

Faculty of Economics and Political Science

Political Sociology

Information :

Course Code : PSC 306

Level : Undergraduate

Course Hours : 3.00- Hours

Department : Department of Political Science

Area Of Study :

This course explores the social dimensions (including class/caste, social movements, both organized and unorganized) of power and political institutions. Concepts of political and social power as well as concepts of democracy and freedom are being analyzed and put under the spotlight of interpretation. This is carried out through comprehensively understanding central theories, conceptions and literature in the field. The course introduces students to the social dimension of a variety of political phenomena such as nationalism and its forms, formation of public opinion, political communication, political mass media and citizenship. It also explores the challenges faced by the nation-state as a result of social movements and new conceptions of democracy and globalization.

Course Goals:

- ✓ Analyze key concepts in political sociology such as power, freedom, and democracy.
- ✓ Recognize the social dimension of a variety of political phenomena.
- ✓ Discuss the challenges faced by nation-state as a result of social movements.

Description :

This course explores the social dimensions (including class/caste, social movements, both organized and unorganized) of power and political institutions. Concepts of political and social power as well as concepts of democracy and freedom are being analyzed and put under the spotlight of interpretation. This is carried out through comprehensively understanding central theories, conceptions and literature in the field. The course introduces students to the social dimension of a variety of political phenomena such as nationalism and its forms, formation of public opinion, political communication, political mass media and citizenship. It also explores the challenges faced by the nation-state as a result of social movements and new conceptions of democracy and globalization.

Course outcomes :

a. Knowledge and Understanding: :

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1 - | Define elements and aspects that shape the study of political sociology. |
| 2 - | Recognize the difference between major theoretical contributions into the field of political sociology and how to employ them in analyzing reality. |

b. Intellectual Skills: :

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Combine different types of references in order to shape an argument or use them for debating purposes. |
| 2 - | Outline maps of correlations and intersections between human behaviors at different moments. |
| 3 - | Apply interpretive skills gained on examples on both the Egyptian, international and regional levels. |

c. Professional and Practical Skills: :

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1 - | Relate theory to practice and identify the gap between them based on different schools of thoughts or case studies tackled in the course. |
| 2 - | Employ gained knowledge into a comprehensive research using field researching to test theories and ideas studied. |

- 3 - Illustrate the ability to come up with alternative methods, solutions or alternatives to the ones available at hand.

d.General and Transferable Skills :

- 1 - Allow various texts, ideas and conceptions to inspire new ideas to come about.
2 - Enrich language and jargons related to the field.

Course Topic And Contents :

| Topic | No. of hours | Lecture | Tutorial / Practical |
|---|--------------|---------|----------------------|
| Introductory Lecture and Course Outline | 3 | 1 | |
| The Foundations of Political Sociology | 9 | 3 | |
| Challenges to the State | 12 | 4 | |
| Midterm Exam | | 1 | |
| Challenges to Civil Society | 9 | 3 | |
| Rethinking Governance | 6 | 2 | |
| Final Exam | | 1 | |

Teaching And Learning Methodologies :

Demonstration videos
Presentation
Simulations
Debates
Group discussion
Research Paper

Course Assessment :

| Methods of assessment | Relative weight % | Week No | Assess What |
|--|-------------------|---------|---|
| Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes, Research Paper & D | 30.00 | | To assess understanding, and to assess theoretical background of the intellectual and practical skills. |
| Final Exam | 40.00 | 15 | To assess knowledge and intellectual skills. |
| Midterm Exam (s) | 30.00 | 9 | To assess professional skills. |

Recommended books :

George A. Kourvetaris, Political Sociology: Structure and Process, Northern Illinois University, 1997.

Periodicals :

Andrew G Walder, Political Sociology and Social Movements, Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 35, Issue 1, 2009 (393-412).

Nicholas J Rowland, A New Direction in Political Sociology? International Sociology, Vol. 29, Issue 2, 2014 (98-105).

