

**SOC 3068**

# **The Sociology of Contemporary Europe**

## **Module Reading List 2008**

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### **Module Dates**

31st Jan – 13<sup>th</sup> March; 14<sup>th</sup> April -1st May

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

Teaching will comprise one-and-a half hour classes (on Thursdays) and one-hour classes on Mondays. Some of them will consist of lectures with discussion (mostly in the early part of the module) and others of seminars with student presentations. Students are expected to make at least one presentation during the course.

### ***Coursework and Assessment***

The course is assessed by a 1 X 2000 word essay (due in week ?) and by an exam.

This course examines contemporary Europe from a variety of comparative perspectives covering Europe's place in the world, regional, social structural and cultural differences and processes of convergence and divergence. The course will introduce you to a variety of debates on the way in which Europe – East, West, North and South – has evolved in the modern era.

### **Lecture Topics**

1. Europe in its place: historical and comparative perspectives.
2. Theories of European society; eurocentrism and its critics.
3. How many Europes? Europe East/West.
4. How many Europes?, North/South, centre and periphery, town and country etc.
5. The Rise and Fall(?) of Class Politics in Europe.
6. Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism.
7. The Rise and Fall(?) of the European Nation-state.
8. Political Futures for Europe.
9. European Identity.

## **1) Europe in its Place (historical and comparative perspectives)**

In this introductory class, we place Europe in the context of modernity and consider the contribution of social theory in making sense of European society.

### ***Essay/Seminar Topics***

To what extent do concepts of modernity and post modernity help us to understand the historical and contemporary nature of European society?

### ***Key Reading***

Richard Sakwa, 'The Many Dimensions of Europe', in Richard Sakwa and Anne Stevens (eds), *Contemporary Europe* (Macmillan, 2006), pp. 1-28.

### ***Further reading***

Outhwaite, W 'European Transformations', in Delanty, G (ed), *Handbook of Contemporary European Social Theory*, ch.22.

Kaelble, H 'Social Particularities of Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Europe', in Kaelble (ed), *The European Way*, ch.13.

Therborn, G *European Modernity and Beyond*, ch.2

## 2) Theories of European society; eurocentrism and its critics.

Some theorists see Europe's rise in the second half or third of the last millennium as a 'miracle', while others are more sceptical or hostile, pointing to Europe's imperialism and colonialism and its role in generating two, and almost three, world wars.

### **Essay/Seminar Topic**

Compare the case 'for' and 'against' Europe's role in world history.

### **Key reading**

Delanty, G. 'Modernity and Eurocentricism'. In: Delanty, G. (ed.) *Handbook of Contemporary European Social Theory*. London: Routledge. 2005, ch.21

### **Further reading**

Crow, G *Comparative sociology and social theory: beyond the three worlds*

Delanty, G and C.Rumford, *Rethinking Europe: Social Theory and the Implications of Globalization*

Delanty, G *Inventing Europe: Idea, Identity, Reality* Macmillan 1995 (see later chapters on Europe and Modernity)

Mazower, M. *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*. Penguin 1998

Bhabra, G. *Rethinking Modernity. Postcolonialism and the Sociological Imagination*. Palgrave 2007

## 3) How many Europes? East and West

While the East – West "divide" has been a recurring feature of many attempts to understand European Society, the contrast became particularly stark in the post war era as the two halves of Europe became identified as capitalist and communist. Since 1989 (and some might argue particularly since May 2004) the two parts have moved closer together. Yet many argue that there remain fundamental differences between East and West. This class explores the dimensions of the divide.

### **Essay/Seminar Question**

Are the differences between East and West Europe a consequence of the period communist rule or do they have deeper roots?

### **Key Reading**

Outhwaite, W 'Social Structure', in Richard Sakwa and Anne Stevens (eds), *Contemporary Europe* (Macmillan/Palgrave, 2006), pp. 138-159.

Therborn, G *European Modernity*, Ch. 3, 16.

**Further reading**

Sakwa, R & A. Stevens (eds), *Contemporary Europe*

Crouch, C *Social Change in Western Europe*, Ch. 14

Outhwaite, W and Ray, L *Social Theory and Post-Communism*, esp. Ch. 4.

Sakwa, R *Postcommunism*

Einhorn, B *Cinderella Goes to Market*

Holmes, L *Postcommunism: An Introduction*, 1997, Chapter 1

Schopflin, G *Politics in Eastern Europe*, 1993 chapter 1

Berend, I *Central and Eastern Europe 1944-1993: Detour from the periphery to the periphery*, 1996

Swain, G and Swain, N *Eastern Europe since 1945*, 2nd edition, 1998

**4) How many Europes? North and South, Centre and Periphery, Town and Country, Catholic and Protestant**

In this class we consider some of the other differences which have been characteristic of Europe, both as a whole and within individual societies.

**Essay/Seminar Questions**

Are North-South differences within Europe increasing or decreasing?

Are contemporary European societies “converging” and if so what are they converging towards?

**Key Reading**

Dunkerley, D et al, *Changing Europe*, Ch. 5.

Therborn, G *European Modernity*, esp. Chs. 3, 9-11.

Crouch, C *Social Change in Western Europe*, Chs. 9,10

**Further reading**

Allum, P *State and Society in Western Europe* Polity 1995.

Harvie, C *The Rise of Regional Europe*, Routledge 1994

Le Galès, P and C Lequesne *Regions in Europe* (1998)

**5) The rise (and fall?) of class politics**

For much of the modern era, class was arguably the fundamental cleavage in European politics and society: class affected life chances and defined political stances. Yet many claim that its significance has declined considerably in the last few decades. In this class we explore how important class is to understanding of contemporary Europe.

### **Essay/Seminar Question**

Is class still important to our understanding of European societies? If not, what has replaced it?

### **Key Reading**

Crouch, C. *Social Change in Western Europe*, ch. 15

Therborn, G *European Modernity*, ch. 15

Waters, M 'Inequality after Class', in D.Owen (ed), *Sociology after Postmodernism*

### **Further Reading**

Allum, P *State and Society in Western Europe* Polity 1995.

Edge, D and Lintner, V *Contemporary Europe: economics, politics and society*, Prentice Hall 1996 (chapters 4 and 8)

Evans, Geoffrey (ed), *The End of Class Politics? Class Voting in Comparative Context*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1999.

Eyal, G Ivan Szelenyi and Eleanor Townsley *Making Capitalism without Capitalists: class formation and elite struggles in post-communist Central Europe*. London: Verso, 1998

Outhwaite, W. 'Bourdieu and postcommunist class formation', *socresonline* (12, 6, autumn 2007).

## **6) Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism**

In this class we analyse the way in which factors such as gender, ethnicity and race have changed in East and West Europe since the war. We consider whether the inequality and discrimination which have often been associated with these factors have been eroded or whether they persist. We also examine the different responses within Europe to the idea of "multiculturalism": has it challenged traditional visions of European society or is it itself challenged?

### **Essay/Seminar Questions**

To what extent have gender inequalities been overcome in Europe?

Have European societies more or less "integrated" over the post war period?

### **Key Reading**

Dunkerley D et al, *Changing Europe*, Ch. 6.

### **Further Reading**

Ceserani, D and Mary Fulbrook (eds), *Citizenship, Nationality and Migration in Europe* (1996)

Crouch, C *Social Change in Western Europe* OUP, 2000 Ch 10

Einhorn, B *Cinderella Goes to Market*

*Feminist Review* Special Issue no 76

Soysal, Y *Limits of Citizenship. Migrants and Postnational Membership in Europe.* (1995)

White, P 'Ethnicity, Racialization and Citizenship as Divisive Elements in Europe', in Hudson, R & A. Williams (eds), *Divided Europe*, Ch. 9.

Bleich, Erik, *Race Politics in Britain and France* (Cambridge, 2003).

Brubaker, R *Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany* (1991)

Castles, S, Booth, H. and Wallace, T. (1984) *Here for Good: Western Europe's New Ethnic Minorities* (London: Pluto Press).

Edye, D and Lintner, V *Contemporary Europe*, Prentice Hall 1996 (chapter 4)

Silverman, M *Deconstructing the Nation: Immigration, Racism and Citizenship in Modern France* (1992)

Solomos, J. and Back, L. (1996) *Racism and Society* (London: Macmillan).

Therborn, G *Between Sex and Power: Family in the World, 1900-2000*

Wrench, J. and Solomos, J. (eds.) (1993) *Racism and Migration in Western Europe* (Oxford: Berg).

## **7) The Rise and Fall(?) of the European Nation-state.**

In this session, we will look at some aspects of the emergence of so-called nations, and of the nation-state as a specific form of state. Nationalism may be a crucial element in the legitimating ideology of a state or something opposed to it. French or British nationalism is an example of the former: Scottish or Breton separatist nationalism of the latter. Some theorists see nationalism as subordinate to state power: others as (in some cases at least) its basis. Internationalists, socialist or otherwise, federalists, anarchists and others have looked forward to a world where nations and national identities are replaced by, or subordinated to, other identities. We shall look at these ideas in general terms and, in the following sessions, in relation to regional identities, such as a European one.

### **Essay/seminar questions:**

Which comes first: nations or nationalism? .

Compare the forms taken by national identities in two or more European countries or regions.

What alternatives are there to the nation-state, and are they viable?

### **Key Reading**

Keith Cameron (ed) *National Identity*. Exeter: Intellect (1999) (esp. ch.1).  
Geoff Eley & R.G.Suny (eds), *Becoming National* (1996), section 2

### **Further reading**

James Anderson 'Nationalism and geography', in James Anderson (ed), *The Rise of the Modern State* (1986).  
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* (1986 or later editions), chapter 3.  
Ernest Gellner, *Nations and Nationalism* (1983), chapter 4.  
Michael Billig, *Banal Nationalism* (1995), chapter 4  
Tom Nairn, *The Break-up of Britain* (2nd or 3<sup>rd</sup> edn)  
John Rex, 'National Identity in the Democratic Multi-Cultural State', Volume 1, Issue 2, 1996. <http://www.socresonline.org.uk>  
Gerard Delanty, 'Beyond the Nation-State: National Identity and Citizenship in a Multicultural Society - A Response to Rex' Volume 1, Issue 2, 1996.  
<http://www.socresonline.org.uk>

## **8) Political Futures for Europe.**

The Treaty of Rome speaks of European member states forming an 'ever closer union', but the ultimate destination of the European Union remains uncertain. It could break up, it could become a federal state like the USA, or it could remain in something like its present state. What can social science say about these prospects?

### **Essay/seminar question:**

Assess the prospects of European federalism and other political futures for Europe.

### **Key Reading**

Dunkerley et al (eds), *Changing Europe*, ch. 9.

Jürgen Habermas, *The Postnational Constellation* (1998)  
"The European Nation-State and The Pressures of Globalization",  
*New Left Review* no. 235 (May/June 1999).

Delanty, G. (1998) 'Social Theory and European Transformation: Is there a European Society?' *Sociological Research Online*, vol. 3, no. 1,  
<<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/socresonline/3/1/1.html>>  
William Outhwaite, 'Social Structure', in Richard Sakwa and Anne Stevens (eds),  
*Contemporary Europe* (Macmillan, 2006), pp. 138-159.

### **Further reading**



Chris Rumford. *The European Union* (2002)  
André Fontaine, 'Farewell to the United States of Europe: long live the EU', 29.11.01,  
<http://www.opendemocracy.org.uk/>  
Larry Siedentop, *Democracy in Europe* (2000).  
William Outhwaite, 'The EU and its Enlargements: "Cosmopolitanism by Small Steps"' in  
Gerard Delanty (ed.), *Europe and Asia beyond East and West* (London: Routledge,  
2006), pp. 193-202.

## 9) European Identity?

If there is such a thing as a European identity in the early twenty-first century, it exists against the historical background of a Europe of nation-states and the more recent process of European integration. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, many Europeans still think of nationality as fundamental, while others look towards a 'post-national' and/or European future. We shall be examining the social and intellectual bases of some of these differences.

In addition to printed texts such as those listed below, there are useful electronic resources, such as <<http://www.theglobalsite.ac.uk>> and the sites of the following projects on European identity:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/social/youth/index.html>,

[http://www.cordis.lu/improving/socio-economic/conf\\_citizen.htm](http://www.cordis.lu/improving/socio-economic/conf_citizen.htm)

<http://www.borderidentities.com/>

### **Essay/seminar questions:**

To what extent can the study of national identity clarify the issues involved in conceptualising a European identity?

Assess, with examples, the importance of national and/or other identities for contemporary Europeans.

What determines the relative strengths of national and European identities in different European states?

### **Key Reading**

Dunkerley et al (eds), *Changing Europe*, chs. 6 and 8.

Chris Rumford, 'Social Spaces Beyond Civil Society', *Innovation* 14, 3, 2001

### **Further reading**

William Outhwaite, *The Future of Society*, ch. 8.

Lynn Jamieson, *Theorizing Identity, Nationality and Citizenship: Implications for European Citizenship Identity* [http://www.ed.ac.uk/social/youth/Research\\_docs.html](http://www.ed.ac.uk/social/youth/Research_docs.html)

Soledad Garcia, *European Identity and the Search for Legitimacy* (1993).

Philip Schlesinger, 'Europeanness as a Cultural Battlefield', reprinted in J. Hutchinson & A.D. Smith (eds), *Nationalism* (1994).