

SOCIOLOGY 380: POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
Spring 2017

Instructor: Peter Phillips
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Required Textbooks: (Available at North Light Books or On-line)

The Power Elite, C. Wright Mills, Oxford University Press, 1959

The Unheard Truth: Poverty and Human Rights, Irene Khan, W.W. Norton & company, 2009

The Globalization of War, Michel Chossudovsky, Global Research Press, 2015

Towards Collective Liberation, Chris Crass, PM Press, 2013

The New Jim Crow, Michelle Alexander, New Press, 2012

And 1-2 Others TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will develop a Sociological understand of the political process in the United States and the world focusing on the issue of who benefits and who is negatively impacted.
2. Power and policy formation will be an important aspect of the course. How power is used to develop policy and determine options will be stressed.
3. Course participants will develop a working knowledge of the theory of the Power Elite and the Transnational Capitalist Class.
4. An understanding of the inequality of race inside the criminal justice system will be achieved.
5. Students will become familiar a general understanding the US and Israel policy in the Middle East.
6. An in-depth analysis of Imperialism, Globalization and international socio-economic exploitation will be conducted with a focus on the New Cold War.
7. Students will be able to explain key concepts of political activism, and design strategies for grass roots socio-political change.

Course Evaluation: Three short (2-3-page) working papers 40%

Final Exam	10%
9 Quizzes Intermittent	30%
Class Participation	20%

This is a highly participatory class designed to familiarize students with seminar type classes held in graduate school. Students will be presenting response papers (working papers) in class. Students are expected to attend all the classes. If you must miss a class please submit an e-mail with a statement of the reason for missing. Excessive absences will result in a lowering of the final grade.

General Class Schedule: Daily: (Quiz) Working paper discussions on the readings, Speakers, Films, Policy Discussions, Lecture,

Written and Oral Assignments:

The class will be divided into four sections. Students in each section will be responsible for writing a 2-3 page working paper every fourth week during the course. Working papers will be theory-building thought pieces responding to the readings in the course. Students will give a brief summary of the working paper during the class session in which it is due. All students are expected to have completely read the weekly assignments before coming to class and be ready to discuss the topics covered. A quiz on the readings will be given each week for the first month and intermittently thereafter. Included in the quiz is a brief report on an independent news story for that week. Come to class prepared each week to talk about political news stories from the independent media.

Independent News Monitoring:

<http://www.censorednews.org/>

Subscribe to one of more of the following daily news feeds: <http://www.truth-out.org/>
<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/> Or <http://www.opednews.com/>,

During the course extra credit events, films and speakers will be available to all students.