

Tutorials in

Political Sociology

PODRÁN CORTAR TODAS
LAS FLORES, PERO NO
DETENDRÁN LA PRIMAVERA

Acción
Poética
Rotaract LVC



СВОБОДУ
НАВАЛЬНОМУ!

где в тот день температура
опустилась до -52°C .

Who is Alexi Navalny, and why is he such a threat?

Navalny, a 41-year-old lawyer, spent 60 days in detention centers last year and found himself barred from registering as a candidate in the March elections. Instead, he has built an organization that emerged as the most serious domestic political challenge to the regime of President Vladimir Putin. This latest move by the Kremlin seems aimed at shutting down Navalny until after the elections.

[In Moscow, candidates opposed to Putin are running — and winning. Here's why that matters.]

My research on Navalny's organization looks at why the alternative communication space Navalny and his followers built using social media platforms now dominates online political discussion in Russia. This space influences traditional media and the political agenda of the country, giving Navalny a far-ranging voice.



Nationalities Papers >

The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity

Volume 43, 2015 - Issue 4

[Journal homepage](#)

Enter keywords, authors, DOI,

2,167

Views

21


CrossRef citations
to date

40


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Articles


War of words: the impact of Russian state television on the Russian Internet

Christina Cottiero, Katherine Kucharski, Evgenia Olimpieva & Robert W. Orttung 

Pages 533-555 | Received 07 Nov 2014, Accepted 27 Jan 2015, Published online: 06 Mar 2015

 Download citation

 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00905992.2015.1013527>

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 Full Article

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 Citations

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**Welcome to
the course**



Political science is the study of politics through the procedures of science.

Robert Keohane

I define ***politics*** as involving attempts to organize human groups to determine internal rules and, externally, to compete and cooperate with other organized groups; and reactions to such attempts. [...]

It includes acts of **leadership and resistance** to leadership, behavior resulting from **deference** and from **defiance**.

Keohane 2009: 359

I define **science** as a *publicly known* set of procedures designed to make and evaluate *descriptive and causal inferences* on the basis of the self-conscious application of *methods* that are themselves subject to public evaluation.

All science is carried out with the understanding that any conclusions are *uncertain* and subject to revision or refutation.

Keohane 2009: 359

The first principle is that you must not fool yourself—and **you are the easiest person to fool.**

Richard Feynman



The **sociologist** [...] is someone concerned with understanding society in a disciplined way. The nature of this discipline is scientific.

This means that what the sociologist finds and says about the social phenomena he studies occurs within a certain rather strictly defined frame of reference.

One of the main characteristics of this scientific frame of reference is that operations are bound by certain **rules of evidence.**

Berger 1963: 16

As a **scientist**, the sociologist tries to be objective, to control his personal preferences and prejudices, to perceive clearly rather than to judge normatively.

This restraint, of course, does not embrace the totality of the sociologist's existence as a human being, but is limited to his operations *qua* sociologist.

Nor does the sociologist claim that his **frame of reference** is the only one within which society can be looked at.

Berger 1963: 16–7

For sociologists, politics happen in any setting where people come to grasp the connections between biography and history or personal troubles and public issues, connections that C. Wright Mills understood as central to the “sociological imagination” (1959: 6).

Politics, in this broad sociological sense, may ultimately play out in institutions that are officially designated as “political” [...].

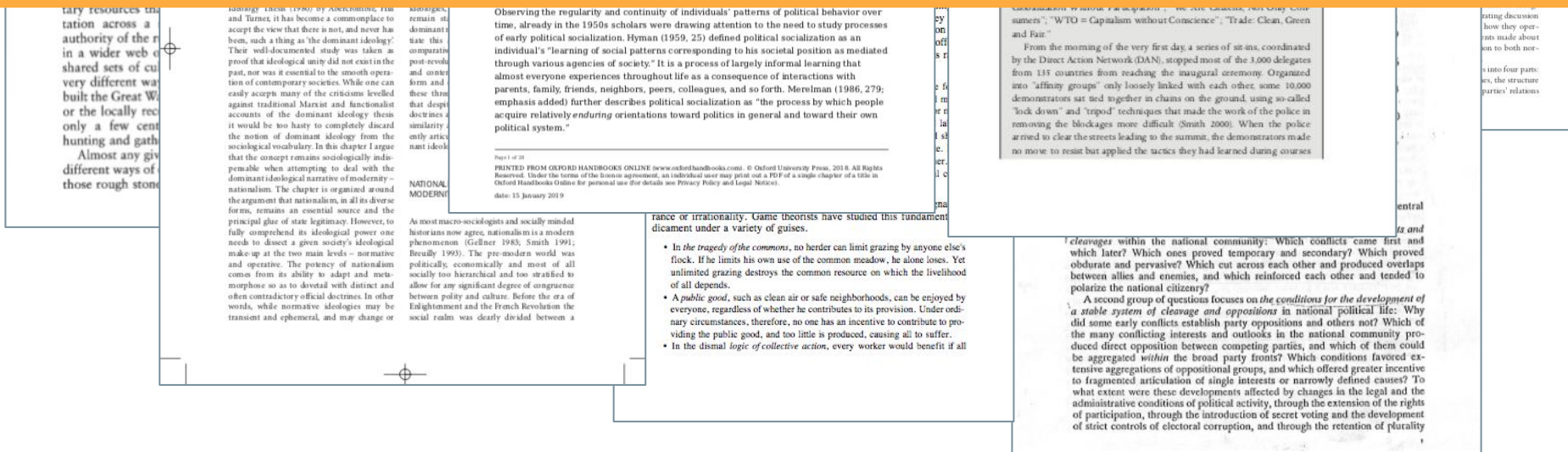
This course is made of

- **Lectures** – an introduction to political sociology that continues your **Introduction to Political Science** course
Grades: **final exam** (40% of final grade)
- **Tutorials** – **reading seminars** organised around key texts, and **workshops** to help you work build presentations
Grades: **midterm exam** (30%), **presentation** (30%)
- **Readings** – **compulsory readings** (reader) and **presentation-specific readings** (yours to choose)

Take a look at the course folder (Google Drive)



frama.link/polSOC-2021



There is only one compulsory reading per tutorial, but the lectures syllabus contains many **suggested readings**.

Have a look this week, and schedule time to find **additional references** for your presentations.

During the break, please **form student groups** in the relevant spreadsheet document on Google Drive.

Also take time to read through the **tutorials syllabus**, which contains instructions on presentations.

10 minute break





QUESTIONS

Class rules (similar to Tutorials in Public Policy)

- **Do the readings** before class

All readings are part of your midterm and final exams, so take notes for future revision

- **Work in groups** on your presentations

Our classes will include workshops on research questions, literature reviews, theoretical frameworks, etc.

- **Catch up** any missed tutorial or work session

N.B. Handle absences with admin, and admin only

Presentation topics







This course discusses **events** like

- The **U.S. Civil Rights Movement** in the 1960s
- The **election of Margaret Thatcher** in Britain, 1979
- The **rise of *Solidarnosc*** in Poland, 1980–1989
- The **Yugoslav Wars**, 1991–2001
- The **November 2005 riots** in France
- The **'Arab Spring'** of 2010–2012
- The ***coup d'État* in Thailand**, 2014
- The **election of Syriza** in Greece, 2015

To do so, this course uses **concepts** like

1. **Power**

2. **States**

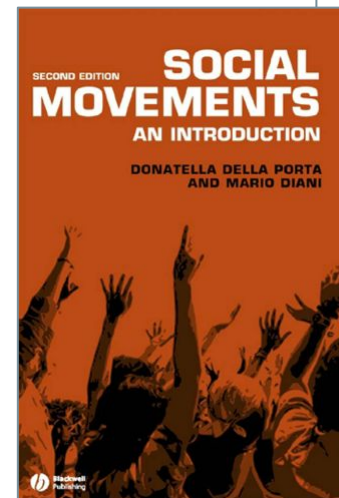
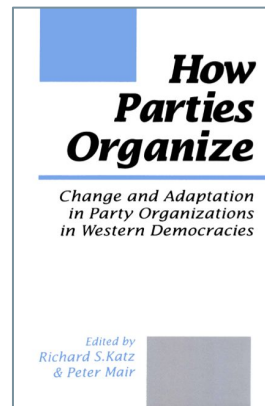
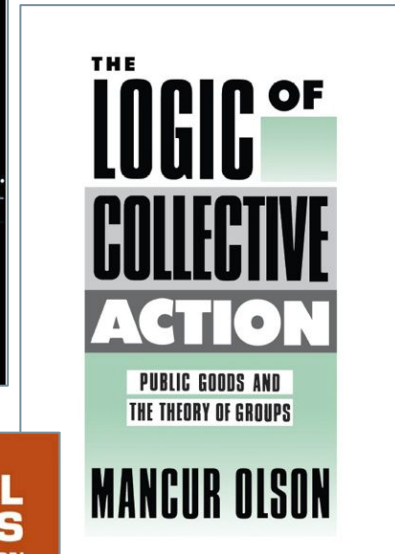
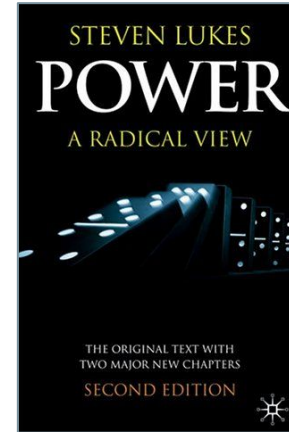
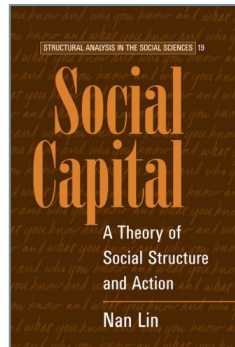
3. **Socialization**

4. **Social Capital**

5. **Protest**

6. **Cleavages**

7. **Parties**



etc.

Your **presentation** will (most likely) be about

Protest

Social movements and collective action

Cleavages

Electoral and ideological divisions

Parties

Partisan organization and competition

The exact topic (case study) is yours to choose, but your **analytical perspective** (and therefore your references) will have to be grounded in **political sociology**, which is a combination of **political science** + **sociology**

For ideas, check those **academic blogs**

- ***The Monkey Cage*** hosted at *The Washington Post*
- **LSE EUROPP. European Politics and Policy**
- **Noria. Network of researchers in international affairs**
- **OxPol. The Oxford University Politics Blog**

For the *Monkey Cage* and OxPol blogs, here's an almost up-to-date **index of all blog posts** (Google Sheets)

N.B. Not all blog posts provide good examples of academic research applied to recent events — **stay critical**



Political Sociology

Tutorial 1 | Power

Reading 1

1

Power and Politics

Travel through almost any part of the world and many of the must-see sites are the physical traces of political orders long gone: castles along the Rhine, the Great Wall of China, the expansive temple complexes of Central America, North Africa, and Southeast Asia, or even a cluster of stone-walled granaries on a windswept plateau in the American Southwest. Each of these places embodies some method for enhancing the ability of human beings to control their environment, to produce collective goods, and, almost always, for some to dominate others. European castles were simultaneously centers of economic activity, “seats” of power that linked family dynasties to recognized and legitimate rule, and military resources that anchored a zone of security and exploitation across a surrounding region. The formal political authority of the ruler who occupied such a castle was rooted in a wider web of social and economic activities as well as shared sets of cultural and religious meanings. Although in very different ways, the same was true of the emperors who built the Great Wall, the priests who controlled those temples, or the locally recognized leaders of any small human group only a few centuries removed from subsistence through hunting and gathering.

Almost any given place has been shaped by the layering of different ways of organizing power. If you were to begin from those rough stone granaries in the southeast corner of Utah,

What **political sociology** focuses on

Definitions

- **Social circumstances** of politics (p. 15 — ‘social orders’)
- Politics **outside of formal institutions** (p. 23, e.g. schools)

Concepts

- **Deference despite defiance** (Weber’s *Macht*, p. 7)
- **Social cages, social closure** (Weber, Mann, Tilly, pp. 10–5)
- **Political quiescence** (Gaventa, p. 16)
- ***Exit, Voice and Loyalty*** (Hirschman, pp. 17–9)

What **political sociology** focuses on (continued)

Links to political science and public policy

- **Faces of power** (Lukes, p.16)
- **Agenda control** (Bachrach and Baratz, p.16)

Essential concepts reconsidered

- **States** as forms of social closure (p. 12), and **citizenship** as a reflection of political order (p. 20)
- **Civil society** and its relationship to private property (Habermas and Arendt, p. 21)
- **Democracy** and how civil culture influences the (in)stability of political regimes (Tocqueville, p. 22)

What **political sociology** focuses on (continued)

More essential determinants

- Individual and collective **preferences** (p. 8)
- **Bounded social orders**, e.g. ‘systems of trade, rules about property ownership, spiritual practices, and family systems’ (p. 6) — ‘economic conflicts, religious beliefs, family practices, ... social identities’ (p. 7)
- **Processes of social closure**, e.g. kinship, ethnicity, religion, class, which are fluid, subjective identities (p. 13) formed through **network ties**, e.g. marriages, neighbourhoods, debt-credit ties, political sponsorship (p. 14)



QUESTIONS

Next session

Read **Malešević 2006**

Tracklist for Tutorial 1



- **Angelic Upstarts, “Police Oppression” (1979)**

*Same number a million times before,
Shut your mouth son or I'll knock you on the floor*

- **Casey, “Qui sont-ils ?” (2006)**

*Et c'est par les urnes que tu informes
Que ça manque de burnes dans les uniformes*

- **La Rumeur, “La meilleure des polices” (2007)**

*La meilleure des polices
C'est quand les pauvres savent rester à leur place*