We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

What are politics? Are they the debates leading up to an election which chooses between a Democrat and a Republican? Certainly they are that, but they are also much, much more. In general, political sociologists analyze social bases of power and policy determination, institutional interrelationships, intellectuals and ideologies, political trends and change, and political participation and membership. More than anything else, political sociology studies power, authority, and legitimacy.

This class aims to expose students to relevant theoretical and empirical issues in order to introduce the range of problems that define the field of political sociology. We will only cover a very small amount of the sociological scholarship that tries to understand concepts like state, power, authority, domination, autonomy, and global capitalism on a very "macro" level. This class, in particular, will focus on the notion of “citizenship.”

Student Learning Goals

At the conclusion of this course, the student should
1. be familiar with a portion of the literature on political sociology
2. begin to analyze current and historical social and political events from a variety of viewpoints, developing your critical thinking skills
3. be able to distinguish among the concepts, levels of analysis, and theories of power in the subdiscipline of political sociology

In addition to these course-specific outcomes, because this is an Advanced Writing Course, we will seek to meet these learning outcomes designated for writing courses:

a. Identify and pursue more sophisticated questions for academic inquiry
b. Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources
c. Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate
d. Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline
e. Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work
f. Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to that discipline
g. Develop competence in information technology and digital literacy
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Writing for Sociology:
American Sociological Association. 20014. ASA Style Guide. Fifth Edition. (The formatting basics of the ASA Style Guide are also available on the Mansfield Library website. It may be downloaded in its entirety from the ASA website—free of charge only IF you are a member.)

Familiarity with the literature:

In addition, there will be several articles and short news pieces placed on Moodle, depending on the interests of the class.

Analyzing current social and political events:

It is expected that students will maintain awareness of current events, drawing from a variety of sources. I highly recommend at least one major national and one local newspaper, an international news source, and two partisan sources, from the right and from the left. For example:


Local News:  Missoulian http://missoulian.com  

International:  look for intriguing news sources in a language you can read  
  e.g. Guardian UK http://www.guardian.co.uk/  
  e.g. Canberra Times http://www.canberratimes.com.au  

Right:  Fox News http://www.foxnews.com/  
Left:  The Nation http://www.thenation.com/  

Your assignment is to derive a discussion question relating your assigned reading and/or class material to a current event. Please be sure to imagine what sort of question would lead to a good discussion. Each question will be worth 5 points: Excellent (5), Very good (4), satisfactory (3), marginal (2), you submitted something (1) and you didn't even try (0). You will post your question on Moodle no later than 3 a.m. Wednesday morning (see calendar for due dates), for discussion on Thursday.

In addition, developing skills in analyzing current events requires regular attendance and participation in the discussions, which are based on the submitted questions. Therefore, attendance will count as 20 points, which means arriving in a timely fashion and staying
for at least 2/3 of the class, and actively participating, to the extent that you are comfortable, in discussions.

*Analyzing historical social and political events and distinguishing among the concepts, levels of analysis, and theories of power in the subdiscipline of political sociology:*

**Comprehensive Paper**

You are required to submit a comprehensive paper, 12-20 pages in length, that will focus on a historical or current political movement or event that involved the achievement or denial of “voice.” More information on content and grading will be available in Week 3. The paper will need to utilize the concepts, categories, theories, or frameworks presented in TWO different weeks during the first half of the course and use a minimum of five “peer reviewed” articles for each group participant.

**Paper Proposal (10 points)**

You are required to submit a *paper proposal* in Week 4. This assignment will require you to write two paragraphs to two pages describing the problem you want to investigate. Your job will be to convince the reader that the topic is important enough for your audience to continue reading. Imagine that your "audience" is a non-sociology professor you want to impress with your grasp of the issue and your writing skills. You want this professor to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or post-BA course of study.

Possible events or movements include:

French Revolution
Haitian Revolution
Revolutions of 1848
Paris Commune of 1871
Great Strike of 1877
IWW (Wobblies)
Southern Tenant Farmers Union
AFL vs. CIO (1935)
Civil Rights Movement
Antiwar Movement (Vietnam)
Antiwar Movement (Iraq II)
Black Power
American Indian Movement
United Farmworkers
Gay Rights (AIDS; Marriage)
Feminism (Suffrage; 1970s; 2000s)
Anti-abortion
Moral Majority
Tea Party
Arab Spring and the aftermath

You may come to my office hours or talk with me after class or by appointment to try to find a subject that interests you.

Article Summaries (25 points)

You must submit five summaries of peer reviewed articles by Week 7. We will have a library training session in Week 6. This gives you two weeks to find articles and write the summaries. Of the five articles, at least TWO must discuss or use the theories you will use in your paper, one on each theory.

For example, if one wanted to study the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, using Antonio Gramsci’s theories, you might find this article:


Abstract: "Both Gramsci & Biko sought to restore the subjective dimension to socialist movements & to place human actors, not brute economic factors, as the primary movers of history. Both attached great importance to philosophy, ideology, culture, & consciousness, taking seriously the power of subjective intervention to prevail over structural barriers. Biko's faith in purposive human beings seizing hold of their own historical opportunities gave birth to a movement releasing the energies of black struggling masses, striving to liberate themselves from servitude through grass-roots organization.”

The actual format of the summaries is on Moodle. You will not get full points unless you use this format.

Discussion of Theories (20 points)
You will submit a short discussion of the two theoretical perspectives by Week 9, applying to but not elaborating the subject of your paper. This is in the nature of an essay exam. You will have an opportunity to revise and resubmit this portion of the paper.

Comprehensive Paper (24+76) points)

The final paper (12-20 pages) will examine your understanding of a broad range of topics covered in class. In this paper, you will identify the issue, the parties, the interests, the forces, the appropriate theories and/or frameworks for understanding the interrelationship among power, authority, legitimacy, and voice. You must use a minimum of five peer-reviewed articles, and five of those must either be the articles for which you submitted a summary. If you have decided not to use those articles and are using different peer-reviewed articles, you must submit new summaries for those articles. (In other words, in your final paper, you must have five peer-reviewed articles, and there must be a summary for each of those articles.)

A rough draft of the paper is due on Moodle Week 11. This early due date is to give me enough time to get it back to you, and you enough time to re-write the paper, paying attention to the comments provided.
The comprehensive paper is due on Moodle Tuesday December [date] by [time].

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>Discussion questions</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Paper Rough</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Paper</td>
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**Housekeeping Issues**

All assignments must be submitted on Moodle. If you have difficulty using this platform, please let me know and we'll go over it together.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Please make yourself familiar with the library resource on plagiarism: [http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/plagiarism](http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/plagiarism)  The Provost asks that we make you aware of the following policy:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code: [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

**Disabilities:** I endorse this approach to disabilities, suggested by the Disability Services for Students:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

**Deadlines:** I know that difficulties arise in all our lives, but I have limited flexibility in accommodating late assignments. The reason for the deadlines is to give me an opportunity to help you learn. If the assignments are late, I have less opportunity to help you. Therefore late assignments WILL NOT RECEIVE COMMENTS.

Regarding discussions, as noted earlier, you will have several opportunities to turn in discussion questions, and only the five best scores will be counted. Therefore, NO LATE discussion questions will be accepted, BECAUSE they DO form the basis for the class on Thursdays.
Respect: This course covers material that lies at the heart of many contentious debates in public life. All views are welcome. Because your opinion is also valuable, you are allowed and encouraged to express your disagreement. This means that you are encouraged to agree or disagree with any positions taken in the class, but you must do so respectfully. Lively debate is one thing; “trashing” is something else entirely.

Attendance: I will not take attendance as a rule, except for those dates specifically indicated on the syllabus, and then each absence will mean a 5 point deduction from the attendance grade. I will, however, note participation. Active participation, including consistent attendance and preparation, can raise a borderline grade.
POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

[TERM] [YEAR] Calendar

Week 1: Introduction to Course
Reading: Bending Toward Justice, Chapters 1-2

Week 2: We the People
Read Bending Toward Justice Chapters 3 and 4
Read Theorizing Power, Chapter 1
Lecture: What is power?

Week 3: In Order to Form a More Perfect Union
Read Bending Toward Justice, Chapters 5 and 6
Lecture: Nations and Governance

Week 4: Establish Justice
Read Bending Toward Justice, Chapters 5 and 6
Read Theorizing Power, Chapter 2
Lecture: Weber, Domination, Authority, and Legitimacy

Paper Proposal due Friday, September 20, 1:00 PM

Week 5: Promote the General Welfare
Read Bending Toward Justice, Chapters 7 and 8
Read Theorizing Power, Chapter 4
Lecture: American Political Sociology to the 1970s

Thursday: Library Training--Meet in Mansfield Library, classroom on Second Floor
This training is required. You may think you know how to find library resources and know what a "peer reviewed article" is, but you had better be sure.

Week 6: European Sources
Read Theorizing Power, Chapter 3
Lecture: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Pareto, and Gramsci (whew!)
Discuss Article Summaries

Week 7: Domination Without Violence
Read Bending Toward Justice, Chapter 9
Read Theorizing Power, Chapter 7
Lecture: Domination without Violence

Article Summaries due Friday 1:00 PM

Week 8: Religion
Read Theorizing Power, Chapter 8
Lecture: The Rise of the Christian Right; the Christian Left in Peace and Justice Movements
Week 9: Gender
Read Theorizing Power, Chapter 9
Lecture: Patriarchy, the State, and Civil Society

Discussion of Theories Due Friday, 1:00 PM

Week 10: Conflict and Humor
Read Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals*, Chapter TBA
Read Piven and Cloward, "The Weight of the Poor: A Strategy to End Poverty, 1966"

Week 11: Recognition Struggles
Read Phillips, "Recognition and the Struggle for Political Voice"
Read Mueller, "'Recognition Struggles' and Process Theories of Social Movements"
Optional: *Theorizing Power*, Chapter 10
Lecture: Feminist Social Movements

*Rough Draft due Wednesday, 1 p.m.*

Week 12
Discussion of papers

Week 13
Guest Speakers—Mandatory Attendance

Week 14
Tuesday: Guest Speakers—Mandatory Attendance
Thursday: Happy Thanksgiving--no class

Week 15
Tuesday: TBA—Guest Speakers/Mandatory Attendance
Thursday: TBA—Guest Speakers/Mandatory Attendance