



LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social and Management Sciences
Department of Sociology and Psychology

COURSE PARTICULARS

Course Code: SOC 313
Course Title: Political Sociology
No. of Units: 3
Status: Compulsory

LECTURER DETAILS

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Area of Specialization: Criminology and Penology

Course Description:

This course introduces the students to the basis of Political system as a social institution, and the social and power relations in politicking. Political sociology studies the association between society and politics, and considers the intersection of political science and sociology, more specifically, the main focus is on power.

Course Objectives:

The course aims to: expose students to the basis of politics and power relations within the institution of government and governance, examine the basic theories in political sociology, examine some political ideologies; Pre-colonial socio-political systems in Nigeria, colonialism and the introduction of modern governance.

Course Assessment: Grand Total = 100%
-Attendance: 5 marks
-Test(s) and Assignments: 25 marks
-Final Examination: 70%

LECTURE PLAN

Weeks	Topics
1	Introduction to Political Sociology; Emergence of Political Sociology as an academic field of discipline: definition and meanings; differences between politic/political science and Sociology
2	Theoretical tradition in Political Sociology: Structural-Functionalism
3	Elitism and Pluralism: Power Elite; Class System-Weberian, Kingsley Davies, Wilbert Moore
4	Conflict and Marxism
5	Exchange Theory and Theory of Relative Deprivation
6	Concepts in Political Sociology: Power and Power Relations; Authority-types; and Sovereignty
7	Concepts in Political Sociology: Political Party; Interest Group; and Social Movement

8	Political Ideologies: Democracy-Liberal; Conservatives; Radical-Leftists and Rightists; Political Ideologies: Utopianism; Fascism; Authoritarianism; Utilitarianism
9	Political Ideologies: Capitalism; Socialism; and Communism
10	Military Rule (1966-1999); Effects of Military Rule in Nigeria
11	Political Culture, Political Socialization, Political Behaviour and Political Participation
12	Nigeria's Pre-colonial Socio-Political Systems: Yoruba's, Hausa/Fulani, and the Igbos; Colonialism; Post-colonial Administration; and Contemporary Political Challenges in Nigeria

READING LIST

- Allardt, E. and Littunen, Y. (ed.). (1964). *Cleavages, Ideologies and Party Systems: Contributions to Comparative Political Sociology*. Westermarck Society, Vol. 10. Helsinki: The Society.
- Dahl, R. A. (1963, 1961). *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press
- Lipset, Seymour M. (1960). *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday.
- Mills, C. Wright. (1956). *The Power Elite*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press.
- Rokkan, S. (ed.) (1962). Approaches to the Study of Political Participation. *Ada sociologica* 6, no. 1/2.
- Schumpeter, Joseph A. (1950). *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. 3d ed. New York: Harper.
- Weber, M. (1946). Politics as a Vocation. in Max Weber: *Essays in Sociology*, Pp. 77–128. NY: Oxford Univ. Press.
- Weber, Max (1946). Class, Status, Party. in Max Weber: *Essays in Sociology*, Pp 180–195. NY: Oxford Univ. Press

TUTORIAL

QUESTIONS

1. Vividly discuss the socio-political history of Nigeria from 1914 till date.
2. (a) What is Political Sociology
(b) Politics is embedded in Sociology and social relation is embedded in Politics. Discuss
3. Compare and contrast the Marxian and Exchange Theories of Power
4. Differentiate between: (a) Power (b) Authority (c) Utilitarianism
(d) Utopianism
5. Discuss the interplay of the Power-elite and Power-exchange theory, with special reference to the Nigeria's political scenario.
6. How does Political culture influence Political participation?
7. Discuss how Political behaviour is influenced by Political socialization citing cogent examples
8. With relevant examples, compare and contrast centralization and decentralization in Nigeria's pre-colonial political systems.

- 9.** Within the Nigeria context, is colonialism constructive or destructive? Discuss its effects on the country's indigenous political systems.
- 10.** Discuss the involvement and the effects of military rule in Nigeria's democratic development.
- 11.** Vividly discuss the contemporary challenges in Nigeria's Political system.
- 12.** Having practiced the indigenous political system, parliamentary, presidential and federal system of government in Nigeria's political history. Objectively suggest with viable explanations a better political system for the country?