

Payne Fall 2023 SOCI 148 – *Political Sociology* Syllabus

University of California San Diego  
Department of Sociology  
Fall 2023

Dr. Christine Payne  
[capayne@ucsd.edu](mailto:capayne@ucsd.edu)

**TuTh 8-9:20 am PST**

**Tuesdays: In-person Lecture – PODEM Room 1A20**

**Thursdays: Synchronous Virtual Lecture** (Exceptions: September 28<sup>th</sup> & December 7<sup>th</sup>)  
(Link in Canvas ‘Announcements’)

**Zoom Office Hours: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm PST Tuesdays**



## SOCI 148 - Political Sociology

What does it mean to talk about politics? What do we mean when we discuss ‘the political?’ What is the relationship between politics and other aspects of society? How, and on what basis, is political authority organized? Who makes political decisions? How do political structures of authority and decision making come to be critiqued, challenged, or reconfigured? How does political organization relate to individual people and larger social groups and institutions – and how do these relations work to cultivate or curtail the attainment of freedom, equality and justice? These are some of the broad

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questions that a critical sociological approach to politics aims to address and which we will be considering over the next ten weeks.

This course approaches political ideas and practices in light of central sociological concepts including class, race, and gender. The course takes an explicitly critical approach in the sense of not taking concepts, claims, or practices – political or otherwise – for granted. Our aim will be to explore the social and historical roots of political theories and practices in order that we may all contribute to more informed reflection and practice as political actors in 2023 and beyond.

### **Motivations & Goals for Our Political Sociology Course**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop and deploy a critical sociological perspective; more specifically, understand and apply major critical sociological concepts – including class, race, and gender - as they relate to the knowledge and practice of politics broadly conceived;
- Reflect upon the strengths and weaknesses of different political structures and philosophies of organization, particularly as these different structures relate to the enhancement or diminishment of individual and collective rights and responsibilities;
- Recognize and reflect upon various principles of political authority and decision-making;
- Critically consider the interdependent relationships between politics and economics; investigate the significance of the concept ‘political-economy;’
- Evaluate the role of politics in relation to questions of individual and collective autonomy and integrity; investigate the significance of the concept of ‘bio-politics;’
- Identify and communicate interesting aspects of, or illuminating relations between, theoretical concepts and empirical applications;
- Critique concepts and analyses, evaluating their capabilities and limitations;
- Write short-answer essays with organized, well-supported arguments;
- Identify potential interventions or transformations aimed at addressing issues of human freedom, equity, justice, and well-being.

### **Canvas**

- ❖ **Course Syllabus (Syllabus)**
- ❖ **Weekly Readings and Weekly Lecture Slides (Files)**
- ❖ **Recorded Lectures (Media Gallery)**
- ❖ **Midterms & Final Paper (Assignments)**
- ❖ **Discussion Boards (Discussions)**
- ❖ **Weekly Office Hours Zoom Link (Announcements)**
- ❖ **Thursday Weeks 1-9 Synchronous Lecture Zoom Link (Announcements)**

Canvas will be used to communicate all **course-wide announcements**.

**Please be sure that you are able to access Canvas for the duration of the course.**

**Please be sure to check Canvas regularly for any course-wide announcements.**

### **Email and Office Hours**

Please allow me 24 hours to respond to your email during the work week (Monday-Friday). Over weekends and university holidays, please know that I will respond at the start of the work week. If you know you have a question or will need to be in touch, please do so sooner than later. If you have questions that require in-depth answers, I may request that we meet during virtual office hours or by zoom appointment.

I am available in **virtual office hours each Tuesday from 10:00 am -12:00 pm PST.**

A zoom link for office hours is available under our 'Announcements' tab on Canvas.

### **Assignments & Grading**

The final grade for our class will have **four components** worth a **total of 500 points**.

**(20 pts. each x 5 = 100 points) Discussion Board Participation**

**Due end of day (11:59 pm PST) on **Fridays of Weeks 2, 3, 4, 6, 7****

**(150 points) 1<sup>st</sup> Midterm (Week 5)**

**Due end of day (11:59 pm PST) on **Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup>****

**(150 points) 2<sup>nd</sup> Midterm (Week 9)**

**Due end of day (11:59 pm PST) on **Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>****

**(100 points) Final Exam (Finals Week)**

**Due end of day (11:59 pm PST) on **Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>****

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Our **Midterms** will consist of a combination of term identifications (IDs) and short-essay questions.

The **Final Paper** will consist of a 5-page essay, critically synthesizing materials covered across the quarter.

Details of each graded component will be covered in lecture.

**Course Grading Scale**

98+: A+  
98-93: A  
92-90: A-  
89-88: B+  
87-83: B  
82-80: B-  
79-78: C+  
77-73: C  
72-70: C-  
69-60: D  
59 and below: F

**Please Note:** Late work will lose 1/3 of a letter grade per day late.

**Please Note:** No coursework will be accepted, and no grade adjustments will be made past the last day of our university-scheduled course final – Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Discussion Boards**

For each of our five discussion board assignments, students will be asked to locate and post a link to a credible news source that examines a topic or issue related to our course materials. In addition to the posted link, each discussion board submission requires a one paragraph summary and a one paragraph reflection/explanation relating the article to our course materials.

For full credit, students must post a stand-alone response. Responding to others' posts is strongly encouraged, but not required for full credit. Further discussion board details will be covered in lecture.

Please submit by **end of day (11:59 pm) Fridays. 5 posts x 20 points = 100 points.**

**Optional Extra Credit**

A write up (1-2 pages double-spaced) reflecting on any of the documentaries made available during the quarter may be submitted for extra credit. Extra credit points will be added to final papers at the end of the quarter.

**Each extra credit write-up is worth 10 points. Up to 20 points total - two documentary write-ups – can be submitted for extra credit.**

Please **submit extra credit directly to Professor Payne via email (capayne@ucsd.edu) any time up to Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Please include your name and our course information (SOCI 148).

### **Respect**

At their best, college courses flourish when everyone involved takes seriously the responsibility to engage course material in a critical manner. Critical engagement is grounded in thoughtful reflection, and such thoughtful reflection may provide opportunities for respectful disagreement. Respectful disagreement often leads to illuminating discussions and further thoughtful engagement for us all. There is a world of difference between disagreement and disrespect.

What I expect and require in our class – both in-person and online - is a mature and mindful space that refrains from personal attacks and explicit or implied hostility. In the intellectual and ethical interests of us all, I do not tolerate disrespectful or hostile discussion. As we cultivate our learning spaces together, it promotes our intellectual endeavors to harbor these differences and similarities, agreements and disagreements, towards promoting the free exchange of ideas and a space where that is possible.

### **Academic Integrity**

All academic work must be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. Avoid even unintentional plagiarism. Give full credit to the sources for your ideas and writing. Collaboration in studying is OK; collaboration in writing is not. **Use of AI generators to do one's SOCI 148 coursework is a violation of academic integrity.**

**Violations of academic integrity will result in a grade of '0' for the assignment. Violations will also be referred to the college for administrative action.** If you have any questions regarding academic integrity, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me at any time. Please also consult the bottom of this syllabus for further information.

UCSD's academic integrity information can be viewed at:

<https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>

Please look it over and do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions.

**Course Content & Schedule (Subject to Minor Variation as Necessary)**

\*\*Please note that **page numbers refer to pages of/in books** – not the page numbers across the top of the pdfs housing these readings\*\*

**Week ‘Zero’****Course Introduction & Overview****Week One****Power – What Is It? Who Has It? Why? To What Ends? Or, What is the Matter Politically?**

- ❖ **Marcuse, Herbert** – *One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society*. (1964) Beacon Press.  
**Chapter 1 – ‘The New Forms of Social Control’ pp. 3-20**
- ❖ **Duggan, Lisa** – *The Twilight of Equality? Neoliberalism, Cultural Politics, and the Attack on Democracy*. (2003) Beacon Publishing.  
**Introduction & Chapter 1 – ‘Downsizing Democracy’ pp. IX-21**
- ❖ \*\*\*OPTIONAL\*\*\* Documentary  
*Herbert’s Hippopotamus: Marcuse and Revolution in Paradise* (1996)  
Director: Paul Alexander Juutilainen (approx. 50 min.) **Extra Credit Available**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbzhmMDFcFQ>

**Week Two****Organization of Governance or, The Roles of Ruling and the Rules of Roles**

- ❖ **Plato** – *Republic* (2004 [375 BCE]) trans. C.D.C. Reeve. Hackett Publishing.

**Books II, IV, VI-VIII**

- ❖ **Discussion Board 1 Due Friday October 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Week Three****Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité or, Emancipation of Some as “All”**

- ❖ **Locke, John** – *Second Treatise of Government* (1980[1690]) Hackett Publishing.  
**Books I-V, IX, XI-XIII, XVIII-XIX**
- ❖ *Declaration of Independence* (1776)  
<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>
- ❖ *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* (1789)  
[https://www.open.edu/openlearn/ocw/pluginfile.php/612270/mod\\_resource/content/1/rightsofman.pdf](https://www.open.edu/openlearn/ocw/pluginfile.php/612270/mod_resource/content/1/rightsofman.pdf)
- ❖ **Discussion Board 2 Due Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Week Four****Civil and Political Spheres or, Why Political-Economy is One Word**

- ❖ **de Gouges, Olympe** - *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen* (1791)  
<https://pages.uoregon.edu/dluebke/301ModernEurope/GougesRightsofWomen.pdf>
- ❖ **Wollstonecraft, Mary** – *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1992[1792]) Penguin Classics.  
**Chapters 1-4 pp. 11-81**
- ❖ **Marx, Karl** – “On the Jewish Question” in *The Marx-Engels Reader* (1978[1843/1844]) W.W. Norton & Company.  
**pp. 26-46**
- ❖ **Discussion Board 3 Due Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Week Five****Formal vs. Actual Freedom or, Time for ‘What We Will’**

- ❖ **Marx, Karl.** “The Realm of Necessity and the Realm of Freedom” in *Capital Volume III* 1991 [1894] Penguin Books. **Pp. 957-959**
- ❖ **Midterm Review**

### **Midterm #1: Due Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> by end of day (11:59 pm) Canvas Assignments**

#### **Week Six**

##### **Intersectionality or, Why “Identity Politics” is Redundant, Not Reductive**

- ❖ **Davis, Angela Y.** – *Women, Race, & Class* (1981[1983]) Vintage Books.  
**Chapter 5: “The Meaning of Emancipation According to Black Women”**  
**Chapter 7: “Woman Suffrage at the Turn of the Century: The Rising Influence of Racism”**
- ❖ **Fanon, Frantz** – *Wretched of the Earth* (2005[1961]) Grove Press.  
**Part 1: “On Violence” pp. 1-62**
- ❖ **Discussion Board 4 Due Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Week Seven**

##### **Biopolitics I, or Producing Matter that Matters**

- ❖ **Foucault, Michel** – *Society Must Be Defended: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975-1976* (2003[1976]) Trans. David Macey. Picador Books.  
**Part 11: pp. 239-263**
- ❖ **Reardon, Jenny H. and Kim TallBear** (2012) “‘Your DNA is Our History:’ Genomics, Anthropology, and the Construction of Whiteness as Property” *Current Anthropology*. 53(5)  
**pp. 233-245**
- ❖ **Discussion Board 5 Due Friday November 17<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Week Eight**

##### **Final Paper Walk-Through; Midterm #2 Review**



❖ Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup> – **Final Paper & Midterm #2 Walk-Throughs**

❖ **Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup> – No Class – Holiday!**

## Week Nine

### *Biopolitics II, or Distinctions, Displacements, and Disposability*

❖ **Alexander, Michelle** – *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. (2010) New Press.

**Chapter 1: “The Rebirth of Caste” pp. 20-57**

**Chapter 6: “The Fire This Time” pp. 209-248**

\*\*\*OPTIONAL\*\*\* Documentary

*The 13th* (2016) Director: Ava DuVernay (approx. 1.5 hrs.) **Extra Credit Available**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>

**Midterm #2 Due: Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> by end of day (11:59 pm) Canvas Assignments**

## Week Ten

### *Conceptualizing Power – What Could Be? Or, It Isn’t Just ‘The Way It Is’!*

❖ **Weeks, Kathi** – *The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries* (2011) Duke University Press.

**Chapter 1: “Mapping the Work Ethic” pp. 37-77**

**Chapter 5: “The Future Is Now” pp. 175-225**

\*\*\*OPTIONAL\*\*\* Documentary

❖ *Where to Invade Next* (2015) Director: Michael Moore (approx. 2 hrs.)

**Extra Credit Available**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggvzwY-oyXk>

**Final Exam Due Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup> (11:59pm) Canvas 'Assignments'**



***Welcome!***

**I look forward to exploring Political Sociology together this quarter!**

***Sociology Department***

Main Office SSB 401: <https://sociology.ucsd.edu/>

***Advising***

<https://sociology.ucsd.edu/undergraduate/advising.html>

***Accommodations and Important Resources***

Every learning environment should be accessible to all. If you have a disability and require accommodations for this class, please contact:

**UCSD's OFFICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** <https://osd.ucsd.edu/>

### **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

Please let me know as soon as possible if, for any religious reasons, you will require an extension on a part of your overall assessments.

### **UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES**

Please let me know as soon as possible if, for any university activities, you will require an extension on a part of your overall assessments.

### **COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

The Counseling Center (CAPS) offers counseling for personal & career concerns, self-help information, and referrals for additional mental health services. It is located in UCSD's Galbraith Hall 190.

<https://caps.ucsd.edu/make-appointment/appointments.html>

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE:** 1-800-273-8255

### **STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

<https://wellness.ucsd.edu/studenthealth/Pages/default.aspx> (or: [studenthealth@ucsd.edu](mailto:studenthealth@ucsd.edu))

### **UCSD BASIC NEEDS CENTER**

<https://basicneeds.ucsd.edu/>

### **THE HUB**

UCSD has a Response Team that helps students who need immediate support. This support could include short-term provision of food, shelter, or financial crisis among other items. In many situations, campus personnel will coordinate with community social service agencies to

support our students in these situations. If you are in need of immediate support, please contact [basicneeds@ucsd.edu](mailto:basicneeds@ucsd.edu) or call 1-858-246-2632.

### **WELL BEING – “The Zone”**

<https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/index.html>

### **GENDER NEUTRAL BATHROOMS**

There are gender-neutral restrooms on campus. A complete list with maps can be found at: <https://maps.ucsd.edu/map/Default.htm?id=1005#!ce/37654?ct/0,18011?mc/32.876073117796686,-117.22527980804445?z/15?lvl/0>

### **REPORTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Please know that I, like all UCSD faculty, am mandated to report any allegations of sexual assault involving members of the University community to the campus Title IX office. You do not have to follow up with them if you do not wish to, but it is important that you are aware of your resources as well as rights, such as withdrawing from a class if need be. Review information about your rights, how to pursue a university discipline charge and a criminal charge, and how to report the violence without pursuing any charges at: <https://sos.ucsd.edu/filing-a-report/index.html> or call: 858-534-8298.

### **UCSD ESCORT SERVICE**

Call extension 4-WALK or (858) 534-9255 from sunset to 4 a.m. daily. After 1 a.m., police department staff may provide this service. You can arrange a repeating escort so a community service officer (CSO) will meet you at the same place and time, which makes it more convenient to get a late-night escort.

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM ADVOCATE**

<http://care.ucsd.edu/> or call: 858-534-5793

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS OFFICE (ISPO)**

<https://ispo.ucsd.edu/>

### **TRITON TRANSFER CENTER**

<https://transferstudents.ucsd.edu/>

**OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT & INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES  
(OASIS)/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (EOP)**

Especially helpful for first generation, non-traditional, and English as a Second Language Students, but of course open to all.

<https://oasis.ucsd.edu/> (or call: 858-534-3760)

**UCSD CAREER CENTER**

The UCSD Career Center can help you assess your interests.  
858-534-3751 <https://career.ucsd.edu/> (or: [careercenter@ucsd.edu](mailto:careercenter@ucsd.edu))

**WRITING HUB**

If you need help with writing with this or any class, please contact the UCSD Writing Hub.

<https://writinghub.ucsd.edu/>

**BLACK RESOURCE CENTER**

858-534-0471 <https://brc.ucsd.edu/>

**WOMEN'S CENTER**

858-822-0074 <https://women.ucsd.edu/>

**SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER**

3909 Centre St., San Diego, CA 92103

<http://www.thecentersd.org/>

**UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SERVICES**

858-822-6916 <https://uss.ucsd.edu/> (or: [undoc@ucsd.edu](mailto:undoc@ucsd.edu))

**TRANSGENDER CARE**

(858) 534-3300 <https://wellness.ucsd.edu/studenthealth/services/Pages/transgender-care.aspx>

**RAZA RESOURCE CENTRO**

858-822-0072 <https://raza.ucsd.edu/>

**INTERTRIBAL RESOURCE CENTER (ITRC)**858- 822-0048 <https://itrc.ucsd.edu/>**CROSS CULTURAL CENTER**858-534-9689 [ccc.ucsd.edu](http://ccc.ucsd.edu)**CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. You are plagiarizing or cheating if you:

- For written work, copy anything from a book, article, website, or AI generator and add or paste it into your paper without using quotation marks and/or without providing the full reference for the quotation, including page number
- For written work, summarize / paraphrase in your own words ideas you got from a book, article, or the web without providing the reference for the source
- Use academic visuals obtained from a book, article, or website without providing a reference for the visual
- Recycle a paper you wrote for another class
- Turn in the same (or a very similar paper) for two classes
- Purchase or otherwise obtain a paper and turn it in as your own work
- Copy the work of a classmate

**Consequences of cheating and plagiarism**

Consequences are at the instructor's and the administration's discretion. Instructors are mandated by the UCSD system to report the offense to the administration. Consequences may include any of the following: warning; failing the assignment; failing the class; probation; suspension; expulsion