SOC 3708 - Political Sociology

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43914,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Paul Kardulias

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Prof.
Instructor Professional Qualifications: BA, Youngstown State University, Anthropology and History, 1974; MA (History), YSU, 1977; MA (Anthropology), State University of New York-Binghamton, 1980; PhD, Ohio State University, Anthropology, 1988
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Course Description

3708. Political Sociology. The social conditions that affect government and politics and that may help to determine political order and regulate struggles for power; associations and movements leading to stability or change. Prereq.: SOC 1500. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Political Leadership among Swat Pathans	Barth, Frederik	0-485-19619-0
Required	Political Anthropology. 3rd edition	Lewellen, Ted C.	0-89789-890-7
Required	Boss. Richard J. Daley of Chicago	Royko, Mike	0-452-26167-8

Chapters and articles. Access on Blackboard

Bailey, F. G. 2001. *Stratagems and Spoils: A Social Anthropology of Politics*. Boulder: Westview Press. Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-34.

Easton, David. 1957. The Analysis of Political Systems. World Politics, pp. 93-106.

Fortes, Meyer, and E.E. Evans-Pritchard. 1940. Introduction. In *African Political Systems*, edited by M. Fortes and E.E. Evans-Pritchard, pp. 1-23. Oxford University Press, London.

Hofstadter, Richard. 1964. The Paranoid Style in American Politics. *Harper's Magazine*, 229:1374, pp.77-86.

Levi-Strauss, Claude. 1944. The Social and Psychological Aspect of Chieftainship in a Primitive Tribe: The Nambikuara of Northwestern Mato Grosso. Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences, pp. 16-23.

Sahlins, Marshall. 1961. The Segmentary Lineage: An Organization of Predatory Expansion. American Anthropologist, New Series, vol. 63, no. 2, part 1, pp. 322-345.

Swartz, Marc, Victor Turner, and Arthur Tuden, eds. 1966. *Political Anthropology*. Aldine, Chicago. Introduction, pp. 1-41.

Weatherford, J. McIver. 1985. *Tribes on the Hill. The U.S. Congress Rituals and Reality*. Rawson, Wade, New York. Ch. 1-2, pp. 3-44.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25		Introduction. Political anthropology as a subset of the discipline	
Tue	9/1	David Easton article	Defining politics. An overview of political philosophy, relevant thinkers and concepts	A one-page reaction paper on the Easton article
Tue	9/8	Lewellen, ch. 1	Political philosophy, continued	
Tue	9/15	Fortes and Evans-Pritchard book chapter	The origins of political anthropology	
Tue	9/22	Barth book	A cultural model for politics	
Tue	9/29	1. Lewellen, ch. 2 2. Levi-Strauss article	Non-state political systems Film: Ongka's Big Moka	Prospectus on topic for research paper
Tue	10/6	1. Lewellen, ch 3 2. Sahlins article	Emergence of the state	Book review due
Tue	10/13	Hofstadter article	States and information flow	Mid-term exam
Tue	10/20	1. Lewellen, ch. 5 2. Swartz et al. book chapter	Structuralism revised The process approach	
Tue	10/27	1. Lewellen, ch. 6 2. Royko book	Politics and the individual Film: Daley: The Last Boss	
Tue	11/3	Lewellen, ch. 9	Elites, Nationalism	
Tue	11/10	1. Bailey book chapter 2. Lewellen, ch. 10	Game theory Postmodernist approach to politics	
Tue	11/17	1. Lewellen, ch. 4 2. Weatherford book chapter	Politics, Religion, Symbolism	A one-page reaction paper on the Weatherford reading
Tue	11/24	Lewellen, ch. 8, 11	Gender in politics Globalization	
Tue	12/1	Lewellen, ch. 7	Political protest	
Tue	12/8			Research paper due by noon

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