Sociology 151

FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN SOCIAL THEORY

Summer 2023, Session B: July 3-August 4

Professor Julia Adams
Julia.adams@yale.edu

Summer Office Hours: flexible: before or after class, or by appointment

***Class meets M/W/F, 9-11:15 am, on Zoom***

Hobbes; Locke; Montesquieu; Rousseau; Martineau and Tocqueville; Mill; Hegel; Marx; Weber and Du Bois; Durkheim. In this highly concentrated seminar and survey course, students explore the brilliant writings of classical Western theorists of social and political life in modernity, as they tackle problems and challenges that have informed present-day thinking and continue to preoccupy us today. Modern social life and sociological theory arose in tandem, in a fascinating conjunction that forms a core part of what this seminar examines.

*Foundations of Modern Social Theory* also focuses on the ways that these foundational political philosophers and early sociological theorists made sense of capitalism; individualism, consciousness and alienation; equality and difference, along multiple dimensions; family and citizenship; religion; power struggles, and the rise of national states and modern empires.

Building on this foundation, and in critical dialogue with it, students will also develop their own ideas and arguments. The course format combines orienting lectures and seminar-style class discussions and debates. We will also vary the format as needed to transcend 'Zoom fatigue'!

Students will write two structured essays on the readings, the first due July 14, and the second on the final day of class. Students will also work with the professor to lead one session of class discussion.

*Grading:*
Attendance and participation, 10%
Discussion leadership, 20%
Two Essays, 70%
...of the final grade.

***All readings will be available via the Yale Canvas course website***
SCHEDULE

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*
Selections (emphasis on chapters 6-8, 11-14, 17, 30)

July 5, Wednesday: Equality, Freedom, Property, and Dissent: Locke
John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*
Selections

July 7, Friday: The Division of Political Powers: Montesquieu
Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*
Part I, Book 1-3, pp. 3-30
Part II, Book 11, Chapters 1-6, pp. 154-166
Part III, Book 14, Chapter 1, pp. 231-234; Book 19, Chapter 27, pp. 325-333
Part IV, Book 20, Chapters 1-4, pp. 337-341

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Emile or on Education*, posted selections

and either:
Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

or
Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

July 12, Wednesday: States and Families: Martineau and de Tocqueville
Harriet Martineau, *Society in America*, posted selections
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, posted selections

July 14, Friday: Utility, Gender, and Liberty: Mill
Utilitarianism, Chapter 2, “What is utilitarianism?” pp. 6-27
Chapter 5, “Of the connection between Justice and Utility,” pp. 43-67

Liberty: Chapter 1, pp. 69-83, Chapter 4, pp. 143-162


***July 14, Essay #1 due***

July 17, Monday: Alienation and Subject-Object Relations: Hegel & Marx
pp. 228-240 in J. B. Baillie translation.
Karl Marx, “Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844,”

July 19, Wednesday: The Material and the Ideal: Marx
Karl Marx, “German Ideology,” in CW, vol. 5. Volume I, Chapter I.
Feuerbach, pp. 27-37; 59-62.

July 21, Friday: Capital: Marx
Karl Marx, Capital, Vol. 1, selections

Max Weber: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

July 26, Wednesday: (Social) Science as a Vocation: Weber and Du Bois
Max Weber. “Science as a Vocation”

July 28, Friday: Race, Religion, and Double Consciousness: Du Bois

July 31, Monday: Class and Power; Authority and Domination: Weber
Max Weber, Economy & Society (E&S)
Chapter 1: “Types of Social Action”; “Types of Action Orientation”;
“Legitimate Order”; “Types of Legitimate Order”; “Bases of Legitimacy”;
“Power and Domination”
Chapter 3, pp. 212-301

Max Weber, E & S, Chapter 9, pp. 926-940; Chapter 4, pp. 302-307
Max Weber, E & S, Chapter 10, pp. 941-55

August 2, Wednesday: Social Solidarity, Modernity, Anomic: Durkheim


August 4, Friday: The Sacred and the Profane: Durkheim
Emile Durkheim, The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life, selections.

***August 4, Friday: Essay #2 Due***