

HSPS Tripos – Part 1, Soc1

Introduction to Sociology: Modern Societies I

(2019-20)

Paper Coordinator

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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 two parts. In the Michaelmas term students are thoroughly acquainted with core sociological concepts and concerns (e.g. class, bureaucracy, social solidarity, social change). We do this through a critical engagement with the ideas of four central figures in the history of modern sociological thought: Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and W.E.B. Du Bois. Towards the end of Michaelmas and throughout Lent, we build on the foundations laid by the classical theorists and develop a systematic analysis of key institutions and aspects of modern societies including the following: the modern state and the rise of nationalism; citizenship and the welfare state; the media and public life; class and inequality; gender and sexual divisions; race and ethnicity. We conclude with a broader reflection on the changing nature of modern societies in our contemporary global age.

Mode of Teaching

The paper is taught through 18 two-hour lectures 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 2019)

Prof Patrick Baert

Introductory lecture

(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.

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

(Michaelmas weeks 1-2)

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).

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.

MacKinnon, Catharine A. 1982. "Feminism, Marxism, Method, and the State: An Agenda for Theory." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 7, no. 3 (April 1, 1982): 515-44. doi:10.1086/493898.

* Marx, K. 1977. 'Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts', 'German Ideology', 'Communist Manifesto' and 'Grundrisse' in *Karl Marx; Selected Writings*, ed. D. McLellan. Oxford: OUP, pp. 75-112, 159-191, 221-247, 345-387.

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

(Michaelmas weeks 3-4)

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).

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. "Decolonizing Weber." *Postcolonial Studies* 9, no. 1 (2006): 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

(Michaelmas week 5)

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)

*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>)

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

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

Lehmann, Jennifer M. "The Question of Caste in Modern Society: Durkheim's Contradictory Theories of Race, Class, and Sex." *American Sociological Review* 60, no. 4 (1995): 566–85.

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

(Michaelmas week 6)

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.

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.

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?

Part II: The Study of Modern Societies (Michaelmas 2019 - Lent 2020)

SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Dr Manali Desai

Topic 1 – Class and Inequality

(Michaelmas week 7)

- a. In this part of the lecture we will discuss various theories of class, examining how neo-Marxists and neo-Weberians have thought about class, and Bourdieu's variation on the theme.
- b. In this part of the lecture we will discuss empirical studies of class, examining evidence on the persistence and evolution of social class in modern Britain.

Reading

a.

*Skeggs, Beverly. 2004. *Class, Self, Culture*. Routledge. Chps 2-3.

*Wright, Erik Olin. 2004. 'Social Class,' Encyclopedia of Social Theory (ed. George Ritzer), Sage.

*Savage, M., Devine, F., Cunningham, N., Taylor, M., Li, Y., Hjellbrekke, J. & Miles, A. 2013. "A new model of social class? Findings from the BBC's Great British Class Survey experiment". *Sociology*, 47(2), 219-250

*Anthias, F., 2013. "Hierarchies of Social location, Class and Intersectionality: Towards a translocational frame". *International Sociology*, 28(1), pp.121-138.

Bourdieu, P. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Esp 'Conclusion,' Pps. 466-484.

Crompton, R. 2008. *Class and Stratification*, 3rd ed., esp chps 2-4. Cambridge: Polity

Wright, E.O. 1997. *Class Counts: Comparative Studies in Class Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Esp. chp 1.

b.

*Friedman, S. and Laurison, D., 2019. *The Class Ceiling: Why It Pays To Be Privileged*. Policy Press. Chp 1.

* McKenzie, L. 2015. *Estates, Class and Culture in Austerity Britain*. Bristol: Policy Press. Esp. Introduction, esp. Chps 1 and 2.

*Reay, D., 2005. 'Beyond Consciousness? The Psychic Landscape of Social class.' *Sociology*, 39(5), pp.911-928.

* Fiona Devine. 1997. *Social Class in America and Britain*. Edinburgh University Press. esp. chps 5-7.

Polly Toynbee. 2003. *Hard Work: Life in Low-Pay Britain*. London: Bloomsbury.

Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission. 2014. *State of the Nation 2014: Social Mobility and Child Poverty in Great Britain*.

(http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/21126/1/State_of_the_Nation_Final.pdf).

Essays

- a. Do Savage et. al. make a convincing case for a new model of class? Why or why not?
- b. Discuss and provide evidence for two mechanisms that enable class in modern Britain to persist.

Topic 2 – Race, Ethnicity and Racism

(Michaelmas week 8)

a. The first part of this lecture will discuss the concepts of ‘race’ and ‘ethnicity’ and how they are linked to contemporary inequalities.

b. In the second part of this lecture we will discuss the history of racism in the UK and beyond, considering how ethnic divisions can become racialized and lead to discrimination and violence.

Reading

a.

* Back, L. and J. Solomos. 2000. *Theories of Race and Racism: A Reader*. London: Routledge. Esp chps 2, 11, 25, 27, 30.

* Song, M. (2018) ‘Why We Still Need to Talk About Race’, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 41(6), pp. 1131–1145.

* Nayak, A. 2007. ‘Critical Whiteness Studies’, *Sociology Compass*, 1 (2); 737–755.

Ahmed, S. 2007. ‘A Phenomenology of Whiteness’, *Feminist Theory*, 8(2), pp. 149–168.

Anthias, F. and Yuval-Davis, N. 1992. *Racialized Boundaries*. London: Routledge.

Fenton, S. 2003. *Ethnicity*. Cambridge: Polity.

* Jenkins, R. 1997. *Rethinking Ethnicity*. London: Sage. Esp chps 1, 5, 6.

Hall, S. 1996. ‘New ethnicities’, in Morley, D. and Chen, K.-H. (eds) *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies*. London: Routledge, pp. 442–451.

b.

* Bulmer, M. and Solomos, J. 1999. *Racism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Esp read sections: ‘Institutional Forms of Racism’ and ‘Racism in the Twentieth Century’.

* Bhabra, G. K. (2017) ‘Brexit, Trump, and “Methodological Whiteness”’: on the

- Misrecognition of Race and Class', *The British Journal of Sociology*, 68(1), pp. 214–232.
- Sivanandan, A. 1976. 'Race, class and the state: the black experience in Britain', *Race & Class*, 17(4), pp. 347–368
- Bassel, L. and Emejulu, A. 2017. *Minority Women and Austerity: Survival and Resistance in France and Britain*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- Telles, E.E., 2014. *Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil*. Princeton University Press.
- Bonillo Silva, Eduardo. 2007. *Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States*, 2nd ed.,. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Jodhka, S.S., 2017. *Caste in Contemporary India*. Routledge India.

Essays

- a. What are the similarities and differences (if any) between the concepts of race and ethnicity?
- b. Discuss two key social or cultural mechanisms by which racism persists in contemporary culture (you can choose a non-western country or a country other than the UK)?

Topic 3 – Nations and Nationalisms

(Lent week 1)

- a. This part of the lecture addresses the rise of the nation and nationalism in Europe and beyond.
- b. In this part of the lecture we will ask whether nationalism is on the decline in the face of globalization.

Reading

- a.
 - * Smith, Anthony. 1991. *The Ethnic Origins of Nations*. London: Wiley. Esp. chps 1, 2, 6, 7.
 - * Anderson, B. 1991. *Imagined Communities*. Esp chps 1 and 8. London: Verso.
 - Gellner, E. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
 - Billig, Michael. 1995. *Banal Nationalism*. London: Sage.
 - * Chatterjee, Partha. 1986. *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World*. London: Zed Books. Esp Chp 1.
 - * Anthias, F. and Yuval-Davis, N., 1989. *Woman-Nation-State*. Springer.
- b.
 - Featherstone, M. 1990. *Global Culture: Nationalism, Globalization and Modernity* (Vol. 2). Sage.
 - * Smith, A. 1995. *Nations and Nationalism in a Global Era*. Esp chps 1, 4 and 6. Cambridge:

Polity.

*Appadurai, A., 1990. "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy," *Theory, Culture & Society*, 7(2), pp.295-310.

Yuval-Davis, N., 2011. *The Politics of Belonging: Intersectional Contestations*. Sage. Esp chps 4-6.

Ohmae, K. 1994. *The Borderless World*. London: HarperCollins.

Essays

a. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Anthony Smith's theory of the ethnic origins of nations.

b. Discuss, using examples, how 'globalization' both erodes and strengthens nationalism.

Topic 4 – Gender, Sexuality, and Intersectionality

(Lent week 2)

a. In this part of the lecture we will discuss the category of 'gender'; how is it constructed, and why is it so powerful? How are gender and sexuality related?

b. What is 'intersectionality' in sociology and why is it important?

Reading

a.

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

hooks, bell. 1984. *Feminist theory: from margin to center*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

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

Connell, R.W. 1995. *Masculinities. Parts I and II. Four Studies of the Dynamics of Masculinity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Beauvoir, Simone de. 1949. *The Second Sex*. [Available in two English translations.]

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

Halberstam, Judith Jack. 1998. *Female Masculinity*. Durham, NC; London: Duke University Press.

---.2005. *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives*. New York: New York UP.

Hemmings, Clare. 2002. *Bisexual Spaces: A Geography of Gender and Sexuality*. New York: Routledge.

b.

* Collins, Patricia Hill. 1991. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the*

Politics of Empowerment. London: Routledge. Chp 1.

*Abu-Lughod, Lila. 'Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others.' *American Anthropologist* 104.3 (2002) 783-790.

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

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

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

Lorde, Audre. 1984. "Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference", in *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press. (other edition OK too).

McCall, Leslie. 'The Complexity of Intersectionality.' *Signs* 30.3 (Spring 2005): 1771-1800

Brah, Avtar. 1996. *Cartographies of Diaspora: Contesting Identities*. Oxon; New York: Routledge.

Minh-ha, Trinh T. 1989. *Woman, Native, Other: Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana UP.

McCann, Carole R. and Seung-Kyung Kim, eds. 2010. *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*. NY: Routledge. [2nd ed].

Essays

- a. Are gender and sexuality fundamentally intertwined, or should they be considered as entirely separate analytical frameworks?
- b. Discuss two ways in which the theory and method of intersectionality challenges white, western feminism (or feminist theory).

Topic 5 – The Global Politics of Inequality

(Lent week 3)

- a. This part of the lecture discusses the rise in global inequalities and considers some of the antecedents of these inequalities.
- b. This part of the lecture discusses the consequences of these inequalities with a focus on austerity and structural adjustment policies.

Reading

a.

*Therborn, Goran. 2013. *The Killing Fields of Inequality*. Cambridge: Polity. Chps 7 and 8.

*Dorling, Danny. 2014. *Inequality and the 1%*. London: Verso.

Mike Davis. 2007. *Planet of Slums*. London: Verso.

Held, David and Aysa Kaye. 2007. *Global Inequality: Patterns and Explanations*. Polity. Chps 2-3.

Anthony H Richmond. 1995. *Global Apartheid: Refugees, Racism and the New World Order*. Oxford University Press, Ontario.

Ferguson, James. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the New World Order*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

W. Easterly. 2007. *The White Man's Burden. Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. Penguin Books.

b.

Pickett, Kate and P. Wilkinson. 2009. *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone*. London: Penguin Books. Esp chps 1-3.

*Clark, Tom and Anthony Heath. 2014. *Hard Times*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chps 1-2.

Brah, Avtar et al. February 2015. 'Introduction', 'Feminism and the Politics of Austerity,' *Feminist Review*, Vol. 109, issue 1, pps. 1-7.

*Atkinson, W., Roberts, S. and Savage. M. 2013. *Class Inequality in Austerity Britain*. Palgrave Macmillan. Chps 2-3.

*Babb, S., 2005. The Social Consequences of Structural Adjustment: Recent Evidence and Current Debates. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 31, pp.199-222.

Sadasivam, B. 1997. The Impact of Structural Adjustment on Women: A Governance and Human Rights Agenda. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 19(3), pp.630-665.

Essays

- a. Why has global inequality grown steadily during the past two decades?
- b. Discuss two important consequences of recent austerity measures in the UK, or structural adjustment policies in the global South, using evidence to show these effects.

POWER & SOCIETY

Dr. Teije Hidde Donker

Topic 1 – Understanding Power

(Lent week 4)

- a) This part of the lecture introduces the concept of power by discussing different approaches to understanding power: structuralist, constructivist, and relational ones.
- b) The second part of the lecture discusses how these different views on power relate to issues of social inequality at the intersection of class, sexuality, gender and race.

Reading

a)

Schmidt, Brian C. “Competing Realist Conceptions of Power.” *Millennium* 33, no. 3 (June 1, 2005): 523–49.

* Mann, Michael. *The Sources of Social Power: Volume 1, A History of Power from the Beginning to AD 1760*. Cambridge University Press, 2012. [Chapter 1]

Poggi, Gianfranco. *Forms of Power*. John Wiley & Sons, 2016. [Introduction, Chapter 1, 2]

* Lukes, Steven. *Power: A Radical View, Second Edition*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. [Chapter 1]

* Castells, Manuel. *Communication Power*. OUP Oxford, 2013. [Chapter 1]

Grenfell, Michael James, ed. “Habitus.” In *Pierre Bourdieu: Key Concepts*, 48–64. Routledge, 2014.

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Practical Reason: On the Theory of Action*. Stanford University Press, 1998. [Esp. Chapter 1, 5]

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1993. *The Field of Cultural Production: Essays on Art and Literature*. Columbia University Press. [Esp. chapter 1].

* Foucault, Michel. “The Subject and Power.” In *Michel Foucault*, edited by H. Dreyfus and P. Rabinow, 208–26, 1982.

b)

Foucault, Michel. *The Foucault Reader*. Pantheon Books, 1984. [pp. 257-330]

MacKinnon, Catharine A. “Feminism, Marxism, Method, and the State: An Agenda for Theory.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 7, no. 3 (April 1, 1982): 515–44.

Essays

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of realist, materialist and post-structuralist approaches to power.
2. How can hegemonic power be challenged in Foucault’s theory of social control?

Topic 2 – Political Power: State & Revolution

(Lent week 5)

- a) In the first part we explore different approaches to social revolutions and discuss how these views relate to specific approaches to power and the state.
- b) In the second part of the lecture we explore different views on the causes and consequences of revolutions.

Reading

a)

Kimmel, Michael S. *Revolution, a Sociological Interpretation*. Temple University Press, 1990. [Chapter 1-3, 6]

* Goldstone, Jack A. *Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative, and Historical Studies*. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2003. [Introduction, Chapter 1-3]

* Skocpol, Theda. *Social Revolutions in the Modern World*. Cambridge University Press, 1994. [Chapter 4, 7, 8]

Foran, John. *Theorizing Revolutions*. Routledge, 2003. [Chapter 2, 5, 8]

* Sanderson, Stephen K. *Revolutions: A Worldwide Introduction to Political and Social Change*. Routledge, 2015. [Chapter 4-5]

b)

* Castells, Manuel. *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age*. John Wiley & Sons, 2013. [Chapter 1-2]

Kandil, Hazem. “Why Did the Egyptian Middle Class March to Tahrir Square?” *Mediterranean Politics* 17, no. 2 (July 1, 2012): 197–215.

Foran, John. *Theorizing Revolutions*. Routledge, 2003. [Chapter 6, 7]

Ayeb, Habib. 2011. “Social and Political Geography of the Tunisian Revolution: The Alfa Grass Revolution.” *Review of African Political Economy* 38 (129): 467–79.

Chomiak, Laryssa. 2011. “The Making of a Revolution in Tunisia.” *Middle East Law and Governance* 3 (1–2): 68–83.

Essays

1. What causes revolutions? Are they becoming less likely?
2. Is the use of violence necessary in revolutions?

Topic 3 – Military Power: War & Society

(Lent week 6)

- a) The first part of this lecture discusses the changing character of collective violence in society.

- b) In the second part of this lecture we explore debates on the emergence of “new wars” and the US led “war on terror”.

Reading

a)

* Clausewitz, Carl von. *On War*. Princeton University Press, 1989. [Book I, Chapter 1-3, 7; Book VIII, Chapter 2, 6]

Strachan, Hew, and Andreas Herberg-Rothe. *Clausewitz in the Twenty-First Century*. OUP Oxford, 2007. [Chapter 1]

* Kaldor, Mary. *New and Old Wars: Organised Violence in a Global Era*. John Wiley & Sons, 2013. [Introduction]

Hardt, Michael, and Antonio Negri. *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire*. Penguin, 2005. [Book I: War]

* Malešević, Siniša. *The Sociology of War and Violence*. Cambridge University Press, 2010. [Introduction, Chapter 1, 2, 10]

b)

Kaldor, Mary. *New and Old Wars: Organised Violence in a Global Era*. John Wiley & Sons, 2013. [Chapter 7]

Dudziak, Mary L. *War Time: An Idea, Its History, Its Consequences*. Oxford University Press, USA, 2012. [Chapter 4]

Enloe, Cynthia. *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. Univ of California Press, 2014. [Chapter 1, 4]

Shaw, Martin. *The New Western Way of War: Risk-Transfer War and Its Crisis in Iraq*. Polity, 2005. [Chapter 1, 3, 4].

Essays

1. Discuss if contemporary warfare can be considered “new”.
2. Discuss the “war on terror” and how it relates to the changing position of the state in society.

Topic 4 – Ideological Power: Neoliberalism

(Lent week 7)

- a) The first part of this lecture discusses different approaches to the concept of ideology and how these relate to realist and post-structuralist views of power.
- b) In the second part of this lecture we discuss the causes and consequences of the emergence and global dominance of neoliberal ideology.

Reading

a)

Mannheim, Karl. *Ideology and Utopia*. Routledge, 2013. [Chapter 1 and 2]

Arendt, Hannah. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Penguin UK, 2017. [Chapter 12, 13]

- * Freeden, Michael. *Ideologies and Political Theory: A Conceptual Approach*. Clarendon Press, 1996. [CH1, 2]
- * Thompson, John B. *Ideology and Modern Culture: Critical Social Theory in the Era of Mass Communication*. John Wiley & Sons, 2013. [Introduction, Chapter 1]
- Therborn, Goran. *The Ideology of Power and the Power of Ideology*. Verso, 1999. [Introduction, Chapter 1, 6]
- * Eagleton, Terry. *Ideology*. Routledge, 2014. [Chapter 1]

b)

- Harvey, David. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford University Press, 2007. [Introduction, Chapter 1, 4]
- Mann, Michael. *The Sources of Social Power: Globalizations, 1945-2011: Volume 4*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. [Chapter 6]
- Fukuyama, Francis. "The End of History?" *The National Interest*, no. 16 (1989): 3–18.
- Ong, Aihwa. *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*. Duke University Press, 2006. [Introduction, chapter 3]

Essays

1. If ideologies are only about ideas, how can they become a source of power?
2. Weber famously stated that the state has a monopoly on violence. Can we also say that the state has a monopoly on symbolic, ideological, violence?

Topic 5 – Combined Power: Empire & Resistance

(Lent week 8)

- a) In the first part of the final lecture we compare the notions of empire and globalization in relation to state, military and ideological power.
- b) In the second part we conclude the course by exploring possibilities for resistance to dominant powers in a world shaped by globalization & empire.

Reading

a)

- * Hardt, Michael, and Antonio Negri. *Empire*. Harvard University Press, 2001. [Chapter 1.1, 1.2, 4.3]
- Mann, Michael. *Incoherent Empire*. Verso, 2005. [Introduction, Chapter 1- 4].
- Hobsbawm, E. J. *On Empire: America, War, and Global Supremacy*. New Press, 2009. [Introduction, Chapter 4]
- Ong, Aihwa. *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*. Duke University Press, 2006. [Chapter 5]
- Ritzer, G. *The Wiley-Blackwell encyclopedia of globalization* (Blackwell encyclopedias in social sciences). Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. [Esp. topics on 'Cultural globalisation' (Vol. 1),

'Cultural Imperialism' (Vol. 1), 'Glocalization' (Vol. 2), 'Mass Media' (Vol. 3), 'World Culture' (Vol. 5)]

b)

Afary, Janet, and Kevin B. Anderson. 2010. Foucault and the Iranian Revolution: Gender and the Seductions of Islamism. University of Chicago Press. Esp. pp 184-223.

Bourdieu, Pierre. Political Interventions: Social Science And Political Action. Edited by Franck Poupeau. Translated by David Fernbach. London ; New York: Verso, 2008. [pp. 288-293]

Castells, Manuel. c: Social Movements in the Internet Age. John Wiley & Sons, 2013. [Esp. Chapter 1 (Introduction), 2 (Tunisia), 3 (Egypt)]

Mattoni, Alice. Media Practices and Protest Politics: How Precarious Workers Mobilise. Routledge, 2016.

Essays

1. Is Imperialism still possible today?
2. Do you agree that against neoliberal hegemony, resistance is futile?

Part III. Revision Sessions (Easter Term 2020)

Prof Patrick Baert, Dr Teije Hidde Donker and Dr Manali Desai

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) Supplementary Reading List

Alexander, J.C. and K.Thompson. 2011. *A Contemporary Introduction to Sociology; Culture and Society in Transition*. 2nd Edition. Boulder: Paradigm.

Bourdieu, P. 1993. *Sociology in Question*. London: Sage.

Giddens, A. and P. Sutton. 2017. *Sociology*. 8th Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Mills, C. W. 1959. *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press.

c) 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.