

Instructor	Jeffrey Weng 翁哲瑞
Location	社 318
Office	社 315
Consultation	Drop-ins and appointments welcome
Contact	jeffweng@ntu.edu.tw Please allow 24 to 48 hours for me to respond
Course description	<p>Political sociology examines the state and society. This graduate-level course will start with the classic texts of the field, which were canonized after the Second World War. We study the agenda they set: the operations of power, the nature of the state, large-scale social change, and the role of historical contingency. And we will critically engage with that agenda and examine its limitations.</p> <p>This course presents a sampling of the enormous literature within political sociology. As such, it can serve as the starting point to preparing for a qualifying examination in the subfield. Students can also use this course as an opportunity to further their own research projects. In any case, students should feel free to discuss their individual academic goals with the instructor in the early weeks of the semester to work out how best to take advantage of the opportunities that this course offers.</p> <p>Please note that this syllabus is subject to updating over the course of the semester.</p>
Objectives	<p>By the end of the course, students will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Become more familiar with the classic texts of political sociology ▪ Understand multiple approaches to studying the state, power, and their operation in society ▪ Be better prepared to further their own research projects or to embark on studying for a qualifying examination in political sociology
Course materials	All course materials will be available on NTU COOL.
Academic honesty	Students are expected to do assignments honestly and independently. Plagiarism will result in receiving an F for the assignment. This means representing others' work as your own, including using someone else's work without citation or relying on AI to generate responses. If students are involved in academic dishonesty, penalties may include a failing grade for an assignment or for the course, as well as withdrawal from the course itself and referral to the university for disciplinary action.

Requirements and grading

TASK	%	DESCRIPTION
Attendance & participation	15%	Students are allowed two excused absences per semester. Any absences beyond two will result in a full letter-grade deduction for the course (e.g., A to a B) per absence.

**Requirements
and grading**

TASK	%	DESCRIPTION
Weekly memos	20%	<p>Students will be expected to write memos each week that critically engage with the readings for that week. Each memo should be written in English and consist of one substantial paragraph (about 150 to 300 words). Memos should be more than a summary of the readings. They must include the following elements to receive full credit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An original opinion on the readings, supported by one or two specific examples or pieces of evidence from the readings 2. A discussion question for use in class. <p>Memos are due at 12:00 noon on the day of class during weeks 2 to 13 (excepting week 6). Memos should be entered into the "Discussion" section of NTU COOL. No late memos will be accepted, but students' two lowest-graded memos will be excluded from their final grade.</p>
Discussion leading	15%	<p>Each week, one student will lead discussion. (Discussion leaders need not write a memo for that week.) Each student will deliver a short presentation (about 10 to 15 minutes) consisting of a synthesis of the central arguments of the readings, followed by an analysis of the central theoretical, methodological, analytical, or empirical issues for discussion. Then, together with the instructor, the student will lead the discussion that follows. Students may, if they wish, make handouts of no more than two sides of a page.</p>
Midterm	20%	<p>Students will have an opportunity either to write a final project proposal or take a midterm exam consisting of two essay questions. More information will be given the week before the midterm is due.</p>
Final paper or exam	30%	<p>Students can choose either to take a take-home final exam consisting of two essays (of about 3,000 words each) or to write an independent paper (of about 6,000 to 10,000 words) on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. Students who wish to do an independent paper must meet with the instructor to get approval during the first three weeks of the semester.</p>

Schedule

WEEK	DATE	AGENDA
1	Sept 5	Introduction
<i>Weber</i>	2	12
		<p>Bendix, Reinhard. 1960. <i>Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait</i>. Garden City: Doubleday. (Chapter IX: "Basic Concepts of Political Sociology," pp. 289–300.)</p> <p>Weber, Max. 1946. <i>From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology</i>. edited by H. Gerth and C. W. Mills. New York: Oxford University Press. (Part II: "Power," pp. 159–264.)</p>

Schedule

	WEEK	DATE	AGENDA
			Adams, Julia, Elisabeth S. Clemens, and Ann Shola Orloff. 2005. <i>Remaking Modernity: Politics, History, and Sociology</i> . Duke University Press. (“The Bureaucratization of States: Toward an Analytical Weberianism,” by Edgar Kiser and Justin Baer, pp. 225–248.)
Marx	3	Sept 19	<p>Marx, Karl. 2019. <i>Karl Marx: The Political Writings</i>. New York: Verso. (“Introduction to Volume II,” by David Fernbach.)</p> <p>Marx, Karl. [1852] 1954. <i>The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte</i>. 3rd revised ed. Moscow: Progress Publishers. (Pp. 10–19, 101–116.)</p> <p>Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1978. <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i>. 2nd edition. edited by R. C. Tucker. New York: Norton. (“Manifesto of the Communist Party,” pp. 469–500.)</p> <p>Burawoy, Michael. 2000. “Marxism after Communism.” <i>Theory and Society</i> 29(2):151–74.</p>
Marxist approaches to the state	4	26	<p>Miliband, Ralph. 1973. <i>The State in Capitalist Society</i>. Quartet Books. (Ch. 1–4.)</p> <p>Poulantzas, Nicos. 1969. “The Problem of the Capitalist State.” <i>New Left Review</i> I(58):67–78.</p> <p>Ralph Miliband. “The Capitalist State: Reply to Nicos Poulantzas,” <i>New Left Review</i>, 1970, 59, pp. 53–60. (Same file as above.)</p> <p>Miliband, Ralph. 1973. “Poulantzas and the Capitalist State.” <i>New Left Review</i> I(82):83–92.</p> <p>Laclau, Ernesto. 1987. <i>Politics and Ideology in Marxist Theory: Capitalism, Fascism, Populism</i>. New York: Verso. (“The Specificity of the Political,” pp. 51–81).</p> <p>Poulantzas, Nicos. 1976. “The Capitalist State: A Reply to Miliband and Laclau.” <i>New Left Review</i> I(95):63–83.</p> <p>Block, Fred. 1977. “The Ruling Class Does Not Rule: Notes on the Marxist Theory of the State.” <i>Socialist Revolution</i> (33):6–28.</p>
State formation	5	Oct 3	<p>Tilly, Charles, et al. 1975. <i>The Formation of National States in Western Europe</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (“Reflections on the History of European State-Making,” pp. 3–46.)</p> <p>Tilly, Charles. 1990. <i>Coercion, Capital and European States: AD 990–1992</i>. Cambridge: Basil Blackwell. (Chapter 3: “How War Made States, and Vice Versa,” pp. 67–95.)</p> <p>Mann, Michael. 2012. <i>The Sources of Social Power, Vol. 2: The Rise of Classes and Nation-States, 1760–1914</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 3: “A Theory of the Modern State,” pp. 44–92.) (cont’d on next page)</p>

Schedule

	WEEK	DATE	AGENDA
		Oct (3)	Adams, Julia, Elisabeth S. Clemens, and Ann Shola Orloff. 2005. <i>Remaking Modernity: Politics, History, and Sociology</i> . Duke University Press. ("Social Provision and Regulation: Theories of State, Social Policies, and Modernity," by Ann Shola Orloff, pp. 190-125.)
	6	10	National Day (no class)
<i>Concepts of the state</i>	7	17	Abrams, Philip. 1988. "Notes on the Difficulty of Studying the State (1977)." <i>Journal of Historical Sociology</i> 1(1):58-89. Nettl, J. P. 1968. "The State as a Conceptual Variable." <i>World Politics</i> 20(4):559-92. Evans, Peter B., Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds. 1985. <i>Bringing the State Back In</i> . New York: Cambridge University Press. ("Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research," by Theda Skocpol, pp. 3-33.) Steinmetz, George, ed. 1999. <i>State/Culture: State-Formation after the Cultural Turn</i> . Ithaca: Cornell University Press. ("Introduction: Culture and the State," pp. 1-29, and "Society, Economy, and the State Effect," by Timothy Mitchell, pp. 76-97.)
	8	24	No class
		26 (Th)	Midterm assignment due
<i>Bourdieu and the state</i>	9	31	Bourdieu, Pierre. 2014. <i>On the State: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1989-1992</i> . edited by P. Champagne, R. Lenoir, F. Poupeau, and M.-C. Rivière. Malden: Polity, pp. 3-44. Bourdieu, Pierre. 1994. "Rethinking the State: Genesis and Structure of the Bureaucratic Field." <i>Sociological Theory</i> 12(1):1-18. Wacquant, Loïc J. D. 1993. "On the Tracks of Symbolic Power: Prefatory Notes to Bourdieu's 'State Nobility'." <i>Theory, Culture & Society</i> 10(3):1-17. Loveman, Mara. 2005. "The Modern State and the Primitive Accumulation of Symbolic Power." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 110(6):1651-83. Riley, Dylan. 2015. "The New Durkheim: Bourdieu and the State." <i>Critical Historical Studies</i> 2(2):261-79.

Schedule	WEEK	DATE	AGENDA
Gender and the state	10	Nov 7	<p>MacKinnon, Catharine A. 1982. "Feminism, Marxism, Method, and the State: An Agenda for Theory." <i>Signs</i> 7(3):515-44.</p> <p>Butler, Judith. 1991. "Disorderly Woman" edited by C. A. MacKinnon and C. Pateman. <i>Transition</i> (53):86-95.</p> <p>Wendy Brown. 1995. <i>States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Chapter 6, pp. 135-166.)</p> <p>Brown, Wendy. 1992. "Finding the Man in the State." <i>Feminist Studies</i> 18(1):7-34.</p> <p>Orloff, Ann Shola. 1993. "Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of Gender Relations and Welfare States." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 58(3):303-28.</p>
	11	14	No class
Power	12	21	<p>Mann, Michael. 1986. <i>The Sources of Social Power, Vol. 1: A History of Power from the Beginning to AD 1760</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press, p. 1-33.</p> <p>Dahl, Robert A. 1957. "The Concept of Power." <i>Behavioral Science</i> 2(3):201-15.</p> <p>Lukes, Steven. 2005. <i>Power A Radical View</i>. 2nd ed. London: Macmillan Education UK. (Introduction, Chapter 1, pp. 1-60.)</p> <p>Reed, Isaac Ariail. 2013. "Power: Relational, Discursive, and Performative Dimensions." <i>Sociological Theory</i> 31(3):193-218.</p>
	13	Nov 28	<p>Althusser, Louis. 2001. <i>Lenin and Philosophy, and Other Essays</i>. New York: Monthly Review Press. ("Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses," pp. 121-172.)</p> <p>Power, Michael. 2011. "Foucault and Sociology." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 37:35-56.</p> <p>Foucault, Michel. 1978. <i>The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction</i>. New York: Vintage Books, pp. 3-49, 77-102, and 135-159.</p> <p>Foucault, Michel, Graham Burchell, Colin Gordon, and Peter Miller. 1991. <i>The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality: With Two Lectures by and an Interview with Michel Foucault</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ("Governmentality," pp. 87-104.)</p> <p>Bourdieu, Pierre. 1991. <i>Language and Symbolic Power</i>. edited by J. B. Thompson. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. 127-136, 203-220.</p>
Power, Discourse, and Ideology:			

Schedule	WEEK	DATE	AGENDA
Revolutions	14	Dec 5	<p>Skocpol, Theda. 1979. <i>States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press. (Introduction and Conclusion, pp. 3–40 and 284–293.)</p> <p>Sewell, William H. 1985. “Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Reflections on the French Case.” <i>The Journal of Modern History</i> 57(1):57–85.</p> <p>Skocpol, Theda. 1985. “Cultural Idioms and Political Ideologies in the Revolutionary Reconstruction of State Power: A Rejoinder to Sewell.” <i>The Journal of Modern History</i> 57(1):86–96.</p> <p>Burawoy, Michael. 1989. “Two Methods in Search of Science: Skocpol versus Trotsky.” <i>Theory and Society</i> 18(6):759–805.</p> <p>Sewell, William H. 1996. “Historical Events as Transformations of Structures: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille.” <i>Theory and Society</i> 25(6):841–81.</p>
Postcolonial sociology	15	12	<p>Fanon, Frantz. 1968. <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i>. New York: Grove Press, Inc., pp. 1–63.</p> <p>Said, Edward W. 1979. <i>Orientalism</i>. New York: Vintage Books, pp. 1–31.</p> <p>Steinmetz, George. 2013. <i>Sociology & Empire: The Imperial Entanglements of a Discipline</i>. Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 1–53.</p> <p>Bhambra, Gurinder K. 2007. “Sociology and Postcolonialism: Another ‘Missing’ Revolution?” <i>Sociology</i> 41(5):871–84.</p> <p>Go, Julian. 2013. “For a Postcolonial Sociology.” <i>Theory and Society</i> 42(1):25–55.</p>
	16	(Fri) 22	Final paper due at 5:00 p.m.