Syo4300 Syllabus

Course Information

- **Course Meeting:** Online Asynchronous
- **Credit Hours:** 3 hours

Course Description

Political science is primarily responsible for generating knowledge about politics. In this course, we take the sociological point of view on politics. During the semester we will note that sociological perspective on politics reveals those corners of politics that otherwise remain invisible to political scientists. Mainly, sociologists introduce a robust comprehension of structure, action and collective foundations of political world that otherwise remain unaccounted for in political science. In this course we will explore the significance of sociological perspective on politics within the context of democratic political system.

Course Instructor

Sourabh Singh

Assistant Professor

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(850) 644-1234

Sociology / 431B

Office Hours: TBA

Learning Objectives

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Appreciate democracy as a political system.
2. Identify political institutions of democracy.
3. Recognize the importance of civil society.
5. Comprehend role of social movements in democracy.

Course Materials
There are no text books assigned for this course. Your course material will comprise of book Chapters, articles, news paper pieces, audio/visual materials and so on. All reading materials will be provided to you through course canvas site. Please refer to the course syllabus and modules for more details.

**Student Responsibilities**

- Students should log on to Canvas at least every other day to check for course updates.
- Students are expected to keep up with the class, engage with the course material, and submit assignments by the due dates.
- Assignments, quizzes, and exams are expected to be products of individual students per the [FSU Academic Honor Policy](#). Students should not discuss any of the questions with each other before or during the actual assignments, activities, quizzes, or exams without instructor approval.
- To receive maximum points for questions, students need to follow the instructions carefully, follow word limits as instructed, and use spell and grammar checking.
- To be successful in this course, students need to complete all required assignments and tests.

**Grading Policy**

**Memos**

Memos: You are required to write at least 600 words memo on the reading material of each week. First, you are expected to briefly summarize the main points of the readings. Second, you are expected to discuss how the readings have changed (or not) your point of view on the main topic of their discussion. Third, you are expected to discuss their useful insights and weaknesses. Your memos will count for 40% of the total grade for the course. Memos are due by every Friday of the week.

**Exams**

There will be three non-cumulative essay-type exams during the entire semester. These exams will provide you with opportunity to more deeply engage with topics of your interest. Each paper will be 20% of the total grade. Details regarding each exam - number of questions, word count, due date and so on - will be provided when exams will be announced.

**Grading**

Memos: 40 points

Exam 1: 20 points
Exam 2: 20 points

Exam 3: 20 points

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent, creative and superb command of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Creative and outstanding command of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Above average level but not outstanding grasp of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Above average but thin understanding of some readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Above average but misses some parts of the readings and thus is unable to apply subject matter at all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Average level of achievement with some mastering yet narrow application of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average level of achievement; refers to the readings in a superficial way suggesting spotty understanding of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Close to average due to spotty understanding of the material and inability to apply readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Below average understanding, showing little knowledge of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Below average level with multiple contradictory arguments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>Below average understanding thus failure to apply readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fails to understand and address the readings on the subject matter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proctored Exams**
Students Taking Proctored Distance Learning Exams

Information for taking proctored distance learning exams can be found online in the distance learning section of the FSU Testing Center website. All distance learning students requiring proctored exams must select a proctor by following the steps to complete the Online Proctor Designation Form. This must be completed within the first two weeks of the semester or within the first week of a summer course (due to the shorter duration of the course). Assessment and Testing reserves the right to reject any proctor submission after the deadline.

In addition to designating a proctor using the Online Proctor Designation Form, any student who selects the FSU Testing Center must make an appointment on RegisterBlast for each exam. Students who need assistance with RegisterBlast can email regblast@campus.fsu.edu.

Any student who wants to test at a site other than the ones listed will need to contact the FSU Testing Center for further assistance. Students can call 850-644-8696 or email testing@campus.fsu.edu.

Many test sites require a fee for proctoring services. Students are responsible for paying any fees that may be required by their approved proctor or testing center. Students are advised to determine in advance if there is a fee, what it is, and when it must be paid. Testing centers often require pre-payment, and the receipt for payment may serve as an entry ticket to the proctored exam session.

Please refer to Proctoring Instructions in the course site for complete information on student responsibilities and protocols.

Technology Requirements

Course content is accessible through Canvas. Students will need to be able to view videos, write and upload assignments, post to discussion boards, and take assessments. Students should have access to high-speed internet and updated software. Mobile devices may be used to view course content, upload assignments, and take assessments as determined by the instructor. To view the most current technology requirements, visit the FSU Canvas support site.

Canvas Support

Need help with Canvas? Contact FSU Canvas Support:

Email: canvas@fsu.edu

Phone: (850) 644-8004

Website: support.canvas.fsu.edu

Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday - Friday
Course Policies

Communications/Netiquette

For Discussions:

- Please use polite, respectful behavior when posting your responses to prompts in the Discussion Boards.
- Be mindful of how you express your emotions and humor, and be sensitive to cultural and ability differences of your online peers.
- Keep postings to the point, and make sure your comments are relevant to the topic of discussion.
- Avoid messages such as, "Wow," "Way to go," or "Ditto" and aim for comments that validate other members’ ideas through careful explanation of why.
- When replying, give a short description in the subject line of what you are replying to, and use correct punctuation and spelling throughout your post.

For Email Communication:

- For email, please respond to your instructor’s and peers’ messages within a 24-hour period.
- Use a brief description in the subject line that outlines the topic of discussion.
- Avoid using slang or profane words.
- Use your instructor’s correct title he or she prefers for communication.
- Avoid using emoticons, such as smiley faces, and maintain a professional demeanor.
- Sign your email messages using your full name.
- AVOID USING ALL CAPS. This makes the message visually difficult to read and is perceived by the reader as "shouting."
- Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation, just as you would for any communication.
- Ask yourself whether you would be comfortable if someone other than the intended receiver were to read your message. Remember, email is not a completely secure form of communication.
- Refrain from "flaming," which is expressing a strongly held opinion without tact or regard for others. Don’t assume that recipients will know the intent of the message (e.g., "just kidding"). It reads differently when it’s in print (electronic or not).
- Report any inappropriate communication considered to be of a serious nature to your instructor, as it may be a violation of University policy.
- Treat others with respect by making messages clear and succinct.

Participation & Lateness Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who
have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Policy for Missed Memos and papers**

Late submission of memos will lead to loss of 25% of memo points per late day.

Late submission of papers will lead to loss of 25% of paper points per late day.

**Policy on Responding to Students**

- Email responses typically within 24 to 48 hours.
- Graded assignments typically returned within 2 weeks after due date.

**University Policies**

**University Attendance Policy**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Please note: Modifications to this policy have been made to accommodate the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, see this memo that has been distributed to all faculty and instructional staff regarding the 2020-2021 academic year.

**Academic Honor Policy**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (For more details see the FSU Academic Honor Policy and procedures for addressing alleged violations.)

**Process for Resolving Academic Problems or Grievances**

Please use this step-by-step guide to resolving academic problems to begin the process of communicating with your instructor to resolve any confusion or difficulty you may be having in the course. Detailed information on FSU’s grievance procedure, including special instructions for students enrolled in an FSU branch campus, is maintained on the General Bulletin's Academic Integrity & Grievances webpage. Out-of-state distance learning students should review the Office of Distance Learning Complaint Resolution page for additional procedures.
Americans With Disabilities Act

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

- (1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);
- (2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
- (3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

**Office of Accessibility Services (Tallahassee Campus)**
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas

**Student Disability Services (Panama City Campus)**
Office of Student Affairs
4750 Collegiate Drive
2nd Floor Barron Building (Room 215)
Florida State University Panama City
Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 770-2172 (office)
(866) 693-7872 (toll free)
Email: sds@pc.fsu.edu
https://pc.fsu.edu/students/student-disability-services
Free Tutoring from FSU (Tallahassee Campus)

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance are available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' website or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Syllabus Change Policy

"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."

Course Summary

Please refer to weekly modules for gaining access to reading materials and instructions for memos.