

Readings in Contemporary Political Sociology

SOC 333 • Spring 2022 • Tu/Th 3:30-4:45 • Graham 402

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Office hours W 12-2 via Zoom (<https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/xpakt>)

“What does this category [of the ‘political’] contain within it? It contains, on the one hand, the objective level of the institutions of political power, and on the other hand, the political stratum, that is, the subjective activity of doing politics. The political holds together two things: the state plus the political class. But what relationship does this term, this conceptualization, have to the ‘social,’ to the rest of society?

–Mario Tronti, “The Autonomy of the Political” (1972)



Reading is a central component of this class. As such, it is imperative that you complete your biweekly assignments. Because you are likely unfamiliar with most of the material we will be covering, this reading can be daunting. It is *very* important that you make time for it. With a couple

of exceptions, these are not texts that you can simply skim. I repeat: this is a reading-intensive course. If you don't plan to do the readings, this is *not* the class for you.

With that said, you do not need to buy a single book for this class. I will make every reading available on Canvas free of charge. (You may decide to purchase some of the books if you want more, however. I'm happy to help you strategize in case you're wondering what to buy.)

However, just because the texts are available online doesn't mean that you should skim them on your phone. You need to give them the same attention you would if you were actually holding a book. For me, this means printing it out, underlining important sections, and writing notes in the margins. Annotating your texts is absolutely crucial. If you want to do this on your computer or tablet instead, fine. But please do learn to mark up the text. It's central to learning how to read in an academic context, which is very different from reading for pleasure. Of course, many of these readings are immensely pleasurable. But you should also be able to extract their central arguments, and this means marking them up.

Requirements for the class are the following:

1. **Participation (48% = 35 % + 13 %):** Participation is crucial. Without it, this entire class format will fall apart. Your participation therefore counts for half of your total grade, but is split into two parts:
 - **35 %:** Participating in class discussions and actually showing up
 - **15 %:** Posting a discussion question before every class meeting before class begins
2. **Reading memos (52 % = 13 % × 4):** Reading memos must be 4–5 pages double-spaced and include well formulated, crisp, and critical arguments about a book. These should not simply summarize the book, though they can do this; but they must also reflect upon the text. Each one is worth 13 points. They are due as follows:
 - On social movements: February 13
 - On parties: March 6
 - On states: April 3
 - On revolutions: May 1

On plagiarism: If you are currently enrolled for a 300-level course – and you are – then I expect that you know what constitutes plagiarism. If you do not, I urge you to consult the UNCG Office of Rights and Responsibilities website on plagiarism, available at <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/violations-and-sanctions/plagiarism/>. I don't play when it comes to plagiarism. If I catch you plagiarizing on an assignment, it should go without saying that I will fail you on that assignment. If the case is sufficiently egregious, I may decide to fail you for the entire class.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me via email or preferably, in person during office hours. I promise I don't bite. I wish these sorts of unpleasanties did not require addressing, but after more than a decade of teaching, I've realized that they absolutely do. Please do not be that person. It's 2022, and the plagiarism detection software will catch you before I have to even lift a finger.

On attendance: While I won't penalize you for missing class occasionally, remember: participation constitutes more than a third of your final grade, and you can't participate if you aren't present. Just saying...

Introduction

January 11: Introduction and course overview

Part I. Social Movements

January 13: Tianna S. Paschel, *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018), 1–27.

January 18: Tianna S. Paschel, *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018), 28–46.

January 20: Tianna S. Paschel, *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018), 47–80.

January 25: Tianna S. Paschel, *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018), 81–116.

January 27: Tianna S. Paschel, *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018), 117–52.

February 1: Tianna S. Paschel, *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018), 153–88.

February 3: Tianna S. Paschel, *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018), 189–219.

February 8: Tianna S. Paschel, *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018), 220–48.

Part II. Parties

February 10: Edwin F. Ackerman, *Origins of the Mass Party: Dispossession and the Party-Form in Mexico and Bolivia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 1–28.

February 15: Edwin F. Ackerman, *Origins of the Mass Party: Dispossession and the Party-Form in Mexico and Bolivia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 29–45.

February 17: Edwin F. Ackerman, *Origins of the Mass Party: Dispossession and the Party-Form in Mexico and Bolivia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 49–78.

February 22: Edwin F. Ackerman, *Origins of the Mass Party: Dispossession and the Party-Form in Mexico and Bolivia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 79–105.

February 24: Edwin F. Ackerman, *Origins of the Mass Party: Dispossession and the Party-Form in Mexico and Bolivia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 109–32.

March 1: Edwin F. Ackerman, *Origins of the Mass Party: Dispossession and the Party-Form in Mexico and Bolivia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 133–49.

Part III. States

March 3: Poulami Roychowdhury, *Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 3–35.

[POLITICS AS A VACATION (SPRING BREAK)]

March 15: Poulami Roychowdhury, *Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 39–67.

March 17: Poulami Roychowdhury, *Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 68–91.

March 22: Poulami Roychowdhury, *Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 92–126.

March 24: Poulami Roychowdhury, *Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 127–64.

March 29: Poulami Roychowdhury, *Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 165–90.

Part IV. Revolutions

March 31: Colin Barker, Gareth Dale, and Neil Davidson, “Introduction,” Pp. 1–23 in *Revolutionary Rehearsals in the Neoliberal Age: 1989–2019*, edited by Colin Barker, Gareth Dale, and Neil Davidson (Chicago: Haymarket, 2021).

April 5: Colin Barker, “Social Movements and the Possibility of Socialist Revolution,” Pp. 27–65 in *Revolutionary Rehearsals in the Neoliberal Age: 1989–2019*, edited by Colin Barker, Gareth Dale, and Neil Davidson (Chicago: Haymarket, 2021).

April 7: Claire Ceruti, “The End of Apartheid in South Africa,” Pp. 93–122 in *Revolutionary Rehearsals in the Neoliberal Age: 1989–2019*, edited by Colin Barker, Gareth Dale, and Neil Davidson (Chicago: Haymarket, 2021).

April 12: Jeffery R. Webber, “Bolivia’s Cycle of Revolt: Left-Indigenous Struggle, 2000–2005” Pp. 171–202 in *Revolutionary Rehearsals in the Neoliberal Age: 1989–2019*, edited by Colin Barker, Gareth Dale, and Neil Davidson (Chicago: Haymarket, 2021).

April 14: Mike Gonzalez, “The Pink Tide in Latin America: Where the Future Lay?” Pp. 231–64 in *Revolutionary Rehearsals in the Neoliberal Age: 1989–2019*, edited by Colin Barker, Gareth Dale, and Neil Davidson (Chicago: Haymarket, 2021).

April 19: Sameh Naguib, “The Tragedy of the Egyptian Revolution,” Pp. 265–306 in *Revolutionary Rehearsals in the Neoliberal Age: 1989–2019*, edited by Colin Barker, Gareth Dale, and Neil Davidson (Chicago: Haymarket, 2021).

April 21: Neil Davidson, “The Actuality of Revolution,” Pp. 309–33 in *Revolutionary Rehearsals in the Neoliberal Age: 1989–2019* (Chicago: Haymarket, 2021).

April 26: Neil Davidson, “The Actuality of Revolution,” Pp. 333–64 in *Revolutionary Rehearsals in the Neoliberal Age: 1989–2019* (Chicago: Haymarket, 2021).