

Prof. Dr. Reinhold Sackmann

Days and Time: 22.02, 24.02, 25.02, 29.02, 2.03, 3.03, 7.03, 9.03 (18:50- 21:40)

## **Society and State**

### **Course Description:**

This lecture will give an introduction into political sociology. It starts with the concepts institution, power and state to sketch a macro-sociological perspective on societal structures of the political field. Then in more detail, fundamental questions of three dimensions of the relation between society and state are analyzed. In a first step, the interpenetration of society and state in form of party- and voting-systems as well as voluntary organizations and their influence are discussed. In a second step, the transformation of conflicts by state structures is looked upon. A last step focuses on the achievement dimension of the state and its change. As one aim of the course is to sharpen senses to perceive and reflect taken for granted structures, empirical international comparisons between Poland and Germany are used as case study material.

### **Course Objectives:**

To get an overview on political sociology, its concepts and its way of thinking.

To understand the influence of institutional structures on social structure.

To compare societal structuration in Germany and Poland.

To develop critical thinking skills in discussion.

To apply conceptual analysis to case studies.

To take what you have learned in this course and see the continuing implications and relevance.

### **Assessment:**

Exams: There will be one final exam which can include multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, short answer and/or essay questions. The material covered on the test will come from class lectures. This exam is worth 90% of your grade.

Attendance and Participation: This includes pop quizzes and participation in class discussions. You will not be successful in this course without regular class attendance. This is worth 10% of your grade.

### **Reading Materials:**

All lecture presentations for this course will be available on AGH's Scholar's Panel

## **Schedule:**

**\*\* Please note that this schedule is tentative and schedule to change at the instructor's discretion**

February 22: Introduction, background. Key concept institution.

February 24: What is a state? Definition and change of state. The concepts of domination and power. Case study: State territory in Germany and Poland.

February 25: Interpenetration of state and society I. Parties and voting-systems. The analytical concept cleavage. Case study: Parties in Poland and Germany.

February 29: Interpenetration of state and society II. Civil society and interest organizations. Types: clubs, movements, organizations. Activation. Case study: Trade unions in Germany and Poland.

March 2: State and Conflicts I. Legal systems. Law and punishment. Law and interest conflicts. Material law. Case study: Corruption in Poland and Germany.

March 3: State and Conflicts II. War and hegemonic order. Types of war. Military organization and military action. Case study: Contemporary wars of Poland and Germany.

March 7: State and achievements. Welfare policy, networks and commodification. Case study: Education provision in Germany and Poland.

March 9: Final exam.