Political sociology is the study of political behavior from a sociological perspective. Sociology offers a unique view of politics and society, because it endeavors to explain how different spheres or domains of society interact and negotiate social order. These overlapping realms of society include the private sphere, public/civil sphere, the market sphere, and the state sphere. Each domain of society is semi-autonomous, consisting of distinct logics of action and social patterns. At the same time, the separate domains of society must translate their internal logics to form a cohesive social order. How these different spheres come together and negotiate society will be the main subject of this course. We will examine a number of different theories in this course to explain this complex process, including pluralism, democracy theory, conflict theories, state-centered theories, and cultural theories of political action. We will also question the assumptions of the “modernist” standpoint toward society and whether it is outmoded or simply false.

**Required texts**

Most of the readings that we will do during the class will come from the following list of books, which you can buy from the University Bookstore. They are also on reserve at the library:


For all of these books several editions (and translations) are available. I suggest using the editions listed, so that you can follow along with the page numbers. Finally, there will be other
occasional readings required. These will be available on D2L, or I will just email them to you.

**Class Organization**

This course will revolve around reading primary sources and discussing ideas. Every Thursday, I will provide lectures that summarize major ideas and provide further context, but we will use the discussion boards to provide a deep reading of the course materials. Many of the ideas in this course will be fairly complex. The only way to fully engage with complex arguments and ideas is to work through them together. This means “interrogating” the readings, asking questions, mapping out the logic, and making arguments about what we think a particular reading might mean. Doing this in a group, with your peers, can be very rewarding and fun.

In sum, it is very important that you ask questions and interact with your peers on the discussion boards. I adopt the principle that **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION.** You should think of this class as a safe environment to voice your views and make sense of new and interesting ideas. Sometimes the simplest questions or the most misdirected comments are the most productive and illuminating ones, and we need to embrace that in this class. In order to make our exploration of political sociology as relevant as possible to you, I have organized this class around a common theme: how can social science help us make sense of contemporary society and better understand our role in democratic life? As you will see, this will be a central element in the papers that you will write and I will try to make my lectures and our discussions revolve around this theme.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

I want to emphasize that, as noted below, I will be very strict with deadlines. Therefore, it is essential that you keep up with the course readings (both the theory texts and lectures) and assignments. There are 8 essential requirements for this course:

1. Post an introductory note about yourself by 11:59pm Wednesday, Jan. 24th
2. Read all of the assigned texts for each of the 15 course modules
3. Read all of the lecture notes the day after each module due date, which is when I will post them
4. Regularly (several times each week) monitor and read D2L announcement and discussion boards AND check your UWM e-mail.
5. Post 4 discussion question answers (DQAs) to the D2L discussion board (maximum one per module, first 2 due no later than March 7th, must be on a **DIFFERENT** modules than your DQRs)
6. Post 3 discussion questions responses (DQRs) to another student’s DQA to the D2L discussion board (maximum one per module, must be on **DIFFERENT** modules than your DQAs, first one must be posted by March. 7th)
7. Complete and place a midterm exam in the course dropbox by 11:59pm, Wednesday, Mar. 14th
8. Complete and place a final exam in the course dropbox by 11:59 pm, Friday, May. 11th

**Grading:**
- **Post of introductory note on yourself** (by 11:59, Wednesday, Jan. 24th) 1%
- **Post 4 discussion question answers (DQAs)**; 2 must be posted by 11:59pm, Mar. 7th 20%
- **Post 3 discussion question replies (DQRs)**; 1 must be posted by 11:59pm, Mar. 7th 9%
- **Midterm exam** (essay Q posted on Mar. 7th, DUE 11:59pm Wednesday, Mar. 14th) 30%
- **Final exam** (essay Q posted on May. 4th, DUE 11:59pm Friday, May. 11th) 40%

**Discussion question answers (DQAs):**
For each of the 15 course modules I have posted to the discussion board a number of questions on the readings for that module. You are required to post discussion question answers (DQAs) for 4 different modules; 2 of these must be completed by 11:59pm, Mar. 7th. By the last module, 11:59pm May. 9th, you should have completed at least 2 additional DQAs. I will grade each of these DQAs and each one will count for 5% of your grade (20% total). No late posts will be accepted. In terms of content, each DQA must attempt to answer at least three of the questions that I list for that module on the discussion board. Your posted answers:

- MUST be posted by the due date for that particular module (e.g. Module 1 DQAs are due by 11:59pm January 24th; any Module 1 DQAs posted after that deadline will not be accepted)
- Should specifically identify the three questions you are attempting to answer
- Should make direct references to the readings (in the form of quotations or citation of specific page numbers) to provide evidence supporting your answers
- Should include a total of at least 10 sentences (not including your identification of the questions).

**Discussion question replies (DQRs):**
You also must complete 3 discussion question replies (DQRs), each posted on different modules than any of your DQAs. The 1st DQR must be posted by 11:59pm March 7th, the other two by May. 9th; these DQRs will consist of you responding to the post of another student for that module. Of these 3 responses, I will grade each one and each will count for 3% of your final grade (9% total). Each DQR:

- MUST be posted by the due date for that particular module (e.g. Module 1 DQRs are due by 11:59pm January 24th; any Module 1 DQRs posted after that deadline will not be accepted)
- Should articulate a response to the answers provided in that student’s post, including a discussion of why you agree or disagree (not just that you do agree or disagree)
- Should be respectful of the other student even if you disagree with what he or she wrote
- Should include at least 5 sentences respectfully explaining your position

All told, you should make 7 discussion board contributions (4 DQAs and 3 DQRs) to 7 DIFFERENT modules. Three postings (2 DQAs and 1 DQR) must be completed by March 7th; so you must post on 3 of the first 6 course modules. **I will not count multiple DQAs or DQRs posted on a single module; you must make posts to 7 different modules.**

The DQAs and the DQRs are designed to help you learn the theories by interacting with them, your fellow students, and me (much as you would if we were meeting face to face). Below I suggest a sequence of tasks for each module in order to maximize your learning and your time. To make sure you don’t lose any material, please compose your DQAs and DQRs in your own word-processing software, save it, and then cut and paste the text into the discussion forum; please do NOT attach your contributions as a separate file to the forums.

**Midterm and final exams:**
The exams in this class will be open book and open note essay tests, consisting primarily of questions asking you to critically illustrate and evaluate some aspects of one of the theoretical perspectives or compare and contrast two or more of the theoretical perspectives examined in this course. Students should not give or receive any other assistance in the completion of the exams. I will give you the
question more than a week before the exams are due. The midterm is due in the D2L drop box no later than 11:59pm, Friday, May 11th. You must save your exam in one of two software formats: word (.doc or docx) or rich text (.rtf); no other formats will be accepted.

**Managing your time.** Students should expect to spend an average of 9-10 hours per week completing tasks related to this course. As a general guide, each week students should expect to spend 2.5 hours reading and taking notes on assigned course materials, 1.5 hours reading lecture notes, 1.5 hours reading and composing discussion posts, and 1.5 hours reviewing material from previous weeks, and 2-3 hours preparing for or writing take-home exams. Some weeks may involve more or less time depending on whether an exam is scheduled or you are writing a DQA or DQR. This course moves quickly over very complicated material that builds upon itself so you must keep up. Remember that the course is organized into 15 modules and 4 theoretical perspectives. We will cover 1 module per week beginning January 24th, with the 15th module completed Wednesday, May 9th. Each module has a set of readings that goes with it (the schedule is listed below; the readings are posted by due date and module number under “contents” on the D2L site). Let me suggest the following study strategy for each module:

In the days **before** the module due date:
1) consult the syllabus as to the readings due for this module
2) consult and copy or print the questions posted on the discussion board for that module
3) download and/or print the readings for the module
4) do the readings, keeping those discussion board questions by your side and taking notes
5) if you are doing a DQA this module, choose 3 questions, write up your answers (following the guidelines discussed above), and post them to the appropriate D2L discussion board module **before** the 11:59 module deadline
6) if you are doing a DQR this module, select another student’s post for this module and respond to it, completing the posting **prior to** the 11:59 module deadline
7) read the DQAs and DQRs of other students

In the day or days **after** each module due date:
1) download and read Professor Gauchat’s lecture notes on the just completed module
2) if you haven’t already, read the DQAs or DQRs of other students
3) review course materials from previous weeks to make sure you are remembering and integrating what you have learned previously with the new material
4) restart the cycle by consulting your syllabus as to the readings for the next module, etc.

**Late policy.** All deadlines fall at 11:59pm. As noted above, absolutely no late discussion posts will be accepted; any post timed and dated after any of the deadlines will NOT be counted as a gradable post; so make sure you give yourself plenty of time to complete and post your work. As discussed above, you must have completed 2 DQAs by the end of March 7th and 1 DQR by the end of the same day. Miss those deadlines and you automatically lose points off your final grade (5 percent for missing one original discussion submission, 3% for missing the response submission). Remember that you must make 7 different discussion board contributions to 7 **DIFFERENT** course modules. Midterm exams received after the 11:59pm, March, 14th deadline will be penalized one letter grade for each 24 hour period they are late; the same penalty will apply to the final examination (after the 11:59pm, May 11th, deadline).

**A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism involves more than copying an entire discussion post or essay from another source. Plagiarism also occurs when phrases and sentences are patched together to create a paper. Of course, you will be using in your postings and essays a few words or concepts
that come from the assigned reading. That is legitimate. What is not legitimate is copying phrases and sentences from other sources (whether assigned or not) and using them as if they represented your own writing. You can avoid this by honestly quoting and citing your sources. A rough rule of thumb is that plagiarism occurs if the writing in question could not have been constructed without copying directly (however sporadically) from another source or sources, including other students. The University's policies on plagiarism are severe; any student who plagiarizes will receive an F for the course and notification will be sent the dean. FYI, in the summer 2013 semester version of this course, 2 students received an F in this course and a letter in their permanent file because of plagiarism.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>Module #, Topic, and Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W, Jan. 31</td>
<td>Module 2: Introduction to Pluralism and Functionalism - Dahl. “On Democracy: Chapters 1, 2 and 3”</td>
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<tr>
<td>W, Mar. 7</td>
<td>FIRST TWO DQAs and FIRST DQR MUST BE POSTED NO LATER THAN TODAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>W, Mar. 14</td>
<td>MIDTERM DUE IN D2L DROPBOX BY 11:59PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>W, Mar. 21</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK WEEK OFF!</td>
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<tr>
<td>W, Mar. 28</td>
<td>Module 9: State-Centered Theory Introduction</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Module</td>
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| **W, Apr. 4** | 10     | Module 10: What is Financialization?  
- Krippner. “Capitalizing on Crisis: Chapter 2” |
| **W, Apr. 11** | 11    | Module 11: Finance Capitalism and State Policy  
- Krippner. “Capitalizing on Crisis: Chapter 3” |
| **W, Apr. 18** | 12     | Module 12: Global Capital and Conclusions  
- Krippner. “Capitalizing on Crisis: Chapter 4 and 6” |
| **W, Apr. 25** | 13     | Module 13: Culture and Politics  
- Hochschild. “Strangers in Their Own Land: Chapters 1, 2, and 3” |
| **W, May. 2** | 14     | Module 14: The Social Terrain  
- Hochschild. “Strangers in Their Own Land: Chapters 6, 7, and 8” |
| **W, May 9** | 15     | Module 15: The Social Experience of Politics  
- Hochschild. “Strangers in Their Own Land: Chapters 9, 10, and 11” |
| **F, May. 11** |        | FINAL EXAM |
UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that page is:  http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf

1. **Students with disabilities.** Notice to students with disabilities that special services and accommodations are provided. Information is available from the Accessibility Resource Center at http://uwm.edu/arc/

2. **Religious observances.** Information concerning accommodations for absences due to religious observance is available at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

3. **Students called to active military duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty is available at http://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/

4. **Incompletes.** A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. The policy outlining incomplete grades is available at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf

5. **Discriminatory conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policy regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf

6. **Academic misconduct.** Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. The policy and procedures concerning academic misconduct is available at http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/

7. **Complaint procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policy may be found at: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina_duct_Policy.pdf

8. **Grade appeal procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the College of Letters & Science or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the sociology department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at http://uwm.edu/letters-science/advising/answers-forms/policies/appeal-procedure-for-grades

Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/academic-appeals-procedure/

9. **LGBT+ resources.** Resources to support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment are available at http://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/

10. **Final examination policy.** Policies regarding final examination requirement can be found at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

11. **Publication royalties.** Royalties from the sale of faculty-authored publications to students in their classes are donated to the UWM Foundation–Sociology account to support activities and awards for UWM Sociology students.

Update 08/2017