

HSPS Tripos – Part 1, SOC1

Introduction to Sociology: Modern Societies I

(2024-25)

Lecturers:

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Aims and Objectives

The course has three interconnected aims and objectives:

- to introduce students to the systematic study of society and social life
- to introduce students to the central debates concerning the nature of the modern era and its social consequences by exploring a selection of key sociological texts by Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and W.E.B. Du Bois
- to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the major institutions that comprise, and issues that confront, modern societies

Course Content

The course introduces students to the discipline of sociology in three parts. In part I, we discuss the movement towards modern society, including the rise of nationalism and the nation-state and platform capitalism. In Part II, we study various aspects of power and politics, including the formation of the nation-state, the welfare society and neoliberalism. In Part III, we introduce key studies in relation to inequality, focusing on gender, race and ethnicity, and class. In Part IV, we come back to the issue of

contemporary society, exploring what is distinctive about it.

Mode of Teaching

The paper is taught through two-hour lectures per week spread over three terms. A list of supervision topics is included in this paper guide and will also be available from the Faculty Office. Students will be expected to supplement the material acquired in lectures through their own reading of the literature recommended here and by supervisors. Required reading is starred.

Mode of Assessment

There is one three-hour written examination at the end of the year. Candidates must answer three questions from an undivided paper.

Supervision

Supervision is essential for this paper and will be arranged by Directors of Studies in the Colleges. It is recommended to have six to eight supervisions in total for this paper (including revision supervisions), covering six of the topics in this paper guide. A list of qualified supervisors is provided by the paper coordinator.

Part I: THEORIES OF MODERNITY (Michaelmas 2024)

Introductory session

Patrick Baert (Michaelmas week 1)

This introductory lecture elaborates on the structure of the course. In relation to Part I of the course (theories of modernity), it discusses the relevance of sociological classics for understanding society today and the impact of recent debates (e.g., surrounding decolonizing) on the study and selection of classical authors. Part I focuses on writings by Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and W.E.B. Du Bois. For all four, we discuss what they see as new or distinctive about modern society, what they think are its main problems and how can they be solved.

We also discuss the absences and erasures within their accounts of the modern world. More precisely, we consider how the focus on processes of modernization, industrialization, and democratization in the long nineteenth century in Western Europe conceals processes of colonization, dispossession, and enslavement, that were so central to the making of the modern world and to the knowledge production that surrounded it.

In relation to Part II of the course (the study of modern societies), this lecture introduces the notion of intersectionality to frame the empirical themes that will be dealt with.

Topic 1 – Karl Marx

Patrick Baert (Michaelmas week 1)

Karl Marx is an unusual figure in that his writings not only contributed to the study of capitalism but also inspired various political experiments around the world. This is very much how he conceived of his own work: whilst his writings engaged with philosophy and were highly theoretical, his ultimate aim was to change the world.

a. Historical context

The first part addresses the particular intellectual and socio-political context within which Marx wrote. More specifically, we will consider how Marx was influenced by and reacted against German idealist philosophy and utopian socialist thought.

b. Historical Materialism and the Communist Revolution

The second part explores four important texts by Marx. *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts* includes an intriguing discussion of alienation, whilst *German Ideology* presents a basic outline of a materialist conception of history. Both demonstrate the influence of Feuerbach on the young Marx and the extent to which he distances himself

from Hegel. Co-written with Friedrich Engels, *Communist Manifesto* is a polemical piece, defending historical materialism and predicting the collapse of capitalism. *Grundrisse* is generally viewed as a transition piece, linking his earlier philosophical concerns with what could be described as a more 'scientific' approach found in *Capital*.

c. Marx and Marxism: the legacy and its critics

The final part of this lecture deals with Marx's enduring influence, the varieties of Marxism, and its critics. We also assess the widely held view that recent social and political events refute the validity of Marx's views.

Reading

Allen, K. 2011. *Marx and the Alternative to Capitalism*. London: Pluto.

Aron, R. 1965. *Main Currents in Sociological Thought 1*. London: Penguin, pp. 111-182 (chapter 3).

Bhambra, Gurinder, and John Holmwood. 2021. *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity Press (chapter 3).

Berlin, A. 1978. *Karl Marx*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Carver, Terrel. 2018. *Marx*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Elster, J. 1986. *An Introduction to Karl Marx*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kolakowski, L. 1978. *Main Currents of Marxism 1: The Founders*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

* Marx, K. 2017. *Marx: Later Political Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-30 (*Manifesto of the Communist Party*, with F. Engels), 128-157 ('Introduction' to the *Grundrisse*).

*Marx, K. 2017. *Marx: Early Political Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 71-96 (*Paris Notebooks*), 119-181 (From '*The German Ideology*': Chapter one, Feuerbach).

Marx, Karl 1973 [1853]. 'The Future Results of British Rule in India' in Karl Marx and Frederick Engels Collected Works, Volume 12. London: Lawrence and Wishart

Pradella, Lucia 2013. 'Imperialism and Capitalist Development in Marx's Capital,' *Historical Materialism* 21 (2): 117-47

Robinson, Cedric J. 2005. *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. University of North Carolina Press.

Stedman Jones, G. 2016. *Karl Marx: Greatness and Illusion*. London: Allen Lane.

Essays

1. Do you agree that Marx is a critic of capitalism but not of industrialisation?
2. How relevant is Marx's theory of exploitation for understanding inequalities in the

modern world?

Topic 2 – Max Weber

Patrick Baert (Michaelmas week 2)

These lectures introduce Weber's views about the transition to rational capitalism. As with the lectures on Marx, we consider two fundamental aspects of Weber's intellectual project: first, his observations regarding what is distinctive and problematic about modern society; and second, his interest in the role of unanticipated effects in history.

a. Historical context

The first part of this lecture explores the particular intellectual and socio-political context in which Weber wrote. It includes, amongst other things, a discussion of Weber's relationship to historical materialism, his position vis-a-vis the 'Methodenstreit', the notion of *Verstehen* and the use of ideal types.

b. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

The second part introduces Weber's classic study of the relationship between Protestantism and rational capitalism. The lecture also explores Weber's text on 'bureaucracy'.

c. Weberian sociology and its critics

The final part gives some indication of Weber's influence and assesses various critiques of Weberian sociology.

Reading

Aron, R. 1965. *Main Currents in Sociological Thought 2*. London: Penguin, pp. 185-258 (chapter 3).

Bhambra, Gurinder, and John Holmwood. 2021. *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity Press (chapter 4).

Baert, P. 2005. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences: Towards Pragmatism*. Cambridge: Polity. (chapter 2)

Bendix, R. 1998. *Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait*. London: Routledge.

Collins, H. *Weberian Sociological Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (esp. chapters 1, 2)

Kasler, D. 1988. *Max Weber: An Introduction to his Life and Work*. Cambridge: Polity.

Mommsen, W.J. 1989. *The Political and Social Theory of Max Weber: Collected Essays*.

Cambridge: Polity, especially pp. 109-168 (especially part III).

Poggi, G. 2006. *Weber; A Short Introduction*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

* Weber, M. 1976[1904]. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: George Allen and Unwin.

* Weber, M. 1991 'Bureaucracy', in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, eds. H.H. Gerth. and C.W. Mills. London: Routledge, pp. 196-244.

Zimmerman, Andrew 2006. 'Decolonizing Weber,' *Postcolonial Studies* 9 (1): 53-79.

Essays

1. According to Weber, what makes bureaucracies efficient? Do you agree?
2. Critically discuss Weber's theory on the role of the Predestination doctrine in the development of early capitalism.

Topic 3 – Emile Durkheim

Patrick Baert (Michaelmas week 3)

These lectures introduce Durkheim's views about the transition to a modern differentiated society. We focus on *Division of Labour* and *Suicide*, discussing it in two ways. Firstly, we consider Durkheim's thoughts on what is distinctive and problematic about modern society, and secondly his views concerning how society is held together.

a. Historical context

The first part of this lecture explores the particular intellectual and socio-political context in which Durkheim wrote. It includes a discussion of Durkheim's efforts to create a new academic discipline, the influence of Comtean positivist philosophy and the socio-political situation in the Third Republic in France.

b. Division of Labour, Suicide and other works

The second part introduces Durkheim's *Division of Labour*. We first discuss Durkheim's use of evolutionary theory to account for societal change. Second, we discuss his diagnosis of the problems of modern society, in particular the notion of anomie. We subsequently explore how some of the themes in *Division of Labour* are taken up in later works, in particular his groundbreaking book *Suicide*.

c. Durkheimian sociology and its critics

The second part of this lecture explores Durkheim's legacy as manifest in the work of more recent social thinkers. It also discusses major criticisms of Durkheimian sociology.

Reading

Aron, R. 1965. *Main Currents in Sociological Thought 2*. London: Penguin, pp. 21-108 (chapter 1).

Baert, P. 2005. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences: Towards Pragmatism*. Cambridge: Polity (chapter 1).

Bhambra, Gurinder, and John Holmwood. 2021. *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity Press (chapter 5).

*Durkheim, E. 1984[1893]. *The Division of Labour in Society*. London: Macmillan.

*Durkheim, E. 1989 [1987] *Suicide; A Study in Sociology*. London: Routledge. (eBook: <http://lib.myilibrary.com/Open.aspx?id=14859>)

Durkheim, Émile 1969 [1898]. 'Individualism and the Intellectuals' in Steven Lukes ` 'Durkheim's "Individualism and the Intellectuals"' *Political Studies* 17 (1): 14-30.

Fields, Karen E. 2012. 'Individuality and the Intellectuals: An Imaginary Conversation between Emile Durkheim and W. E. B. Du Bois' in Karen E Fields and Barbara J Fields *Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life*. London: Verso.

Fournier, M. 2012. *Emile Durkheim; A Biography*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Giddens, A. 1978. *Emile Durkheim*. London: Fontana.

Kurasawa, Fuyuki 2013. 'The Durkheimian School and Colonialism: Exploring the Constitutive Paradox' in George Steinmetz (ed.) *Sociology and Empire: The Imperial Entanglements of a Discipline*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Lehmann, Jennifer M. 1994. *Durkheim and Women*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Lukes, S. 1973. *Emile Durkheim; His Life and Work*. London: Allen Lane.

Nisbet, R. 1974. *The Sociology of Emile Durkheim*. London: Oxford University Press.

Parkin, F. 1992. *Durkheim*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Stedman-Jones, S. 2001. *Durkheim Reconsidered*. Cambridge: Polity.

Essays

1. What does Durkheim mean by anomie, and why does he regard it as a problematic feature of modern societies?
2. What are the major strengths and flaws of Durkheim's book *Suicide*?

Topic 4 – W.E.B. Du Bois

Patrick Baert (Michaelmas week 4)

These lectures introduce W.E.B. Du Bois' sociological reflections on race and ethnicity. We focus on his text *The Souls of Black Folk*, a collection of essays that reflect on the

condition of African Americans at the beginning of the twentieth century in the US.

a. Historical context

We explore the specific social and political context in which Du Bois grew up with a focus on racial segregation. We analyse how his studies at Harvard and Berlin affected him and how his sociological work was intertwined with his political activism.

b. Souls

We explore *The Souls of Black Folk* and discuss key concepts such as 'double consciousness', 'the veil' and 'the colour line'. We also pay attention to other writings by Du Bois, including *The Philadelphia Negro*.

c. Legacy

We discuss the relevance of Du Bois' work on contemporary sociological analysis of race and ethnicity. We discuss the similarities between Du Bois' concerns and those by Frantz Fanon and Steve Biko.

Reading

Alexander, S. 2015. *W.E.B. Du Bois: An American Intellectual and Activist*. Lanham, Maryland; Rowman & Littlefield.

Bhambra, Gurinder, and John Holmwood. 2021. *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity Press (chapter 6).

Biko, Steve. 2002. *I write what I like*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

*Du Bois, W.E.B. 2007. *The Souls of Black Folk*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (especially The Forethought & chapter 1)

Du Bois, W.E.B. 2007. *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Fanon, F. 1967. *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld.

Gilroy, Paul. 2011. *Darker than Blue; On the Moral Economies of Black Atlantic Culture*. Boston, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Itzigsohn, José and Karida L. Brown 2020. *The Sociology of W. E. B. du Bois: Racialized Modernity and the Global Color Line*. New York: New York University Press.

Mullen, S. 2015. *Revolutionary across the Colour Line*. London: Pluto Press.

Shaw, S. 2013. *W.E.B. Du Bois and the Souls of Black Folk*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Zamir, S, ed. 2008. *The Cambridge Companion to W.E.B. Du Bois*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Essays

1. What is meant by 'double consciousness'? What are the possible political implications of this notion?
2. Would you agree that, for Du Bois, Fanon and Biko, racial inequality is not only a structural issue, but also manifests itself at a psychological level?

Topic 5 – Nations and Nationalisms

Patrick Baert (Michaelmas week 5)

The first part of the lecture addresses the rise of the nations and nationalisms in Europe and beyond. In the second part of the lecture we will discuss how and why nation as a category maintains its relevance in relation to other social categories and social and political transformations.

Reading

- *Anderson, B. 1991. *Imagined Communities*. Esp chps 1 and 8. London: Verso. (ebook)
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh. 2000. *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (ebook) esp chp 1.
- *Chatterjee, Partha. 1986. *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World*. London: Zed Books. Esp Chp 1. (ebook)
- Gellner, Ernest. 2006. *Nations and Nationalism*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Hobsbawm, Benedikt. 2006. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso.
- Smith, A. 1995. *Nations and Nationalism in a Global Era*. Esp chps 1, 4 and 6. Cambridge: Polity. (ebook)
- *Appadurai, A., 1990. "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy," *Theory, Culture & Society*, 7(2), pp.295-310.
- *Billig, Michael. 1995. *Banal Nationalism*. London: Sage. (ebook)
- *Brubaker R. 2004a. *Ethnicity Without Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press. Chp 1.
- Brubaker R. 2004b. 'In the name of the nation: reflections on nationalism and patriotism. *Citizenship Studies*, 8:115–27
- Delanty, G. and Krishan Kumar. (eds.). 2006. *The SAGE Handbook of Nations and Nationalisms* (chps. 14-17).
- *Yuval-Davis, N., 2011. *The Politics of Belonging: Intersectional Contestations*. Sage. Esp chps 4-6. (ebook)

Essays:

1. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Benedict Anderson's theory of the rise of nationalisms.

2. Why does the nation remain a powerful form of categorization today?

Topic 6 – Media, social media and digital capitalism

Patrick Baert (Michaelmas week 6)

People have become highly reliant on electronic media for communication. Earlier examples involve the telegram, the telephone, radio and film, whereas in the mid-20th century television would play a significant role in people's lives. With the internet and especially the prevalence of social media, we seem to have entered a new era again, one dominated by platform (or surveillance or digital) capitalism.

Reading:

Ben Agger. 2012. *Oversharing: Presentations of Self in the Internet Age*. London: Routledge. (preface and chapter 1 "Thanks for sharing" only)

Benkler, Yochai, Robert Faris, and Hal Roberts. 2018. *Network Propaganda: Manipulation, Disinformation, and Radicalisation in American Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

*Fuchs, Christian. 2021. *Social Media; A Critical Introduction*. Third edition. London: Sage.

Marshall McLuhan. 1994. *Understanding Media; The Extensions of Man*. Boston: MIT Press. (read especially Lewis Laphan's introduction)

McCombs, Maxwell, and Sebastian Valenzuela. 2021. *Setting the Agenda*. Third edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.

*Smicek, Nick. 2016. *Platform Capitalism*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

*Zuboff, Shoshana. 2019. *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism; The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*. London: Profile Books.

Howard, Philip. 2015. *Pax Technica: How the Internet of Things May Set us Free or Lock Us UP*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Questions:

1. What is the business model of platform capitalism?
2. What does surveillance capitalism do to us? Do you agree with Zuboff's critique of this industry?

PART II: POWER & SOCIETY (Michaelmas 2024, Lent 2025)

These lectures focus on power relations among social groups and between state and society, drawing mostly but not exclusively on cases from affluent capitalist democracies. The lectures are organised around several core concepts in political sociology: the state (and more specifically the welfare state); racialised and gendered forms of political exclusion; social control and punishment; and contentious politics and revolutions. Throughout, we will consider empirical examples, asking who has power in a given relation, what is its form and source, and what purpose or interests it serves. Required readings are starred.

Topic 7 – Social Power and Its Sources

Ned Crowley (Michaelmas, week 7)

This lecture introduces the concept of social power. We will discuss a number of definitions and to what extent these are competing or complementary conceptions. We also preview a theme that will re-emerge through this course. That is, what social factors or resources confer power on some actors and not others?

Reading:

* Weber, Max. 1921/197 *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, Vol. 1. Claus Wittich & Guenther Roth (eds). University of California Press. [Part 16 “Power and Domination” (pp53-54)]

* Lukes, Steven. 1974. *Power: A Radical View*, Chapter 1 (pp14-59)

* Mann, Michael. 1986. *The Sources of Social Power, Vol. I: A History of Power from the Beginning to A.D. 1760*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Chapter 1]

Jessop, Bob. 2012. ‘Marxist Approaches to Power.’ in Amenta, Nash, & Scott (eds) *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology*

Dahl, Robert. 1957. ‘The Concept of Power’, *Behavioral Science*, 2: 202.

Clemens, Elisabeth. 2016. “Power and Politics.” in *What Is Political Sociology?* Polity Press.

Hartsock, Nancy. 1983 “An Alternative Tradition: Women on Power.” in *Money, Sex, and Power* [pp. 218-226]

Allen, Amy, "Feminist Perspectives on Power", in Zalta & Nodelman (eds). *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Poggi, Gianfranco. 2001. *Forms of Power*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [Chapter 1: pp. 12-14; Chapter 2]

Questions:

1. Is there one, fundamental source of social power in contemporary society?
2. In contemporary society, is social power widely distributed or highly concentrated?

Topic 8 – States and Welfare

New Crowley (Michaelmas, week 8)

In this lecture, we examine the most important political institution of the modern era: the state. We first try to arrive at a workable definition of the state and then explore some historical and geographic variations in the development of modern states. In the latter part of the lecture, we look more closely at one of the modern state's core functions: the provision of goods and services for public welfare. We consider explanations for the emergence and variations in welfare state institutions, as well as the relationship between welfare state policy and forms of racial and gender inequality.

Reading:

I. What is the modern state and who rules it?

* Nelson, Brian. *The Making of the Modern State*, Chapter 2 "State Formations" (pp7-15)

Clemens, Elisabeth. "States, Empires, Nation-States." in *What Is Political Sociology?* (pp25-44)

Weber, Max. 1922/2000. *Basic Concepts in Sociology*. ["The Concept of Legitimate Authority," "Types of Legitimate Authority," "The Validity of Legitimate Authority," "Types of Political and Religious Corporate Groups" (pp71-83 & pp119-123)]

Poggi, Gianfranco. 2012. "Theories of State Formation" (pp95-106) in Amenta, Nash, & Scott (eds) *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology*

Jessop, Bob. 2004. "Developments in Marxist Theory." *The Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology* (pp7-16)

Haney, Lynne. 2000. "Feminist State Theory: Applications to Jurisprudence, Criminology, and the Welfare State." *Annual Review of Sociology*.

MacKinnon, Catherine. 1989. *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*. Chapters 1 & 8

II. The welfare state: Institutions of inclusion and exclusion

* Garland, David. 2016. *The Welfare State: A Short Introduction*. [Chapters 1 & 3-5]

Esping-Anderson, Gøsta. 1991. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. [Part 1, pp 1-143]

Sutcliff-Braithwaite, Florence, Aled Davies, & Ben Jackson. 2021. "Introduction: a neoliberal age?" in Sutcliffe-Braithwaite, Davies, and Jackson (eds). *The neoliberal age? Britain since the 1970s*.

Pierson, Paul. 1994. *Dismantling the Welfare State? Reagan, Thatcher and the Politics of Retrenchment*. [Chapters 1-2 & Chapters 6-7]

Haney, Lynne. 2004. "Engendering the Welfare State: A Review Article." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 40(4).

Orloff, Ann. 1996. "Gender in the Welfare State." *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol 22: 51-78.

Dawson, Michael. 2012. "Blacks and the Racialized State." in Bobo et al (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of African American Citizenship, 1865-Present*.

Perocco, Fabio. 2022. "Racism in and for the Welfare State" In: Perocco, F. (eds) *Racism in and for the Welfare State*. [pp 1-35]

Bassel, Leah and Akwugo Emejulu. 2018. *Minority Women and Austerity: Survival and Resistance in France and Britain*. Policy Press. [Chapter 3, pp 33-52]

Essays:

1. Why have welfare state institutions persisted, in spite of attempts to retrench or dismantle them?
2. Using the example of the United Kingdom and/or United States, discuss why welfare states took on a racialised character in the 20th century.
3. In what ways have developments in welfare state institutions shaped gender (in)equality?

Topic 9 – States and Social Control

Ned Crowley (Lent, week 1)

This lecture turns to another central task of modern states: social control. In particular, it focuses on the exercise of law and punishment. We pay special attention to how social control is racialized in contemporary societies, especially the United States and United Kingdom. Relying on David Garland, Loic Wacquant, and Stuart Hall, we explore how "cultures of control" and the exercise of criminal punishment interact with changing social, economic, and political contexts.

Reading:

I. Why do states punish? The penal-welfare nexus

* Garland, David. 2001. *The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*. [Chapter 2 & Chapter 8]

* Gottschalk, Marie. 2013. "The Carceral State and the Politics of Punishment." In Simon & Sparks (eds). *The Sage Handbook of Punishment and Society*. [pp205-241]

Wacquant, Loic. 2010. "Crafting the Neoliberal State: Workfare, Prisonfare, and Social Insecurity." *Sociological Forum*.

II. Punishment and control of racialised groups

Wacquant, Loic. 2001. "Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh." *Punishment and Society*.

Wacquant, Loic. 2000 "The New 'Peculiar Institution': On the Prison as Surrogate Ghetto". *Theoretical Criminology*.

Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. [Chapters 1 & 5]

II. Case study: Policing racialised minorities in Britain since the 1970s

* Solomos, John. 2003/2022. "Policing and Criminal Justice." in *Race and Racism in Britain*.

Hall, Stuart. 1978. "Racism and reaction," in *Selected Political Writings*.

Hall, Stuart. 1978. "1970: Birth of the law and order society," in *Selected Political Writings*.

Gilroy, Paul. 1982. "The Myth of Black Criminality." *The Socialist Register, Vol. 19*.

Jefferson, Tony. 2012. "Policing the riots: from Bristol and Brixton to Tottenham, via Toxteth, Handsworth, etc." *Criminal Justice Matters*.

Essays:

1. What is the relationship between changes in the welfare state and changes in criminal justice systems?
2. With reference to the United Kingdom and/or United States, discuss whether and how race matters to the nature, extent, and experience of policing and criminal punishment.

Topic 10 – Resistance, Riots, and Revolutions: Contentious Politics

Ned Crowley (Lent, week 2)

We conclude by considering ways in which people challenge power—especially state power—outside the realm of formal politics. The lecture begins by introducing the concept of social movements as an ideal typical form of collective action before turning to "messier" instances of contentious politics, namely riots and revolutions.

Reading:

I. What are social movements and how do they happen?

* McAdam, Doug. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency*, [Chapters 1 & 3-6]

Weldon, Laurel. 2011. *When Protest Makes Policy: How Social Movements Represent Disadvantaged Groups*. [Introduction and Chapter 1, (pp1-56)]

Moss, Dana M. 2021. *The Arab Spring Abroad: Diaspora Activism against Authoritarian Regimes*. Cambridge University Press.

II. Political rioting: Movement or Mob?

* Waddington, David. 2016. "Riots," in *The Oxford Handbook of Social Movements*, ed. Donatella Della Porta and Mario Diani

Wilkinson, Steven. 2009. "Riots," *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 329–43.

Dikec, Mustafa. 2017. *Urban Rage: Revolt of the Excluded*. Chapter 1 "Rage in the Urban Age"; Chapter 3 "Of Seditious and Troubles in the UK" [pp. 1-16; 55-91]

Kawalerowicz, Jutta and Michael Biggs (2015). "Anarchy in the UK: Economic Deprivation, Social Disorganization, and Political Grievances in the London Riot of 2011" *Social Forces*, 94(2).

III. Challenging the state: Revolutionary movements and political violence

* Tilly, Charles. 2003. *The Politics of Collective Violence*. Chapter 2, "Violence as Politics." Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press

Wood, Elisabeth Jean, 2015. 'Social Mobilization and Violence in Civil War and their Social Legacies', in Donatella della Porta, and Mario Diani (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Social Movements*

Goodwin, Jeff. 2001. *No Other Way Out: States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945–1991*. Cambridge University Press. [Chapters 1-2, pp1-64]

Wood, Elisabeth Jean. 2000. *Forging Democracy from Below: Insurgent Transitions in South Africa and El Salvador*. [Chapters 1, 5, 6, & 8]

Essays:

1. Why do people sometimes riot?
2. Why do social movements not always emerge in response to social or political grievances?

Part III: SOCIAL INEQUALITIES (Lent 2024)

Topic 11 – The Sociology of Gender

Shannon Philip (Lent week 3)

In the first part of this lecture we will discuss the sociology of gender, including its history and contributions to mainstream sociology. We will consider what is 'sociological' about gender, and how gender is understood as a social structure. In the second part of this lecture we will consider how the sociology of gender has centred 'intersectionality' over time in relation to critiques of the category 'woman' from both Black feminist thought and queer theory.

Reading:

Ahmed, Sara. 2017. *Living a Feminist Life*. Durham: Duke University Press. Ch 1.

*Butler, Judith. 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. London; New York: Routledge. Chapters 1 and 2.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 1991. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*. London: Routledge. Chapter 1.

Connell, R.W. 2002. *Gender*. Cambridge: Polity. Esp. chapters 4, 5, 7.

Crenshaw, K. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color". *Stanford law review*, 1241-1299.

Davis, Angela. 2011. *Women, Race, and Class*. London: Vintage.

*Hill Collins, Patricia. 2019. *Intersectionality as Critical Social Theory*. Durham: Duke University Press – Introduction, Chapter 1 and 5.

hooks, bell. 1984. *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

McRobbie, Angela. "Notes on the perfect: Competitive femininity in neoliberal times." *Australian feminist studies* 30, no. 83 (2015): 3-20.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpad, J. Russo and L. Torres. Eds. 1991. *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Strathern, Marilyn 2016. *Before and after Gender: Sexual Mythologies of Everyday Life*. Edited with an Introduction by Sarah Franklin; Afterword by Judith Butler. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Essays:

1. Why does Judith Butler argue that gender binarism is a prescriptive social norm?
2. How has Black feminist thought challenged the category 'woman'?

Topic 12 – The Sociology of Sexuality

Shannon Philip (Lent week 4)

In the first part of this lecture we look at the ways in which sexuality is deeply connected to the idea of the gender binary and its production of heterosexuality and homosexuality. In the second part of this lecture we will critically and intersectionally examine the role of sexuality in structuring society, social norms as well as bodies and identities in a global context.

Readings:

Alabanza, Travis. 2022. *None of the above : Reflections on Life beyond the Binary*. London: Canongate Books.

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 2019. *On Intersectionality : Essential Writings*. London: The New Press.

Davis, Angela. 2011. *Women, Race, and Class*. London: Vintage.

Gamson, Joshua, and Dawne Moon. "The sociology of sexualities: Queer and beyond." *Annual Review. Sociology*. 30, no. 1 (2004): 47-64.

Grewal, Inderpal, and Caren Kaplan. "Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 7, no. 4 (2001): 663-679. muse.jhu.edu/article/12186.

Halberstam, Judith Jack. 2005. *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives*. New York: New York University Press.

hooks, Bell. 2015. *Ain't I a Woman : Black Women and Feminism*. London: Routledge.

Jackson, Stevi and S. Scott.(eds). 1996. *Feminism and Sexuality*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. Esp. chapters 1.1, 1.6, 2.3, 2.7, 3.2, 3.4, 4.2

Lorde, Audre. 1984. 'Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference', in *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press.

*McClintock, Anne. *Imperial leather: Race, gender, and sexuality in the colonial contest*. Routledge, 2013. Introduction and Chapter 3 in Part 1

Oakley, Ann. *Sex, Gender and Society*. London: Routledge 2016.

*Plummer, Ken. "Critical sexualities studies." *The Wiley-Blackwell companion to sociology* (2012): 243-268.

Stein, Arlene, and Ken Plummer. "" I can't even think straight"" queer" theory and the missing sexual revolution in sociology." *Sociological theory* 12, no. 2 (1994): 178-187.

Stoler, Ann L. "Making empire respectable: the politics of race and sexual morality in 20th-century colonial cultures." *American ethnologist* 16, no. 4 (1989): 634-660.

Essays:

1. Critically discuss the relationship between heterosexuality and homosexuality.
2. How is sexuality connected to colonialism and racism?

Topic 13 – Class and Inequality

Matthew Sparkes (Lent week 5)

This lecture will explore the multifaceted nature of class in the 21st century, delving into its material, symbolic, cultural, and moral dimensions. We will begin by establishing a theoretical foundation for understanding cultural aspects of class and how these extend and/or challenge economic based models. Following this, we will analyse a series of case studies that illustrate how class manifests and influences various aspects of contemporary life, including education, the economy, media, and taste. Through these examples, we will consider the enduring and evolving impacts of class in today's world.

Essential reading:

- *Bourdieu P (1987) What Makes a Social Class? On The Theoretical and Practical Existence of Groups. *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 32: 1–17.
- *Lamont M, & Molnár V (2002) The study of boundaries in the social sciences. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 28: 167-195.
- *Savage M (2015) *Social Class in the 21st Century*. London: Pelican.
- *Tyler I (2015) Classificatory struggles: Class, culture and inequality in neoliberal times. *The Sociological Review* 63(2): 493–511. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-954X.12296>

Supplementary reading:

Class, culture and morals

Friedman S and Laurison D (2019) *The Class Ceiling: Why It Pays to Be Privileged*. Bristol: Policy Press.

King A and Smith D (2018) The Jack Wills crowd: Towards a sociology of an elite subculture. *The British Journal of Sociology* 69(1): 44–66. DOI: [10.1111/1468-4446.12254](https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.12254).

Moor L and Friedman S (2021) Justifying inherited wealth: Between ‘the bank of mum and dad’ and the meritocratic ideal. *Economy and Society* 50(4): <https://doi.org/10.1080/03085147.2021.1932353>

Savage M, Devine F, Cunningham N, et al. (2013) A New Model of Social Class? Findings from the BBC’s Great British Class Survey Experiment. *Sociology* 47(2): 219–250. DOI: [10.1177/0038038513481128](https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038513481128).

Shildrick T and MacDonald R (2013) Poverty Talk: How People Experiencing Poverty Deny Their Poverty and Why They Blame 'The Poor'. *The Sociological Review* 61(2): 285–303. DOI: [10.1111/1467-954X.12018](https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-954X.12018).

Sparkes M (2019) Borrowed identities: Class(ification), inequality, and the role of credit-debt in class making and struggle. *The Sociological Review*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0038026119831563>

Theoretical debates: on the continued relevance of Marx and Weber

Desan M H (2022). Does Bourdieu "Extend" Marx's Concept of Capital? In *Bourdieu and Marx: Practices of Critique* (pp. 199-215). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Soederberg S (2013) The US debtfare state and the credit card industry: Forging spaces of dispossession. *Antipode* 45(2): 493–512. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8330.2012.01004.x>

Wright E O (2002). The shadow of exploitation in Weber's class analysis. *American Sociological Review*, 67(6): 832-853.

Class, race and gender

Lamont M (2000) *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation.

Meghji A (2019) *Black Middle Class Britannia*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

Meghji A (2019) Encoding and Decoding Black and White Cultural Capitals: Black Middle-Class Experiences. *Cultural Sociology* 13(1): 3–19. DOI: [10.1177/1749975517741999](https://doi.org/10.1177/1749975517741999).

Skeggs B (2005) The Making of Class and Gender through Visualizing Moral Subject Formation. *Sociology* 39(5): 965–982. DOI: [10.1177/0038038505058381](https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038505058381).

Tyler I and Bennett B (2010) 'Celebrity chav': Fame, femininity and social class. *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 13(3): 375–393. DOI: [10.1177/1367549410363203](https://doi.org/10.1177/1367549410363203).

Class, housing and place

Adkins L, Cooper M, & Konings M (2019) Class in the 21st century: Asset inflation and the new logic of inequality. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space* 53(3): 548–572. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X19873673>

Reay D (2007) 'Unruly Places': Inner-city Comprehensives, Middle-class Imaginaries and Working-class Children. *Urban Studies* 44(7): 1191–1201. DOI: [10.1080/00420980701302965](https://doi.org/10.1080/00420980701302965).

Shildrick T (2018) Lessons from Grenfell: Poverty propaganda, stigma and class power. *The Sociological Review* 66(4): 783–798. DOI: [10.1177/0038026118777424](https://doi.org/10.1177/0038026118777424).

Essays:

1. To what extent do cultural and moral boundaries influence the formation and perception of social class?
2. To what extent is class 'cultural'?
3. What makes a social class?

Topic 14 – Race, Ethnicity and Racism

Isabelle Higgins (Lent, week 6)

This topic will look at what it means to say that racism is 'structural'. After providing a grounding in critical race theory, we will consider a range of case studies in the US and UK context, looking to empirical sociological research that engages with the structural nature of racism in sites of social life as diverse as the media, politics, the workings of government (including policing and healthcare), the design and use of digital technologies, the internal functioning of academy and everyday life. The lecture will end by asking what other theories of 'race' and racism might aid us in our understanding of how racial categorization and racism shape social life.

Core readings:

*Bonilla-Silva E (1997) Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation. *American*

Sociological Review 62(3): 465–480. DOI: [10.2307/2657316](https://doi.org/10.2307/2657316).

*Bonilla-Silva E (2015) More than Prejudice: Restatement, Reflections, and New Directions in Critical Race Theory. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 1(1): 73–87. DOI: [10.1177/2332649214557042](https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649214557042).

* Meghji A (2021) Just what is critical race theory, and what is it doing in British sociology? From "BritCrit" to the racialized social system approach. *The British Journal of Sociology* 72(2): 347–359. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.12801>.

*Ray, V. (2022). *On critical race theory : why it matters and why you should care*. Random House [Introduction and Chapters' 1, 2 &3]

Additional readings:

Benjamin, R. (2019). *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code*. Polity Press

Bhambra GK (2017) Brexit, Trump, and 'methodological whiteness': on the misrecognition of race and class. *The British Journal of Sociology* 68(1): 214–232. DOI: [10.1111/1468-4446.12317](https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.12317).

Bonilla-Silva E (2017) *Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America*. 5th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

- Bonilla-Silva, E. (2019). Feeling Race: Theorizing the Racial Economy of Emotions. *American Sociological Review*, 84(1), 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122418816958>
- Christian, Michelle. 2019. 'A Global Critical Race and Racism Framework: Racial Entanglements and Deep and Malleable Whiteness'. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 5 (2): 169–85. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649218783220>.
- Collins, Patricia Hill 2019. *Intersectionality as Critical Social Theory*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Crenshaw, K. et al. (eds) (1995) *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings that Formed then Movement*. The New Press.
- Crenshaw KW (1988) Race, Reform, and Retrenchment: Transformation and Legitimation in Antidiscrimination Law. *Harvard Law Review* 101(7): 1331–1387.
- Delgado, R., & Stefancic, J. (2001). *Critical race theory: An introduction*. New York University Press.
- Emejulu A and Bassel L (2015) Minority women, austerity and activism. *Race & Class* 57(2): 86–95. DOI: [10.1177/0306396815595913](https://doi.org/10.1177/0306396815595913).
- Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 2015. 'Settler Colonialism as Structure: A Framework for Comparative Studies of U.S. Race and Gender Formation'. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 1 (1): 52–72. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649214560440>.
- Hall, Stuart and Mercer, Kobena. *The Fateful Triangle: Race, Ethnicity, Nation*, Cambridge, MA and London, England: Harvard University Press, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.4159/9780674982260> [Chapter 1: Race, the sliding signifier]
- Harris, C. I. (1993). Whiteness as Property. *Harvard Law Review*, 106(8), 1707–1791
- Higgins, I., (2023). Classified children: A critical analysis of the digital interfaces and representations that mediate adoption in the United States. *New Media & Society*.
- Meghji, A. (2022) *The Racialized Social System: Critical Race Theory as Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Meghji A and Niang SM (2021) Between Post-Racial Ideology and Provincial Universalisms: Critical Race Theory, Decolonial Thought and COVID-19 in Britain. *Sociology*. SAGE Publications Ltd: 00380385211011575. DOI: [10.1177/00380385211011575](https://doi.org/10.1177/00380385211011575).
- Mills CW (1997) *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Nayak, A. (2007). Critical whiteness studies. *Sociology Compass*, 1(2), 737-755.
- Noble, S. U. (2018). Searching for Black Girls. In *Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism* (pp. 64–109). NYU Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt1pwt9w5.6>
- Ray,
- Victor E. n.d. 'Reproducing Inequality in Sociology'. *Sociological Forum* 0 (0). Accessed 20 February 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.12488>.
- Roberts, D. (2012). *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century*. The New Press.

Essays:

1. What does it mean to say that racism is 'structural'?
2. Discuss two processes through which racism is reproduced.
3. Can we have a 'racism without racists'?
4. What does critical race theory bring to the study of 'race' and racism?

Topic 15 – Global and transnational inequalities

Zeina Al Azmeh (Lent, week 7)

This topic will draw on postcolonial theory to examine the enduring social, cultural, economic, and political legacies of colonialism. We will explore how colonial histories and their entanglement with ideas of modernity perpetuate global inequalities and social disparities within postcolonial societies. For example, we will discuss connections drawn between past colonial strategies and present-day state violence; scrutinise the impact of colonialism on the environment and indigenous communities; and examine sociological perspectives on pluralistic and inclusive knowledge systems that recognise and incorporate the perspectives of marginalised cultures and communities. Contemporary global crises, including economic inequality and environmental degradation, will be examined, proposing critical frameworks for understanding and addressing these entangled issues. The goal of this lecture is to equip students with a multidimensional understanding of global inequalities, encouraging them to critically engage with both traditional sociological frameworks and decolonial approaches in understanding the complexity of global disparities and the drive for transformative change.

Reading:

*Bhabra G (2007) *Rethinking Modernity: Postcolonialism and the Sociological Imagination*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

*Du Bois WEB (1954) The status of colonialism. Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries. Available at: <https://credo.library.umass.edu/view/full/mums312-b204-i042> (accessed 11 July 2019).

*Said E (2012) *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Vintage, pp. 1-56.

*Go J (2020) The Imperial Origins of American Policing: Militarization and Imperial Feedback in the Early 20th Century. *American Journal of Sociology* 125(5): 1193–1254. DOI: [10.1086/708464](https://doi.org/10.1086/708464).

Bhabra GK and Holmwood J (2018) Colonialism, Postcolonialism and the Liberal Welfare State. *New Political Economy* 23(5): 574–587. DOI: [10.1080/13563467.2017.1417369](https://doi.org/10.1080/13563467.2017.1417369).

Connell R (2015) Meeting at the edge of fear: Theory on a world scale. *Feminist Theory*

16(1): 49–66. DOI: [10.1177/1464700114562531](https://doi.org/10.1177/1464700114562531).

Desai M (2020) *The United States of India: Anticolonial Literature and Transnational Refraction*. Temple University Press.

Getachew A (2019) *Worldmaking after Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination*. Princeton University Press.

Grosfoguel R (2011) Decolonizing Post-Colonial Studies and Paradigms of Political-Economy: Transmodernity, Decolonial Thinking, and Global Coloniality. *TRANSMODERNITY: Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World* 1(1). Available at: <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/21k6t3fq> (accessed 22 May 2019).

Grosfoguel R (2017) Decolonizing Western Universalisms: Decolonial Pluri-versalism from Aime Cesaire to the Zapatistas. In: Paraskeva JM (ed.) *Towards a Just Curriculum Theory: The Epistemicide*. New York, NY: Routledge, pp. 147–164.

Lugones M (2007) Heterosexualism and the Colonial / Modern Gender System. *Hypatia* 22(1): 186–209.

Maldonado-Torres N (2007) On the Coloniality of Being. *Cultural Studies* 21(2–3): 240–270. DOI: [10.1080/09502380601162548](https://doi.org/10.1080/09502380601162548).

*Meghji, A., 2023. A critical synergy: race, decoloniality, and world crises. Temple University Press, Philadelphia, PA.

Mignolo W (2002) The Geopolitics of Knowledge and the Colonial Difference. *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 101(1): 57–96.

Mignolo W (2011) Epistemic Disobedience and the Decolonial Option: A Manifesto. *TRANSMODERNITY: Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World* 1(2): 44–66.

Quijano A (2007) Coloniality and Modernity/Rationality. *Cultural Studies* 21(2–3): 168–178. DOI: [10.1080/09502380601164353](https://doi.org/10.1080/09502380601164353).

Whyte K (2020) Too late for indigenous climate justice: Ecological and relational tipping points. *WIREs Climate Change* 11(1): e603. DOI: [10.1002/wcc.603](https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.603).

Wynter S (2003) Unsettling the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its Overrepresentation—An Argument. *CR: The New Centennial Review* 3(3): 257–337.

Essays:

1. How does postcolonial theory challenge traditional sociological understandings of modernity and its impacts on contemporary global inequalities?
2. In what ways do historical colonial strategies continue to shape present-day state practices and social structures?
3. How can the integration of decolonial perspectives enhance our understanding of current global crises, such as economic inequality and environmental degradation?

Topic 16 – Late, liquid or post-modernity

Patrick Baert (Lent week 8)

Whereas the sociological classics were mainly discussing the transition from a pre-industrial to a complex, industrial society, more contemporary authors have focused on the distinct features of society in the 20th Century and early 21st Centuries. Some authors talk about a second phase of modernity, or late and high modernity; others coin new terms such as postmodernity, McDonaldization, consumer capitalism and the society of singularities or 'social acceleration'.

Reading:

Adorno, Theodor, and Max Horkheimer (2002) [1945] *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 94-136. (only the chapter 'The Culture industry: Enlightenment as Deception')

*Baudrillard, Jean. 1994 [1981] *Simulacra and Simulation*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan.

Bauman, Zygmunt. 1987. *Postmodernity and its Discontents*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Bauman, Zygmunt. 2000. *Liquid Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Giddens, Anthony. 1991. *The Consequences of Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Beck, Ulrich. 1992 [1986]. *Risk Society*. London: Sage.

*Reckwitz, Andreas. 2020. *Society of Singularities*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

*Rosa, Hartmut. 2015. *Social Acceleration; A New Theory of Modernity*. New York: Columbia University Press.

*Reckwitz, Andreas, and Hartmut Rosa. 2023. *Modernity in Crisis*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

*Ritzer, George. 2014. *The McDonaldization of Society*. London: Sage.

Essays:

1. What are the psychological effects of living in world of 'accelerating change'?
2. To what extent has society more recently embraced singularity?

Part V. Revision Sessions (Easter Term 2024)

Revision 1: Theories of modernity and class

Patrick Baert (first hour) and Mathew Sparkes (second hour) (Easter week 1)

Revision 2: Power and society

Ned Crowley (first hour) and Shannon Phillip (second hour) (Easter week 2)

Revision 3: Gender, race, ethnicity

Isabelle Higgins (first hour) and Zeina Al Azmeh (second hour) (Easter week 3)

Further information:

a) How this course relates to others

This paper provides students with grounding in some of the classic texts of social thought, with an introduction to some of the key concepts in sociology today and with an understanding of some of the core institutions of modern societies. The paper provides the foundations for more advanced coursework in sociology at the IIA and IIB levels.

b) Student Feedback

Your chance to put forward your opinions on the papers you take!

For Sociology Papers, student feedback is collected via anonymous online surveys distributed at various points in the academic year. It is crucial that you complete these and give feedback on your papers. Getting good feedback from students makes the course better and shows the outside world how Cambridge degrees consider their students' views.

Course organisers take students' concerns and suggestions into consideration each year when preparing their paper outlines and selecting supervisors for the year. So please remember to fill out a form.