SOC422H1S
Advanced Studies in Political Sociology
University of Toronto
Summer 2022
Class hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 13:10 — 15:00
Delivery: Online, Synchronous

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Statement of Acknowledgement
We acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory. [Council of Aboriginal Initiatives, 2014]

Course Description
This course surveys sub-areas of political sociology, while paying special attention to core contemporary debates. Along the way, we will consider main theoretical arguments and core contributions in field while considering a variety of empirical cases. Among the thematic anchors considered allowing us to evaluate contrasting outlooks and their implications for ongoing research in political sociology will include (but are not limited to): the extent and nature of current socio-political cleavages, materialist vs. post-materialist values, trends in terms of democratic consolidation and deconsolidation, evidence of polarization online and offline, the ‘rise’ of authoritarian populism, and myths and realities concerning the legitimacy, confidence, and socio-political trust crises.

Prerequisites:
1.0 SOC FCE at the 300+ level. Students who do not meet this requirement will be removed without notice.

Evaluation Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection pieces</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Grading Descriptions

(1) Active ongoing participation (30%):
Throughout the term, students are expected to remain actively engaged. Students must prepare assigned readings in order to share their perspective and insight during the classroom discussions. Students will do especially well if they sustain active engagement throughout the term. Favorable marking will also be attributed to students who seek to engage with their peers and favor a positive classroom experience.

(2) Reflection pieces (4 x 10%):
Four times during the term, students will write reflection pieces. The goal, in 1½ to 2 typed, single-spaced pages, is to reflect on a core debate as showcased by the session’s readings. Students are expected to select and engage with two readings, give voice to both perspectives, and then adjudicate between them by forwarding a position of their own – i.e., either in support for one side, rejecting both, or striving to reconcile the two perspectives.

(3) Research paper (30%)
The final requirement is a paper of 6 to 8 pages not including references, 12-point font, single-spaced. The topic must first be cleared with the instructor.

General Policies

Handing in assignments
All assignments must be submitted electronically via Quercus.

Deadlines
The assignments are due online via Quercus. Please refer to the Due Dates stated on page 1 of the Syllabus and the Course Schedule.

Missed work
Students who miss the test, or are late in submitting an assignment for medical reasons, need to email the instructor (not the TA), and also declare their absence on the system (ACORN).
(NOTE: Because of Covid-19, students do NOT need to submit the usual documentation, i.e., medical notes or the Verification of Illness forms).

Students who miss the test, or are late in submitting an assignment for other reasons, such as family or other personal reasons, should request their College Registrar to email the instructor.

Accessibility
If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility as soon as possible.
Student Responsibilities and Expectations

Email Policy
I will respond to your email within two business days (48 hours, except weekends and holidays). In an email exchanges, you must use your official University of Toronto email. Please also include the course code (SOC422) in the subject line and your full name and student number in your message. Please do not send a repeat email (e.g., “did you get my email?”).

In general, please treat emails as you would any other professional communication. You should be respectful in the way you address the instructor. Email is most suitable for questions that are clear, concise, and easily answerable. If you need help on course material, I strongly encourage you to attend office hours or make an appointment. For all general inquiries, please refer to the course syllabus.

Grade Appeals
You have 7 days after receiving a mark to appeal it. Please note that upon re-grade your mark may go down, stay the same, or go up. To proceed with an appeal, you must provide a document outlining why you deem your work was marked unfairly and explain why you believe your work should receive a higher mark.

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the Code. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the U of T Writing Website. If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to me or seek the advice of your college registrar.

Course Schedule

Required readings
All course readings are accessible electronically. Unless otherwise noted, course readings will be uploaded on Quercus. Please refer to the proper week in the Modules tab.


**Session 1 (July 4)**

*Course overview*

**Session 2 (July 6)**

*The twitter storm on political legitimacy and ‘authoritarianism’*

**Readings:**

Document on Quercus outlining Wuttke’s perspective, his detailed breakdown, as well as other responses.

**Session 3 (July 11)**

*The democratic consolidation and deconsolidation theses*

**Readings:**


**Session 4 (July 13)**

*Promise and pitfalls of digital activism*

**Readings:**
Freelon, Deen, Charlton McIlwain, and Meredith Clark. "Quantifying the power and consequences of social media protest." *New Media & Society* 20, no. 3 (2018): 990-1011.


**Session 5 (July 18)**

*Polarization, alignment, and dealignment*

**Readings:**


Watch the following podcast and video about the book:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCCAADBDbZ0&t=1073s

https://www.niskanencenter.org/u-s-politics-the-hyper-involved-vs-the-disengaged/

**Session 6 (July 20)**
Assessing the impact of polarization

**Readings:**


**Session 7 (July 25)**
Post-materialism, authoritarian populism, and class politics

**Readings:**


**Session 8 (July 27)**

*Autocratic and democratic middle class*

**Readings:**


**Session 9 (August 3)**

*Historical and contemporary trust*

**Readings:**

van Ham, Carolien, Jacques JA Thomassen, Kees Aarts, and Rudy B. Andeweg, eds. (2017) *Myth and reality of the legitimacy crisis: Explaining trends and cross-national differences in established democracies*


**Session 10 (August 8)**

*Convergence and divergence through exposure*

**Readings:**


Session 11 (August 10)
Prosociality and out-group hostility

Readings:


Session 12 (August 15)
Wrap-up, summative reflections, and small presentation of final research paper

*Case study paper (30%) due at 11:59 pm EST*