

Major Concentration in Political Sociology

Political Sociology, one of the discipline's most important subfields, is primarily concerned with inequality and power--power over the access to and the distribution of resources, over status, and over the ability to define and legitimate categories and meanings. Much political sociology is concerned with the relationship between the state and society: how the modern state came to exist, how it came to be viewed as legitimate, what factors shape processes of democratization, how cleavages based on class, race, and gender affect democratic representation, how liberal democracies structure their welfare state policies, how states create and manage markets, and how social movements strive to effect political change by making claims on state actors. Further, political sociology expands the field of view to the politics that happen in other social settings in the family, at work, in civic associations as well as the ways in which social attributes such as sexuality, class, religion, age, race, immigration status, and gender shape patterns of political participation and the distribution of power. We consider questions such as: how is power concentrated and exerted? How is it gained and lost? How are power centers challenged? Under what conditions are challenges effective?

The concentration in Political Sociology offers students an opportunity to ground their inquiries into all things political--political economy, forms of political order and organization, regime formation and revolution, political action, parties and elections, policy, status, power--in a sociological approach that seeks to interrogate and understand social structures and insists that politics must be treated as fully implicated in every facet of the social order, from institutional arrangements to social relations. Political Sociology encompasses a wide variety of theoretical and methodological approaches with which sociologists attempt to describe and explain political phenomena. We cover a wide range of areas within the field, including race, class, migration, colonization, imperialism, public policy, urban politics, social movements, state-formation, revolutions, and cross-national social policy and policy outcomes.

Major Concentrations in SOAN

All concentrations in the SOAN Department are designed to help students with specific areas of interest navigate the curriculum in a particular thematic area or subfield of Sociology and Anthropology. Each concentration requires students to complete a total of ten credits at least eight of which must be in the department. Up to two courses can be counted from outside the department. Please note that no more than one credit from any single department will be counted toward the major. All majors in our department will have Sociology and Anthropology appear on their transcripts. Students who complete the requirements for a major concentration will receive a certificate from the SOAN department that verifies the focus they have charted through the curriculum.

Requirements (at least 10 credits)

SOAN Core Requirements (Five credits):

ANTH 001. Foundations: Culture, Power, and Meaning

SOCI 001. Foundations: Self, Culture, and Society

At least one Methods course in the SOAN department

Senior Research Project (two credits)

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Five elective credits:

At least three additional courses in SOAN, (at least two must be taught by a Faculty in the SOAN department) and up to two courses outside the department in the thematic area. Students should consult with their advisor when selecting courses.

- **Please note** that no more than one credit from any single department will be counted toward this concentration.

Recommended courses:

SOCI 006C. FYS: Working Class and the Politics of Whiteness
SOCI 025B/PEAC 025B. Transforming Intractable Conflict
SOCI 025C. Globalization and Global Inequality
SOCI 026B. Class Matters: Privilege, Poverty & Power
SOCI 035B. Anti-Capitalism, Revolution and Resistance in the “Third World”
SOCI 035D. Transnational Migration
SOCI 035E. Race, Migration and the Law
SOCI 048G. Between the Is and the Ought: Black Social and Political Thought
SOCI 048K. The Mafia and the State
SOCI 048L. Urban Crime and Punishment
SOCI 058C . Manufacturing Scarcity: The Housing Crisis in American Cities
SOCI 056C. Sociology of [this year’s] election
SOCI 138. Du Bois and the 21st Century Color Line
SOCI 145. Marxism and Radical Political Economy
SOCI 148. Advanced Topics in Political Sociology: Power, Governance, and the State
ANTH 037B. Anthropology of Law
ANTH 037C. Anti-Corruption Politics in Latin America and the Caribbean
ANTH 042D. Political Anthropology
ANTH 072C. Memory, History, and Nation
ECON 013. Economic Efficiency, Markets, and Distributive Justice
ECON 041. Public Economics
ECON 042. Law and Public Policy
ECON 073. Race, Ethnicity, and Gender in Economics
ECON 082. Political Economy of Africa
HIST 056. Police, Prisons, & Protests
PEAC 014. Systems Thinking for Social Change
PEAC 055. Climate Disruption, Conflict, and Peacemaking
PEAC 135/SOCI 135. Social Movements and Non-Violent Power
POLS 028. The Urban Underclass and Public Policy (AP)
POLS 031. Borders and Migration (CP)
POLS 054. Identity Politics
POLS 081. Global Environmental Governance (IR)

Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to explore course offerings through Tri-co and the University of Pennsylvania. Please consult with your advisor for guidance on course selection beyond Swarthmore.

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