Desert of Post Ideology Zizek pp. 47-62 |
| Dec.  | M 2  | Silence of New Beginning Zizek pp. 77-126 |
| Dec.  | W 4  | Signs From the Future Zizek pp. 127-end |
| Dec   | TH 12 | Research Papers Due/Review  
Take-Home Final Exam Due @ 2:45 (MY Office) |