

## Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



### POLS1121 Political Sociology

[30h] 3 credits

**Teacher(s):** Benoît Rihoux  
**Language:** French  
**Level:** First cycle

#### Aims

This course expands on the Political Science (I) course: it studies in greater detail the analysis of civil society (introduced in the Political Science (I) course), and more particularly the two principal collective bodies at work in civil society: social movements and political parties. As such, the course complements the Political Science (II) course, a comparative analysis of institutions and political regimes.

The course has two objectives:

- " Globally, to help students to develop an analytical capability and a capacity for personal reflection supported by a theoretical and conceptual apparatus (going beyond superficial observation and simple description);
- " To help students gain a better understanding of the current socio-political climate and developments in "civil society" in Western societies.

#### Main themes

1. Social movements: classic studies
  - " analysis of the "crowd" and "calamities"/disasters/lynch mobs?
  - " definitions and typologies
  - " the organisation of social movements
  - " militancy
2. Social movements: recent developments
  - " the "new social movements"
  - " new phenomena: the "white movement", the alterglobalist movement etc: a new "new social unrest"?
  - " new forms of militancy
3. The political parties: review
  - " Definition (s) (review and expansion)
  - " Typologies, classifications (review and expansion)
4. The political parties: recent developments
  - " Recent developments - various theses
  - " Partisan organisations: developments/transformations
  - " The end of the political parties?

#### Content and teaching methods

##### Methods

The course is given principally in the form of lectures, with a small number of interactive sessions (debates, contributions from students in sub-groups, with possible participation of outside contributor).

**Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)**

Evaluation: Written examination at the end of the year. The examination consists of a number of closed, open and semi-open questions (max.10 points), and a short essay requiring students to show a broad understanding of the subjects covered in the course (10 points). A qualitative evaluation is also made of the interactive sessions and this is taken into account.

NB: the teachers of the Political science I and Political Science II courses may well work together to evaluate the courses (possibility of joint evaluation, etc).

Course materials: course handout provided

**Other credits in programs**

<b>HUSO11BA</b>	Première année de bachelier en sciences humaines et sociales	(3 credits)	Mandatory
<b>SOCA11BA</b>	Première année de bachelier en sociologie et anthropologie	(3 credits)	Mandatory
<b>SPOL11BA</b>	Première année de bachelier en sciences politiques	(3 credits)	Mandatory