**Political Sociology**

**SOCI 148**

**Spring Quarter 2025**

Class Information

8:00 - 9:20

Tuesday – Thursday

Room 217B

Center Hall

Prof. Asa Maron

Email: [a2maron@ucsd.edu](mailto:a2maron@ucsd.edu)

Office: 499 Social Science Building

Office Hours:

Tuesday 9:30 - 10:30

Thursday 9:30 - 10:30

Political sociology explores the relations between state and society, the constitution of political power and legitimacy, the making of nationalism and citizenship, the emergence of social movements and their political consequences, and the impact of globalization. These key topics are discussed and illustrated using examples from Israel in a comparative perspective.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Explain key ideas regarding politics and power
2. Recognize and describe key political phenomena (the state, citizenship, democracy, welfare state, globalization)
3. Discuss and illustrate these ideas and phenomena using the case of Israel
4. Apply basic ideas of political sociology to analyze contemporary social phenomena

Course Assignments & Grading

**# Attendance, reading and participation** (15% of your final grade)

Prepare for each week by completing the assigned reading (see list below). Attend classes regularly and engage in class discussions.

**# Midterm exam** (25% of your final grade)

The midterm exam evaluates your comprehension of topics 1-5 (including assigned readings and lectures). It combines multi-choice and short open-ended questions.

The exam takes place in-class on May 6th, 2025

**# Final exam** (60% of your final grade)

The final exam prompts you to apply your knowledge by analyzing a political phenomenon. It includes an unseen text followed by open-ended questions. Material includes all lectures and assigned readings. You may collectively prepare a one-page concept sheet to use in the exam. The concept sheet must be sent to me for approval by June 6th.

Grading Scale

A+ 97-100 A 94-96 A- 90-93 B+ 87-89 B 84-86 B- 80-83 C+ 77-79 C 74-76 C- 70-73 D 60-69 F 0-59

Disability accommodations

Please contact me privately and provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Present your AFA letter to the Sociology Department’s OSD Liaisons in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to comply with UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity. The policy can be found here: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2>

**Topics and readings by week**

**Week 1. Introductions (April 1, 3)**

de Leon C, Clarno A. 2020. Power. Pp. 35-52. In Janoski T., de Leon C., Misra J., Martin I. (eds). *The New Handbook of Political Sociology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Week 2. The state (April 8, 10)**

Skocpol, Theda. 2008. Bringing the state back in: Retrospect and prospect the 2007 Johan Skytte prize lecture. *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 31 (2): 109-124.‏

Mann, Michael. 1984. The autonomous power of the state: its origins, mechanisms and

results. *European Journal of Sociology*, 25(2): 185-213.

**Week 3.** **Citizenship (April 15, 17)**

Evelyn, Glenn. 2000. Citizenship and Inequality: Historical and Global Perspectives. *Social Problems* 47, 1(1).

Lister, Ruth. 2012. Citizenship and gender. Pp. 372-382. In Amenta, E., Nash, K., and Scott, A (eds). *The Wiley‐Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology*.‏ Sussex: Blackwell Publishing.

**Week 4. Nationalism (April 22, 24)**

Feinstein, Yuval. 2024. National emotions. Pp. 111-127. In Flam, H. (Ed). *Research Handbook on the Sociology of Emotion*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Shafir, Gershon and Peled, Yoav. 1998. Citizenship and stratification in an ethnic democracy. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *21*(3), 408–427.

**Week 5. Democracy and its alternatives (April 29, May 1)**

Scheppele, Kim Lane. 2018. Autocratic legalism. *The University of Chicago Law Review,* 85 (2): 545-584.‏

Feinstein, Yuval and Ben-Eliezer, Uri. 2018. Failed peace and the decline in liberalism in Israel: A spiral model. *Mediterranean Politics*, 24(5), 568–591.

**Week 6. Midterm exam and review (May 6, 8)**

Tuesday, May 6 – Midterm exam

Thursday, May 8 – review of the exam (and of topics 1-5)

**Week 7. Grassroot politics, protest, and social movements (May 13, 15)**

Meyer, David S. 2012. Protest and Political Process. Pp. 397-407. In Amenta, E., Nash, K., and Scott, A (eds). *The Wiley‐Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology*.‏ Sussex: Blackwell Publishing.

Feige, Michael. 1998. Peace Now and the Legitimation Crisis of ‘Civil Militarism. *Israel Studies* 3 (1): 85–111.

**Week 8. Between state and market: Social Policy and redistribution (May 20, 22)**

Prasad, Monica. 2016. American Exceptionalism and the Welfare State: The Revisionist Literature. *Annual Review of Political Science* 19:187-203.

Rosenhek, Ze’ev. 2011. “Dynamics of inclusion and exclusion in the Israeli welfare state: State-building and political economy” pp. 63-86, in: Guy Ben-Porat and Bryan Turner (eds.), *The contradictions of Israeli citizenship*. New-York: Routledge.‏

**Week 9. Neoliberal capitalism (May 27, 29)**

Chorev, Nitsan. 2010. On the Origins of Neoliberalism: Political Shifts and Analytical Challenges. Pp. 127-144. In K.T. Leicht and J.C. Jenkins (eds.). *Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective*. New-York: Springer.

Maron, Asa and Shalev, Michael. 2017. “Introduction” pp. 1-19, in: Asa Maron and Michael Shalev (eds.), *Neoliberalism as a State Project: Changing the Political Economy of Israel*. New-York: Oxford University Press.

**Week 10. Globalization (June 3, 5)**

Evans, Peter. 1997. The Eclipse of the State? Reflections on Stateness in an Era of Globalization. *World Politics* 50: 62-87.

Maman, Daniel and Rosenhek, Ze’ev. 2012. Mobilizing globalization in local political fields: The strengthening of the central bank in Israel. *Review of International Political Economy*, 19(2): 317-340.‏