

SOCI 3006B

THINKING THE SOCIAL: CRITICAL THEORIES OF THE STATE

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Term	Winter 2025
Course Delivery	In person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will explore the field of political sociology to learn about critical theories of the state. Studying the state critically means two things. First, we will learn that the political institutions and processes that govern our lives are not benign phenomena that “have always existed” or that “obviously should exist the way they do now”. Rather, we will consider states as dynamic historical formations that are produced by specific ideological, economic, social and cultural values and interests. Second, we will examine how the values and interests that inform our political institutions both rely on and contribute to existing structures of inequality. We will consider states from an anti-capitalist, anti-racist, anti-imperial and anti-colonial, queer and feminist perspective to learn how our policies systematically reproduce colonial dispossession as well as economic, racial, global, gender and sexual inequality.

EVALUATION

Workshop on Academic Integrity: 5%
Lecture Responses: 20% Case Example Exercises: 30% Class Activity- Attendance and Participation: 5%
Critical Analysis of the Canadian State: 40%
Self-Guided Virtual Tour of the Parliament of Canada: 10%
Critical Analysis of Three Features of the Canadian State: 15% *Critical Analysis of Your own Relationship to the Canadian State: 15%*
Bonus points- Participation in Relevant Outside Event or Activity: 5%

TEXT

All readings are accessible online at no cost. Please see course Ares on Brightspace.