

HSPS Tripos – Part 1, Soc 1

Introduction to Sociology: Modern Societies I

(2016-17)

Course Coordinator	Lecturers	Supervisions 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 and Emile Durkheim
- 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 three central figures in the history of modern sociological thought: Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim. 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 eight supervisions in total for this paper (including revision supervisions), covering six of the topics in this paper guide. Students will be expected to produce a **minimum of 4 essays** instead of being required to write 6 essays. While still holding the stipulated 6 supervisions, individual supervisors can decide to use some supervision sessions to read and discuss an article, ask students to present on a topic, or find other ways to address the topic in ways that are stimulating and provide a learning experience for students.

A list of qualified supervisors is provided by the supervisions coordinator.

Part I: THEORIES OF MODERNITY (Michaelmas 2016)

Prof Patrick Baert

Topic 1 – Karl Marx

These lectures introduce Marx's views about the transition to modern capitalism. We focus on four texts, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, German Ideology, Communist Manifesto and Grundrisse. Specific emphasis is given to two fundamental aspects of Marx's project: first, his observations regarding what is distinctive and problematic about modern society; and second, his materialist understanding of historical change.

Lecture 1

a. Historical context

The first part of this lecture 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. *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts and German Ideology*

The second part of this lecture explores these two texts, which both demonstrate the influence of Feuerbach on the young Marx and the extent to which he distances himself from Hegel. Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts includes a famous section on alienation, and German Ideology presents a basic outline of a materialist conception of history.

Lecture 2

a. *Communist Manifesto and Grundrisse*

The first part of this lecture considers these two texts, which are both remarkably wide-ranging in scope. Communist Manifesto is a polemical defense of historical materialism and argues that

the collapse of capitalism is inevitable. Grundrisse is generally viewed as a transition piece, linking his earlier philosophical concerns with the more empirical emphases found in Capital.

b. Marx and Marxism: the legacy and its critics

The second 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).

Avineri, S. 1968. The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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

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

Eagleton, T. 2011. Why Marx was Right. New Haven: Yale University Press.

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

* 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.

Rockmore, T. 2002. Marx After Marxism; The Philosophy of Karl Marx. Oxford: Blackwell.

Essays

1. Do you agree that Marx is a critic of capitalism but not of industrialisation?
2. For Marx, what are the evils of capitalism, and how are they to be resolved in the future?

Topic 2 – Max Weber

These lectures introduce Weber's views about the transition to rational capitalism. The lectures focus on two texts, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism and 'Bureaucracy'. 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.

Lecture 3

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, Nietzsche's influence, and Weber's position vis-a-vis the 'Methodenstreit'.

b. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

The second part of this lecture introduces Weber's classic study of the relationship between Protestantism and rational capitalism. It explores Weber's use of Verstehen and the role of unintended effects of purposive action.

Lecture 4

a. Bureaucracy

This lecture explores Weber's text on 'bureaucracy'. Emphasis is given to the following two themes: Weber's notion of rationalisation and the concept of ideal types.

b. Weberian sociology and its critics

The second part of this lecture gives some indication of Weber's influence on otherwise very different authors (for example, Adorno and Bauman). It also 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)

Giddens, A. 1976. "Introduction", in Weber, M. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: George Allen and Unwin, pp. 1-12. (eBook: http://hooke.lib.cam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/bib_seek.cgi?cat=depfacoz&bib=394325)

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).

* Weber, M. 1976[1904]. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: George Allen and Unwin. (eBook: http://hooke.lib.cam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/bib_seek.cgi?cat=depfacoz&bib=394325)

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

Essays

1. According to Weber, what is the role of the Predestination doctrine in the development of early capitalism? Do you agree?
2. According to Weber, what makes bureaucracies efficient? Do you agree?

Topic 3 – Emile Durkheim

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.

Lecture 5

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

The second part of this lecture introduces Durkheim's Division of Labour in two parts. First, it discusses Durkheim's use of evolutionary theory to account for societal change. Second, it discusses Durkheim's diagnosis of the problems of modern society, in particular the notion of anomie.

Lecture 6

a. Suicide and other works

The first part of this lecture explains how some of the themes in Division of Labour are taken up in later works, including Rules of Sociological Method, Suicide and Elementary Forms of Religious Life.

b. 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 including Claude Levi-Strauss, Pierre Bourdieu, Randall Collins and Jeffrey Alexander. 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://hooke.lib.cam.ac.uk/cgi-bin/bib_seek.cgi?cat=depfacoz&bib=408815)

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

LaCapra, D. 1972. *Emile Durkheim; Sociologist and Philosopher*. London: Cornell University 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 problematic?
2. Critically assess Durkheim's use of evidence to support his theory about the causes of suicide.

Part II: The Study of Modern Societies (Michaelmas 2016 - Lent 2017)

SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Dr Manali Desai

Topic 1 – Class and Inequality

Lectures 1-2

a. In this part of the lecture we will discuss the concept of class and its relationship to inequality in modern societies.

b. In this part of the lecture we will discuss whether class is becoming less significant as a basis of inequality and political allegiance in our societies today.

Reading

a.

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

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

Wright, E.O. 1985. *Classes*. London: Verso.

*Goldthorpe, Jon. 1996. 'Class Analysis and the Reorientation of Class Theory: The Case of Persisting Differentials in Educational Attainment,' *British Journal of Sociology*, vol. 47, no. 3, pps. 481-505.

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

b.

Pakulski, J. and Waters, M. 1996. *The Death of Class*. London: Sage.

* Pakulski, J. and Waters, M. 1996. 'The Reshaping and Dissolution of Social Class in Advanced Societies,' *Theory and Society*, vol. 25, no. 5, pps: 667-691.

Bradley, H. et al. 2000. 'The Myth of the Death of Class,' in *Myths at Work*. Cambridge: Polity.

Evans, G. 1999. *The End of Class Politics? Class Voting in Comparative Context*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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

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

Essays

- a. Does the analysis of cultural taste add anything to our understanding of class inequalities?
- b. How convincing is Pakulski and Waters' theory of the declining significance of class?

Topic 2 – Race, Ethnicity and Racism

Lectures 3-4

- 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.
- 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.

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'.
- Alexander, C. 2005. 'Embodying Violence: 'Riots', dis/order and the private lives of 'the Asian gang', Alexander, C. and C. Knowles (eds) *Making Race Matter*. London: Palgrave.
- Back, L. 2002. 'Aryans reading Adorno: Cyber-culture and twenty-first century racism', *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol.25, No.4 p. 628-651.
- * Gilroy, P. 1987. *There Ain't No Black In the Union Jack: The Cultural Politics of Race and Nation*. London: Hutchinson. Esp chps 1 and 2.
- Gilroy, P. 2000. *Against Race: Imagining Political Culture Beyond the Color Line*. Belknap: Harvard University Press. Esp chp 1.

Essays

- a. What are the similarities and differences (if any) between the concepts of race and ethnicity?
- b. Why and how does racism persist in contemporary culture?

Topic 3 – Nations and Nationalisms

Lectures 5-6

- 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.
- Greenfield, L. 2005. *Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Chatterjee, Partha. 1986. *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World*. London: Zed Books. Esp Chp 1.

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.
- See also Smith, A. 1999. *Myths and Memories of the Nation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- * Held, David. 2003. *Global Transformations*, 2nd ed. Polity. Esp Parts I and III.

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

Lectures 7-8

- 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.
- * Butler, J. 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. London: Routledge. Chp 1.
- Walby, S. 1990. *Theorizing Patriarchy*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Evans, Mary. 2003. *Gender and Social Theory*. Buckingham: Open University 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.

b.

- * Collins, Patricia Hill. 1991. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*. London: Routledge. Chp 1.
- Mohanty, Chandra Talpad, J. Russo and L. Torres. Eds. 1991. *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Crenshaw, K. 1991. Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color. *Stanford law review*, 1241-1299.
- * Brah, A., & Phoenix, A. 2013. ‘Ain’t I A Woman? Revisiting Intersectionality’. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 5(3), 75-86.
- * Shields, S. A. 2008. ‘Gender: An Intersectionality Perspective,’ *Sex Roles*, 59(5), 301-311.

Essays

- a. If gender is socially constructed why is it so pervasive and powerful?
- b. Does intersectionality dilute or strengthen our understanding of gender?

Topic 5 – The Welfare State and Inequality

Lectures 9-10

- a. This part of the lecture discusses the rise of the welfare state in Europe and the US and its recent crisis.
- b. This part of the lecture discusses the causes of global inequality and considers debates over the nature and consequences of these inequalities.

Reading

a.

- * Esping-Andersen, G. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Cambridge: Polity. Esp. chp 1.
- * Sainsbury, D. (ed.) 1999. *Gender and Welfare State Regimes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Esp chps 1 and 3.
- * Esping-Andersen, G. (ed.) 1996. *Welfare States in Transition*. London: Sage. Esp chp 1
- Pierson, P. 2006. *Beyond the Welfare State?* 3rd ed. Cambridge: Polity. Esp chps 5-7
- Pierson, P. 1994. *Dismantling the Welfare State?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

b.

- Pickett, Kate and P. Wilkinson. 2009. *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone*. London: Penguin Books. Esp chps 1-3.
- Therborn, Goran. 2013. *The Killing Fields of Inequality*. Cambridge: Polity. Chapters 7 and 8.
- *Platt, L. 2011. *Understanding Inequalities*. Cambridge: Polity. Esp chps 1-2

Essays

- a. Why has the welfare state come under attack in recent years?
- b. Why has inequality grown steadily during the past two decades?

POWER & SOCIETY

Dr. Hazem Kandil

How do shifting power relations produce social change? This section of the paper examines the concept of power from a sociological perspective. It then surveys three forms of power: political, military, and ideological, before turning to global power projection today.

Topic 1 – Understanding Power

Lectures 1-2

This lecture introduces the concept of power through two main paradigms: the first is the realist view that highlights power struggles between various actors; and the second is the post-structural view that conceives power as diffuse and illusive.

Reading

* Cronin, Ciaran. 1996. "Bourdieu and Foucault on Power and Modernity." *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 22 (6): 55-85.

* Grenfell, Michael. 2012. *Bourdieu: Key Concepts (2nd edition)*. Durham: Acumen. [CH3]

* Foucault, Michel. 2000. *Power*. New York: Vintage. [CH12]

Swartz, David. 2013. *Symbolic Power, Politics, and Intellectuals: The Political Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [CH2, 3]

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. [CH1]

Schmidt, Brian C. 2005. "Competing Realist Conceptions of Power." *Journal of International Studies* 33 (3): 523-549.

Poggi, Gianfranco. 2001. *Forms of Power*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [CH2]

Essays

1. How do the realist and post-structural views of power differ?
2. Which approach to power do you consider more useful in social analysis, and why?

Topic 2 – Political Power: State & Revolution

Lectures 3-4

This lecture considers the causes of revolution from various theoretical perspectives, and assesses why the prospects of revolutionary change have diminished with the strengthening of states. This is followed by an attempt to explain one of the recent Arab revolts.

Reading

*Kimmel, Michael. 1990. *Revolution: A Sociological Interpretation*. Syracuse (NY): Syracuse

University Press. [CH1-3, 6]

*Kandil, Hazem. 2012. *Soldiers, Spies, and Statesmen: Egypt's Road to Revolt*. London: Verso. [Introduction; CH 5-6; Epilogue]

*Kandil, Hazem. 2012. 'Why did the Middle Class March to Tahrir Square?' *Mediterranean Politics* 17 (2): 197-215.

*Castells, Manuel. 2012. *Networks of Hope and Rage: Social Movements in the Internet Age*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [CH 2]

Sanderson, Stephen K. 2010. *Revolutions: A Worldwide Introduction to Social and Political Contention*. London: Paradigm. [CH4-5]

Goldstone, Jack A. 2003. *Revolutions: Theoretical, Comparative, and Historical Studies*. Belmont (CA): Wadsworth-Thompson. [CH1-3]

Foran, John (ed.). 1997. *Theorizing Revolutions*. New York: Routledge [CH1-2, 5, 8]

Skocpol, Theda. 1994. *Social Revolutions in the Modern World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [CH4]

Essays

1. What causes revolution, and why are they becoming less likely?
2. How can we explain the recent revolts in Egypt?

Topic 3 – Military Power: War & Society

Lectures 5-6

This lecture addresses the changing character of warfare and how it relates to society. It then evaluates the sources and types of militarism, focusing on the US.

Reading

*Clausewitz, Carl von. [1832] 1989. *On War* (Peter Paret and Michael Howard, trans.). Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Book I, CH1-3,7; Book VIII, CH2,6]

*Shaw, Martin. 2005. *The New Western Way of War*. Cambridge: Polity [CH1,4]

*Bacevich, Andrew J. 2006. *The New American Militarism: How Americans are seduced by War*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [CH1-5]

*Simpson, Emile. 2013. *War from the Ground Up: Twenty-First Century Combat as Politics*. London: C. Hurst & Co. Publishers [Introduction; CH3]

Mazzetti, Mark. 2013. *The Way of the Knife: The CIA, a Secret Army, and a War at the Ends of the Earth*. London: Penguin.

Van Creveld, Martin. 2008. *The Changing Face of War: Combat from the Marne to Iraq*. New York: Ballantine Books. [CH6]

Kaldor, Mary. 2006. *Wars Old and New: Organized Violence in a Global Era*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [Introduction; CH7]

Essays

1. Why is contemporary warfare considered entirely new?
2. What is the difference between internal and external militarism?

Topic 4 – Ideological Power: Neoliberalism

Lectures 7-8

This lecture reflects on the meaning and influence of ideology in the contemporary world. It investigates the origins and spread of the dominant ideology of the age: neoliberalism.

Reading

*Thompson, John B. 1990. *Ideology and Modern Culture*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [CH1-‘The Concept of Ideology]

*Harvey, David. 2007. “Neoliberalism as Creative Destruction.” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 610: 22-44.

*Mann, Michael. 2013. *The Sources of Social Power, Volume 4: Globalizations, 1945-2011*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press [CH6]

Bourdieu, Pierre. 2008. *Political Interventions: Social Science and Political Action*. London: Verso. [Pp. 288-293]

Eagleton, Terry. 2007. *Ideology: An Introduction*. London: Verso. [CH1]

Therborn, Göran. 1980. *The Ideology of Power and the Power of Ideology*. London: Verso. [CH6]

Essays

1. How could ideas become a source of power?
2. Why did neoliberalism achieve global dominance?

Topic 5 – Combined Power: Globalization & Imperialism

Lectures 9-10

In this final lecture, we turn to global power projection, asking whether globalization is larger than any single state, or whether states today could still combine all sources of social power to achieve imperial dominance.

Reading

*Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri. 2001. *Empire*. Cambridge (MA): Harvard University Press. [Preface; CH2, Section 5; CH3, Sections 3, 6; CH4, Section 3]

*Mann, Michael. 2003. *Incoherent Empire*. London: Verso. [CH 1-4]

*Hobsbawm, Eric. 2008. *On Empire: America, War and Global Supremacy*. New York: Pantheon. [CH 4]

Wood, Ellen Meiksins. 2005. *Empire of Capital*. London: Verso. [Introduction; CH7]

Ferguson, Niall. 2004. *Colossus: The Rise and Fall of the American Empire*. New York: Penguin Books. [CH1-5]

Hudson, Michael. 2003. *Super Imperialism: The Origins and Fundamentals of U.S. World Dominance*. New York: Pluto Press.

Essays

1. Is imperialism still possible today?
2. How does globalization alter international power relations?

Part III. Revision Sessions (Easter Term 2017)

Prof Patrick Baert , Dr Hazem Kandil, 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. 2015. *Sociology (7th edition)*. Cambridge: Polity.

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 hard-copy anonymous questionnaires distributed at various points in the academic year. It is crucial that you fill these out 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.