

## Sociology 151

# FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN SOCIAL THEORY

Summer 2024, Session A: May 27-June 28

Professor Julia Adams  
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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 June 7, and the second on the final day of class. Students will also work with the professor and TFs to co-lead one session of class discussion.

***Grading:***

Participation, 10%

Discussion leadership, 20%

Two Essays, 70% (35% each)

...of the final grade.

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

## SCHEDULE

### **May 27, Monday: The Problem of Social Order: Hobbes**

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Selections (emphasis on chapters 6-8, 11-14, 17, 30)

### **May 29, Wednesday: Equality, Freedom, Property, and Dissent: Locke**

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*

Selections

### **May 31, 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

### **June 3, Monday: The State of Nature, Education, and Contract: Rousseau**

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*

### **June 5, Wednesday: States and Families: Martineau and de Tocqueville**

Harriet Martineau, *Society in America*, posted selections

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, posted selections

### **June 7, Friday: Utility, Gender, and Liberty: Mill**

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism, On Liberty*. London: Everyman, 1993.

Utilitarianism, Chapter 2, "What is utilitarianism?" pp. 6-27

Chapter 5, "Of the connection between Justice and Utility," pp. 43-67

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism, On Liberty*,

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

John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, complete.

**\*\*\*June 7, Essay #1 due\*\*\***

### **June 10, Monday: Alienation and Subject-Object Relations: Hegel & Marx**

Georg Hegel. *Phenomenology of Mind*, Part B. IV, A, "Lordship and Bondage," pp. 228-240 in J. B. Baillie translation.

Karl Marx, "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844,"  
In *Collected Works*, vol. 3, pp. 231-282.

**June 12, Wednesday: The Material and the Ideal: Marx**

Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach," in *CW*, vol. 5, pp. 6-8.  
Karl Marx, "German Ideology," in *CW*, vol. 5. Volume I, Chapter I.  
Feuerbach, pp. 27-37; 59-62.

**June 14, Friday: Capital: Marx**

Karl Marx, *Capital*, Vol. 1, selections

**June 17, Monday: Religion and the Rise of Capitalism: Weber**

Max Weber: *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

**June 19, Wednesday: (Social) Science as a Vocation: Weber and Du Bois**

Max Weber. "*Science as a Vocation*"  
W. E. B. Du Bois. "*A Program for a Sociological Society*"

**June 21, Friday: Race, Religion, and Double Consciousness: Du Bois**

W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Modern Library, selections

**June 24, 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

**June 26, Wednesday: Social Solidarity, Modernity, Anomie: Durkheim**

Emile Durkheim. *The Division of Labor*. New York, The Free Press,  
selections.

**June 28, Friday: The Sacred and the Profane: Durkheim**

Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, selections.

**\*\*\*June 28, Friday: Essay #2 Due\*\*\***