Sociology 155: Foundations in Social Theory
Fall, 2017

Before one can practice sociology, it’s necessary to get a sense of the foundations on which the discipline is constructed. This course is designed to provide this. It more specifically examines the development of sociological theory as the process of different researchers coming to terms with large social changes occurring during the development of industrial society. The course covers two semesters. In this semester, the focus is on understanding the nature of economic and political systems, and the relationship between these. The spring semester covers issues relating to culture, systems of meaning, and interaction.

Expectations

All in the class are expected to be prepared to discuss the central arguments, evidence, analysis, and conclusions of the assigned reading for that day. Class participation is important, and will comprise 15% of the grade. The course will include four short paper assignments (the first two each 10% of the final grade, the other two each 15%) and a final longer paper due at the end of the semester (35%). The shorter papers will be assigned in Weeks 2, 6, 9, and 12.

Texts: Five books have been ordered for this course:


Other readings will be posted on the moodle site or, where noted, on tripod or the web.

I will be holding official office hours on Tuesday after class, and am available by appointment. The best way to contact me is by email, mmckeever@haverford.edu.

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction to course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Sep 5, 7)</td>
<td>Readings for Thursday: Durkheim <em>Rules of Sociological Method</em> I, II (II), and V (I &amp; II)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>History and materialism</th>
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<td>(Sep 12, 14)</td>
<td>Polanyi <em>The Great Transformation</em>, chp3. Marx “Theses on Feuerbach”, selections from <em>German Ideology</em> (in Tucker)</td>
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### Week 3  
(Sep 19, 21)
- **Analysis of capitalist relations**
- Marx, selections from *Grundrisse* (in Tucker) pp. 221-44, 247-76.

### Week 4  
(Sep 26, 28)
- **Capital**

### Week 5  
(Oct 3, 5)
- **Consciousness.**

### Week 6  
(Oct 10, 12)
- **Politics and Class**
- Marx 18th *Brumaire*, pp. 15-135. Additional reading TBA

### Week 7  
(Oct 24, 26)
- **Development of Capitalism**
- Weber *The Protestant Ethic*, Author’s Introduction, chps I-V

### Week 8  
(Oct 31, Nov 2)
- **Economic Action and Differentiation in Society**
- Weber “Sociological Categories of Economic Action,” “Class, Status, Party”

### Week 9  
(Nov 7, 9)
- **Development of Markets**
- Polanyi *The Great Transformation* chps: 4-6, 10, 14-18

### Week 10  
(Nov 14, 16)
- **Power elite**
- Mills *The Power Elite* (chps 1, 12, 13) Domhoff *Who Rules* (chps 3, 4, 8)

### Week 11  
(Nov 21)
- **Modern Classes**
- Wright 1985 *Classes*: (chps. 1, 2) Dijas *The New Class*: (chp 3)

### Week 12  
(Nov 28, 30)
- **Development of Markets II**
- Durkheim. *Division of Labor*: Intro-chp3, chp7

### Week 13  
(Dec 5, 7)
- **Development of Markets III**
- Durkheim, *Division of Labor*: Book 2: Chp 2, 5 Book 3: chp 2, Conclusion

### Week 14  
(Dec 12, 14)
- **Weber. “Science as a vocation.”**