

Sociology 465/565
Spring 2010
Mon/Wed 10:00-11:20 a.m.
41 Knight Library

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Office hrs: Mon 12:00-2:00 p.m.

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

This course will examine the structure of power in American society with an emphasis on the sociology of corporate and political elites. Topics include: the nature of the American ruling class; the concentration of wealth in the U.S. and its political consequences; ownership and control of large U.S. corporations; interlocking corporate directorates; corporate dominance of the state and the mass media; the policy formation process; and the role of money in American politics.

The course will have a strong research focus. A major part of the course will be devoted to learning the methods of power structure research and doing original research on political and economic elites. There will be three major research projects assigned during the term, one of which (worth 30 percent of the total grade) will be due the last week of the term. Each assignment will require extensive hours library research as well as research using the Internet.

Class attendance is mandatory. Part of our class time each week will be reserved for students to meet in groups and collectively work on their research projects. Participation in these group sessions is essential to being able to complete the requirements for the course. Students are required to make brief presentations of the results of their research to other members of the class. There will be no exams.

The main text for the course is G. William Domhoff, *Who Rules America?* (6th ed). This text has gone through several editions and *you must be sure that you get the most recent (6th) edition.* This is the only required book for the course and *it should be read during the first four weeks of the term.*

Other course materials are online at <http://uoregon.edu/~vburris/soc465>. Many of the resources that you will find helpful in completing the various research assignments can be found at the web site, *Who Rules? An Internet Guide to Power Structure Research* (<http://uoregon.edu/~vburris/whorules>). The Domhoff text is also accompanied by a web site (<http://sociology.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica>) that contains additional essays and links that expand upon some of the topics covered in the book. You will be expected to read a few of these essays in connection with specific research assignments, but you are also encouraged to explore other materials available on this site. Further recommended (but not required) readings on specific topics are listed on the following pages.

REQUIRED READINGS (should be completed by the dates listed below):

- April 5: G. William Domhoff, *Who Rules America?*, Introduction, Chapters 1-2.
- April 12: G. William Domhoff, *Who Rules America?*, Chapters 3-4.
- April 19: G. William Domhoff, *Who Rules America?*, Chapters 5-6.
- April 26: G. William Domhoff, *Who Rules America?*, Chapters 7-9.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

GENERAL WORKS AND COLLECTED VOLUMES

- C. Wright Mills, *The Power Elite*.
 Michael Parenti, *Democracy for the Few*.
 Clyde Barrow, *Critical Theories of the State*.
 Thomas Dye, *Who's Running America?*
 Michael Schwartz, ed., *The Structure of Power in America*.
 G. William Domhoff, ed., *New Directions in Power Structure Research*, a special issue of *The Insurgent Sociologist*, Vol. 5, No. 3, 1975.
 G. William Domhoff, ed., *Power Structure Research II*, a special issue of *The Insurgent Sociologist*, Vol. 9, No. 2/3, 1979/80.
 Val Burris, ed., *Analyzing Power Structures*, a special issue of *Critical Sociology*, Vol. 16, No. 2/3, 1989.
 Gwen Moore and J. Allen Whitt, eds., *The Political Consequences of Social Networks*, a special issue of *Research in Politics and Society*, Vol. 4, 1992.

CORPORATE POWER STRUCTURE

- Michael Useem, *The Inner Circle*, Chapters 2-3.
 Michael Useem, "Corporations and the Corporate Elite," *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 6, 1980 (available online).
 Davita Silfen Glasberg and Michael Schwartz, "Ownership and Control of Corporations," *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 9, 1983 (available online).
 Mark S. Mizruchi, "What Do Interlocks Do? An Analysis, Critique, and Assessment of Research on Interlocking Directorates." *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 22, 1996 (available online).
 Val Burris, "Interlocking Directorates and Political Cohesion Among Corporate Elites," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 111, No. 1, 2005
<http://uoregon.edu/~vburris/interlks.pdf>
 Beth Mintz and Michael Schwartz, *The Power Structure of American Business*.
 Maurice Zeitlin, *The Large Corporation and Contemporary Classes*.
 Mark Mizruchi, *The American Corporate Network: 1904-1974*.
 Edward S. Herman, *Corporate Control, Corporate Power*.
 David Vogel, *Fluctuating Fortunes: The Political Power of Business in America*.
 John Scott, *Corporations, Classes, and Capitalism*.

THE AMERICAN UPPER CLASS

- Michael Allen, *The Founding Fortunes*, Chapters 1-5.
 G. William Domhoff and Richard L. Zweigenhaft, *Diversity in the Power Elite*.
 G. William Domhoff, *The Bohemian Grove and Other Retreats*.
 Peter Phillips, *A Relative Advantage: Sociology of the San Francisco Bohemian Club*
<http://libweb.sonoma.edu/regional/faculty/phillips/bohemianindex.html>.
 Kevin Wehr, "The Power Elite at the Bohemian Grove" *Critical Sociology*, Vol. 20, No. 2, 1994.
 Val Burris, "The Myth of Old Money Liberalism," *Social Problems*, Vol. 47, No. 3, 2000
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~vburris/oldmoney.pdf>.

Nelson W. Aldrich, Jr., *Old Money: They Mythology of America's Upper Class*.
 Lawrence Otis Graham, *Our Kind of People: Inside America's Black Upper Class*.
 Susan Ostrander, *Women of the Upper Class*.
 E. Digby Baltzell, *The Protestant Establishment*.
 Ferdinand Lundberg. *The Rich and the Super-Rich*.
 Ferdinand Lundberg, *America's Sixty Families*.
 Cleveland Amory, *Who Killed Society?*
 Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*.

POLICY FORMATION AND PUBLIC OPINION

Thomas Dye, *Top Down Policymaking*. Chapter 3.
 Joseph G. Peschek, *Policy-Planning Organizations: Elite Agendas and America's Rightward Turn*.
 People for the American Way, *Buying a Movement: Right-Wing Foundations and American Politics* (http://www.pfaw.org/pfaw/dfiles/file_33.pdf).
 Val Burris, "Elite Policy-Planning Networks in the United States," *Research in Politics and Society*, Vol. 4, 1992 (<http://uoregon.edu/~vburris/policy.pdf>).
 James A. Smith, *The Idea Brokers: Think Tanks and the Rise of the New Policy Elite*.
 Russ Bellant, *The Coors Connection: How Coors Family Philanthropy Undermines Democratic Pluralism*.
 G. William Domhoff, *The Power Elite and the State*.
 Philip H. Burch, *Elites in American History*, 3 volumes.
 Philip H. Burch, *Reagan, Bush and Right-Wing Politics*, 2 volumes.
 Jerome Himmelstein, *Looking Good and Doing Good: Corporate Philanthropy and Corporate Power*.
 Jerome Himmelstein, *To the Right: The Transformation of American Conservatism*.
 Teresa Odendahl. *Charity Begins at Home*.
 Sidney Blumenthal, *The Rise of the Counter-Establishment*.
 Thomas Ferguson and Joel Rogers, *Right Turn: The Decline of the Democrats and the Future of American Politics*.
 Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky, *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media*.
 Benjamin Compaine, ed., *Who Owns the Media? Concentration of Ownership in the Mass Communications Industry*.
 Ben H. Bagdikian, *The Media Monopoly*.

MONEY AND POLITICS

Dan Clawson, Alan Neustadtl, and Mark Weller, *Dollars and Votes: How Business Campaign Contributions Subvert Democracy*.
 Charles Lewis, *The Buying of the President 2004*.
 Val Burris, "The Political Partisanship of American Business," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 52, 1987 (<http://uoregon.edu/~vburris/pacs.pdf>).
 Val Burris, "The Two Faces of Capital: Corporations and Individual Capitalists as Political Actors," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 66, No. 3, 2001 (<http://uoregon.edu/~vburris/twofaces.pdf>).

- Val Burris, "Corporations, Capitalists, and Campaign Finance," Kevin T. Leicht and J. Craig Jenkins, eds., *Handbook of Politics: State and Society in Global Perspective* (<http://uoregon.edu/~vburris/handbook.pdf>).
- Thomas Ferguson, *Golden Rule: The Investment Theory of Party Competition and the Logic of Money-Driven Political Systems*.
- Frank Sorauf, *Money in American Politics*.
- Thomas B. Edsall, *Power and Money*.
- Thomas B. Edsall, *The New Politics of Inequality*.
- Elizabeth Drew, *The Corruption of American Politics*.
- Elizabeth Drew, *Politics and Money: The New Road to Corruption*.
- Larry J. Sabato, *PAC Power: Inside the World of Political Action Committees*.
- Clifford Brown, Lynda Powell, and Clyde Wilcox, *Serious Money*.

STATE AND LOCAL POWER STRUCTURES

- Floyd Hunter, *Community Power Structure*.
- Robert Dahl, *Who Governs?*
- G. William Domhoff, *Who Really Rules? New Haven and Community Power Re-examined*.
- G. William Domhoff, *The Leftmost City: Power and Progressive Politics in Santa Cruz*.
- Nelson W. Polsby, *Community Power and Political Theory*.
- Harvey Moloch, "The City as a Growth Machine," *American Journal of Sociology*, September, 1976 (available online).
- John Logan and Harvey Moloch, *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*.
- J. Allen Whitt, *Urban Elites and Mass Transportation*.
- Richard Ratcliff et al., "The Civic Involvement of Bankers," *Social Problems*, Vol. 26, 1979 (available online).
- Mike Davis, *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*.
- E. Digby Baltzell, *Philadelphia Gentlemen*.
- E. Kimbark MacColl, *Merchants, Money, and Power: The Portland Establishment, 1843-1913*.
- E. Kimbark MacColl, *The Shaping of a City: Business and Politics in Portland, Oregon, 1885-1915*.
- E. Kimbark MacColl, *The Growth of a City: Power and Politics in Portland, Oregon, 1915-1950*.