

# SOCI 436 <sup>1</sup>

## Issues in Sociology and Social Justice: Political Sociology and Public Opinions

---

### Instructor:

Dr. Edward Haddon

Email: edward.haddon@alumni.ubc.ca

### Course Description:

Political sociology and public opinion research has gained increased footing as a result of a combination between better data and innovative research questions. This course begins with a discussion of the distinction between sociological and political approaches to public opinion research. It then offers a critical grounding of key debates in political sociology and provides a selection of public opinion research which empirically explore these debates. There will be a significant focus on the debate about change in the connection between public opinions and various demographic variables, most notably social class. In particular, we will explore what motivates people to oppose or support redistributive social policies and how these opinions respond to economic shocks. This is particularly important as inequality continues to grow and many countries await looming economic recessions.

### Course Objectives:

1. Increase familiarity with key debates in political sociology in relation to public opinion research.
2. On the basis of the above, consider and critique a selection of empirical research which tackles these debates.
3. Explore the political underpinnings of capitalism and its embeddedness in society and culture, including how this differs depending on regime type.
4. Expand your skills to engage critically with political sociology and public opinion research.

### Mode of Delivery:

Blended delivery. The course will be comprised of both synchronous and asynchronous teaching-learning formats. In terms of the synchronous portion, we will likely meet once a week during class time through Zoom. Weekly office hours will also be held using this platform. The asynchronous portion may entail readings, power points, lecture videos, and other course-related materials being uploaded to the UVic online platform where they can be accessed by students.

### Course Pre-requisites:

- Minimum third-year standing
- declared Honours or Major in Sociology
- permission of the department

---

<sup>1</sup> This outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. A detailed course outline will be made available in August before the first day of class. Only that outline is to be considered official.

**Topics May Include:**

Social foundations of political behaviour, post-materialism, class and politics, political organizations, regime types, macro-level factors and their influence on public opinions.

**Required Resources May Include:**

Resources (journal articles, ebooks, etc.) will posted online; likely on the new UVic online platform Brightspace.

**Grading May Include:**

Course participation/engagement (includes online discussion forum postings), 2-3 Critical Commentaries, Final Paper.