Class Location: Pafford 110  
Class Time: Tues & Thurs 3:30 - 4:45 A.M.  
Instructor: Winston Tripp  
Office: Pafford 205-A  
Email: Email through CourseDen  
Office Hours:  
  Monday: 2:00-3:30 P.M.  
  Thursday: 10:00-11:30 A.M.  
  Online: Friday: 12:00-1:30 P.M.

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**Overview**

This course is a survey of the sub-field of political sociology. In many ways the material in this course exists at the intersection of Political Science and Sociology. Much of the content is the same, and many of the theoretical perspectives overlap. However, this is course is clearly grounded in sociology, meaning that we will be emphasizing the dimensions of power and inequality.

You will be expected to engage the material and think critically about the ideas of the scholars in the area. This means that you need to develop and present evidence-based insights and observations about society. Unsubstantiated opinions have no place in this course. Additionally, we will be covering a wide range of potentially inflammatory political topics, and harassing comments or behaviors will not be tolerated to any extent.

**Required Texts:**  

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to accurately and effectively explain the following in writing:

- At least three classical theories used in Political Sociology.
- Contemporary patterns and trends in American politics.
- At least one theory explaining the relationship between politics and economic markets, particularly in terms of the role of values and belief systems.
- At least one theoretical framework to describe the relationship between government, the media, and the public.
- At least two empirical arguments regarding the relationship between capitalism and democracy.
- At least two sociological perspectives related to the functions of the State in society.
Additionally, the student will be expected to:

- Be able to correctly cite sources in a research essay using an approved format.
- Write clearly and concisely with minimal spelling, grammar, sentence structure or other compositional errors.
- Develop evidence-based arguments, by supporting his or her argument with specific research and logic rather than opinions.

**Course Evaluation**

Your grade for the class will be composed of three exams and one paper. Late papers will have 5% deducted from the final grade for each day that they are late. Late exams will not be administered without an acceptable reason and with prior arrangement. Grades will be assigned as follows.

90-100% = A  
80-89.9% = B  
70-79.9% = C  
60-69.9% = D

**Grading Structure (total possible percentage points for the course)**

1. Exams(2) 50%  
2. Paper 26%  
3. Quizzes 24%

1. **Exams (25% each)**
   There will be two exams during the semester, each worth 25% of your final grade. Each may be composed of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions. The questions will be drawn from the assigned readings, as well as material covered exclusively in class.

2. **Paper (26%)**
   You will write a formal research paper during the semester. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your mastery of the readings assigned for that section of the class. Specific instructions for the paper will be available two weeks before the due date. Although this is not a writing class, the quality of your writing has a direct bearing on the clarity of the presentation of your ideas. Papers will be turned in to me electronically through CourseDen. I will check for plagiarism.

3. **Quizzes (3%)**
   There will be random quizzes administered throughout the semester. This may occur at any point during class. If you miss class that day or leave before the quiz, there will not be a make-up quiz. I will count your top eight quizzes toward your final grade. The quiz may cover any of the reading or prior course content up to that date (refer to the tentative schedule).
Technological Requirements
CourseDen will be used for this course. Your readings and supplemental materials will all be uploaded to CourseDen. It is your responsibility to secure reliable access to a computer with an internet connection so that you are able to utilize CourseDen. If you have problems with the CourseDen system you should contact the Distance Learning center or ITS (855-933-8946). Make sure you plan ahead, because unless I am explicitly notified by the Distance Learning Center that CourseDen has experienced an outage, there will be no extensions given on assignments if you were not able to get CourseDen to function correctly. Internet problems are not acceptable excuses for turning your work in late.

Attendance
Regular attendance at all class meetings is expected. You are also expected to be in the class on time for the entire duration of the class. If you absolutely must arrive late or leave early I expect you to let me know beforehand, to sit by the door, and to be as quiet as possible in order to avoid disturbing others. You are responsible for all content disseminated in class, including discussions, films, lectures, handouts, and in-class assignments. If you must miss a class, it is up to you to obtain any notes or materials from your classmates.

Email Policy
The best way to contact me is through my CourseDen email. I will make every effort to respond with you within 24 hours, during normal business hours (M-F, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M). However, do not expect to email me with a question the night before an exam or a paper is due and have a response before the deadline. I use the CourseDen system for the course so that I am better able to manage my courses, so I will only respond to emails sent through CourseDen. Papers sent as an email attachment to any email address will not be accepted. Email is considered official correspondence at UWG and, as such, must be written in a professional manner. You are expected to include a subject line, a proper salutation and valediction, and include proper punctuation. I will not respond to emails that do not follow this format.

Office Hours
My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. If you plan to come see me, I strongly suggest that you email me to make an appointment during this time to ensure that I am available when you come to my office. Once we schedule a time to meet make sure not to miss your appointment.

UWG Common Course Syllabi Link
Students are responsible for reviewing the information provided through the following link each semester:
https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/
Policy on Student Responsibilities and Classroom Conduct

1. Students are responsible for attending all classes and arriving to class on time, taking notes, and obtaining other materials provided by the instructor, taking tests, and completing assignments as scheduled by the instructor.

2. Students are responsible for keeping track of changes in the course syllabus made by the instructor throughout the semester.

3. Students are responsible for monitoring their grades. Grades are continually posted and updated on CourseDen. Any errors need to be brought to the instructor’s attention within two weeks of being posted.

4. Students must contact the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate missing multiple classes due to events such as chronic illnesses, travel related to team sports, or other university activities. The instructor will determine the minimal attendance and participation required in order to meet course responsibilities.

5. Behaviors that disrupt other students’ learning are not acceptable (e.g., arriving consistently late for class; cell phone use, reading non-course related materials, or social conversation during class).

6. Students are expected to respect others in our discussions, even when we disagree with their ideas. Personal attacks or harassing behavior is NOT acceptable. Students are expected to be able to engage the topics and material for the course whether they agree with the author or not.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to act with personal integrity, respect other students’ dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through thru their efforts. In this course, it is considered dishonest to utilize any helps when taking exams, plagiarizing, and fabricating information. This list is not inclusive. Remember that it is you responsibility to ensure that you are not plagiarizing from another student or other author. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive a zero for the work, and potentially the course depending on the severity of the incident, and they will be reported to the University’s Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanctions.

Tentative Schedule

The schedule is available on CourseDen and is tentative and subject to change at any time. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any changes that may be necessary.