

**Sociology 326 (Fall 2023): An Introduction to Political Sociology**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:05-2:25pm**  
**Room 279 MacDonald Engineering Building**

Prof. Matthew Lange  
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TA: TBA  
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### **Description**

This mid-level undergraduate course is an introduction to the study of political sociology and investigates two general topics: the bases and forms of power in society and the relationship between politics and other social structures. The course readings and lectures analyze social relations throughout the world and focus on diverse yet interrelated topics: democracy, gender and politics, civil society, the media and politics, social movements, nationalism, ethnic violence, the state, the politics of development, and revolutions. The goal of the course is to provide students with important conceptual tools, to introduce them to the literature and topics within the sub-discipline, and to encourage critical thinking about politics and society.

### **Inclusive Learning Environment**

As an instructor, Professor Lange strives to provide an inclusive learning environment. If you experience barriers in learning in this course, please contact him. To promote inclusion, students must interact respectfully during discussions. Belligerent and hurtful behaviour is not tolerated.

### **Requirements:**

#### *Grade*

Student grades are determined by two exams and a short paper. Both exams are worth 37.5 percent of the course grade. The first will be in class on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. The second exam will be held during the finals period and therefore scheduled and held by the University. The second exam will focus on the material covered after the first exam, but students will have to know major concepts/theories from the first half of the class to answer some questions. Students can only make up missed exams when they *have valid and verified reasons for missing it*. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations at [www.mcgill.ca](http://www.mcgill.ca).

The paper is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> and should be no longer than 1,000 words in length. It is worth 25 percent of the grade and is a required component of the course; students who do not complete it will receive an incomplete. Papers that do not abide by the length limitation will be penalized based on the extent to which they go over the limit. The paper will ask students to use concepts and theory from the readings and lectures and apply them to something; it therefore requires no research beyond the course materials. In the case students fail to submit their paper on time, their grade for the paper will be reduced by five percent per day until the paper is submitted. The only exceptions to the penalty are *valid and verified reasons for late submission*. The paper should be submitted electronically through the myCourses "Assignment" tab.

As an instructor and teaching assistant, we take the marking of assignments very seriously and strive to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Mistakes do occur occasionally, however. If you would like to appeal your grade, please follow these procedures:

- (a) If the error deals with mathematical calculations of the grade, simply alert the TA.
- (b) For substantive appeals, you must:
  1. Carefully reread the assignment, your response, and any comments.

2. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving the grade before contacting the instructor or TA.
3. Within one week of receiving the grade, submit to the instructor or TA a written explanation of why you feel your grade should be changed. Please note that grades can go up, down, or stay the same.

For both (a) and (b), please contact the individual who graded your assignment.

### **Academic Integrity and Rights**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity)).

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté.

All aspects of this syllabus—including the format of the final exam and lectures—can change due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **Readings**

Course readings are usually between 50-70 pages per week. Students are expected to come to class having read the material listed in the course calendar in order to get the most out of the lectures. All readings are located on MyCourses in electronic format.

### **Course Calendar**

#### **WEEK ONE:**

Thursday, August 31: No readings

#### **WEEK TWO:**

Tuesday, September 5: INTRO AND MARX: Nordlinger 1-8; Glasberg and Shannon 1-13; Orum 8-23

Thursday, September 7: WEBER AND POWER: Orum 38-47; Poggi 15-28

#### **WEEK THREE:**

Tuesday, September 12: DURKHEIM & DUBOIS: Orum 64-77; Zuckerman 1-12

Thursday, September 14: FOUCAULT AND DEMOCRACY: Blencowe 1-15; Dahl 35-61

#### **WEEK FOUR:**

Tuesday, September 19: GENDER & DEMOCRACY: Paxton, Kunovich, and Hughes 263-284

Thursday, September 21: COLONIALISM & GENDER AND THE ILO: Stevenson, 49-75; Lipset (in Michels) 15-38

WEEK FIVE:

Tuesday, September 26: THE POWER ELITE: Wright Mills 3-29

Thursday, September 28: POWER, DEMOCRACY, & CIVIL SOCIETY: Huber et al. 71-85; Hall 19-37

WEEK SIX:

Tuesday, October 3: ASSOCIATIONS AND DEMOCRACY I: Lipset, Trow, and Coleman 69-140

Thursday, October 5: ASSOCIATIONS AND DEMOCRACY II: Berman 401-429

WEEK SEVEN:

Tuesday, October 10: No class

Thursday, October 12: RELIGION AND DEMOCRACY: Woodberry 244-274

WEEK EIGHT:

Tuesday, October 17: FIRST EXAM

Thursday, October 19: REPRESENTATION AND POWER: Said 9-36

WEEK TEN:

Tuesday, October 24: THE MEDIA & POLITICS: Levendusky 611-623; Sunstein 59-97

Thursday, October 26: EMOTIONS AND POLITICS I: Hochschild 135-151, 221-230; Demertzis 150-169

WEEK ELEVEN:

Tuesday, October 31: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: van Stekelenburg & Bert Klandermans 17-43

Thursday, November 2: GENDER/SEXUALITY MOVEMENTS: Wulff, Bernstein, and Taylor 108-130

WEEK TWELVE:

Tuesday, November 7: EDUCATION, NATION, AND THE STATE: Weber 303-338; Hall 61-71

Thursday, November 9: RELIGION AND STATES: Gorski 265-285.

WEEK THIRTEEN:

Tuesday, November 14: STATES AND DEVELOPMENT: Evans and Heller 1-35.

Thursday, November 16: STATES AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT: Scott 1-6, 193-222. **Paper due at the beginning of class.**

WEEK FOURTEEN:

Tuesday, November 21: GENDER, DEVELOPMENT, AND VIOLENCE: Sen 189-203; Lange 143-155

Thursday, November 23: EDUCATION AND VIOLENCE: Lange 61-81

WEEK FIFTEEN:

Tuesday, November 28: STATES AND REVOLUTIONS: Goodwin 404-422; Goldstone 102-120

Thursday, November 30: No Class (Monday schedule)

Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>: CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY: No readings