

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
Department of Anthropology

SO701: Classical Sociological Theory

Fall 2009

Stephen Kalberg

Office Hours: Mon., Wed. 11:30-1
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Office: Sociology 255
Class Meetings: Fri. 92--12
Classroom: SO 252

"'No man is an island.' Our values, our attitudes, and our customs derive from our interaction with others and, more generally, from social milieus and our society. Yet milieus and societies differ vastly, and 'proper' behavior in one context may be seen as 'strange' and even 'uncivilized' in another."

Theodor Adorno

This seminar will examine modern societies through the lens of classical works in sociological theory. Major schools of thought in Sociology, as we know them today, originated from the writings of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Simmel. The key themes and rigorous modes of analysis of each theorist will be discussed in detail, and many comparisons and contrasts will be offered throughout the semester. Students will become familiar with the "Marxian," "Weberian," "Durkheimian," and "Simmelian" modes of analysis. The many ways in which the classical theorists help us to understand complex societies today will remain our focus.

BOOKS (available at BU B&N):

Required:

Coser, Lewis A., Masters of Sociological Thought (MST)

Durkheim, Emile, Division of Labor in Society

" " , Suicide

Marx, Karl, The Marx-Engels Reader. Edited by R. Tucker (MER)

Weber, Max, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

with Other Writings on the Rise of the West. Translated and

Introduced by S. Kalberg (PERW)

Weber, Max, Readings and Commentary on Modernity. Edited by

S. Kalberg) (RCM)

All further required readings listed below are on reserve in Mugar Library.

Highly Recommended:

Antonio, Robert J., Marx and Modernity. Oxford: Blackwell.
 Emirbayer, Mustafa, Emile Durkheim. Oxford: Blackwell.
 Hughes, John A., Peter J. Martin, and W.W. Sharrock, Understanding Classical Sociology. London: Sage.
 Kalberg, S., "Max Weber." Pp. 144-205 in The Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists, edited by George Ritzer. Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.
 Kalberg, S., "Max Weber's Sociology: Research Strategies and Modes of Analysis" Pp. 208-41 in Charles Camic, ed., Reclaiming the Argument of the Founders. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1997.

Books should always be brought to class, as we will occasionally read selections together.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:In general:

- 1) Assigned readings should be completed before each meeting in order to facilitate comprehension and discussion.
- 2) This is a seminar. Short lectures will introduce central themes and direct discussion. Every effort will be made to present difficult and complex theories in an accessible manner. Many important connections across the various theories will be made only in class; the complicated ideas in this course will not be comprehensible from the readings alone.

Written Work:

A term paper (25-30 pp.) is required. Two theorists must be addressed. Papers should utilize almost exclusively primary sources and should demonstrate a) a command of the theorists and b) offer original interpretations, insights, and/or applications. I will expect to discuss paper topics with each of you privately. If time permits, students will be encouraged to present short summaries of their papers (or sections thereof) in the last few class meetings. Two formats are possible:

- a) A comparison of two theoretical positions
- b) An application of two theoretical positions

Drafts of papers will not be accepted. However, I am available to discuss papers at all stages of their production.

All students are expected to abide by all university and departmental standards on plagiarism and academic conduct. Consult the CAS Academic Conduct Code for clarification of official standards.

Papers must be turned in no later than noon on Tuesday, December 16.

Please note: Good writing and organization are indispensable. Papers that are very poorly written will not be accepted. Papers that are poorly written will be subject to severe penalties.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

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|---|---------------------|
| <p>I. Introduction</p> <p><u>MST</u>, pp. xvii-xxi</p> | <p>Sept. 4</p> |
| <p>II. Karl Marx</p> <p><u>MST</u>, chapter on Marx</p> <p><u>The Marx-Engels Reader</u>, pp. 3-6, 469-500, 53-125, 133-200, 218-19, 542-48, 594-618, 683-724, 734-59
[read always in the order of the pages listed]</p> <p>Engels, F., <u>The Marx-Engels Reader</u>, pp. 734-41, 751-59</p> <p>optional: <u>The Marx-Engels Reader</u>, pp. 203-17, 319-29</p> | <p>Sept. 11--25</p> |
| <p>III. Max Weber</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p><u>RCM</u>, pp. 1-48</p> <p><u>PERW</u>, pp. vii-xvii, 557-70; <u>MST</u>, pp. 234-60</p> <p>optional:</p> <p>a) The Protestant Ethic Thesis I: <u>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</u>
<u>PERW</u>, pp. 61-88, 93-123, 141-59
optional: <u>PERW</u>, pp. 3-58, 431-48, 449-54
<u>RCM</u>, pp. 69-71, 107-10, 347-52</p> <p>b) The Protestant Ethic Thesis II: The Protestant Sects in America
<u>PERW</u>, pp. 185-204
optional: <u>PERW</u>, pp. 163-79
<u>RCM</u>, pp. 71-73</p> <p>c) The Political Culture of American Democracy
<u>RCM</u>, pp. 277-89, 142-46
optional: <u>PERW</u>, pp. 179-83
<u>RCM</u>, pp. 273-76, 367-75</p> | <p>Oct. 2--23</p> |

- d) The Uniqueness and Rise of Modern Capitalism
optional: RCM, pp. 27-37 [again]
- 1) Modern Capitalism's Uniqueness
PERW, pp. 205-20, 400-06, 426-30, 252-56
RCM, pp. 64-67, 130-139
optional: PERW, pp. 183-84, 238-309, 349-69
RCM, pp. 49-52, 121-24, 353-56
- 2) The Rise of Modern Capitalism
PERW, pp. 397-99, 413-24
RCM, p. 129
optional: PERW, pp. 313-96, 400-12, 424-48
- e) The Circumscription of Ethical Action in the Modern World
RCM, pp. 251-71
PERW, pp. 426-30 [again]
optional: RCM, pp. 245-50, 357-60
- 1) Civilized Man's "Meaninglessness," Science, and the
"Disenchantment of the World"
RCM, pp. 321-27, 337-43
optional: S. Kalberg, "Utilizing Max Weber's 'Iron
Cage' to Define the Past, Present, and Future of
the American Political Culture" (on library res.)
- f) "Race" and the Complexity of the Concept of Ethnicity,
and Heredity
RCM, pp. 297-313
optional: RCM, pp. 291-96
- g) Social Science: Weber's Methodology
RCM, pp. 139-41, 315-20; MST, pp. 217-26
optional: RCM, pp. 8-26, 37-41 [again]
- 1) Ethical Neutrality and the Aim of Science
RCM, pp. 328-36
- 2) The Ideal Type
"Objectivity," pp. 89-93 [on library reserve]
Economy and Society, pp. 19-22 [on libr. res.]
- 3) Subjective Meaning and the Four Types of Action
Economy and Society, pp. 4-7, 22-26 [on libr.
res.]
- 4) "Carrier Strata" and "Ideas"
PERW, pp. 238-43
Optional: Economy and Society, pp. 468-92 [on
library reserve]
S. Kalberg, "The Past and Present Influence of
World Views" [on library res.]

h) Familiar and Important Sociological Concepts
Originating from Max Weber [time permitting]

- 1) The Power / Authority Distinction; Inequality
RCM, pp. 179-193
optional: RCM, pp. 173-74
- 2) Three Types of Authority: Traditional, Charismatic,
and Bureaucratic
RCM, pp. 194-220
optional: RCM, pp. 174-78, 361-66; MST, pp. 230-33
- 3) The Distinction Between Class and Status
RCM, pp. 151-62
optional: RCM, pp. 147-50; PERW, pp. 361-69;
MST, pp. 228-30
- 4) Nation, State, and Law
RCM, pp. 221-43

IV. Emile Durkheim

Oct 30--Nov. 13

"The Field of Sociology" and "The Science of Morality." Pp. 51-68 and 89-107 in Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings, ed. by Anthony Giddens

The Division of Labor in Society (trans. by W.D. Halls, 1984), pp. 11-87, 149-175, 233-45, 275-79, 291-309, 337-41

The Rules of Sociological Method (ed. by Steven Lukes and trans. by W.D. Halls, 1982), pp. 31-163

Suicide, pp. 41-53, 145-70, 197-228, 241-76, 297-302, 309-325

Elementary Forms of Religious Life, pp. 37-63, 235-272 [esp. 249-53]

"The Dualism of Human Nature and its Social Conditions." Pp. 149-63 in Emile Durkheim on Morality and Society, edited by Robert Bellah

"Political Sociology" and "The Social Bases of Education." Pp. 189-218 in Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings, ed. by Anthony Giddens

V. Georg Simmel

Nov. 20

MST, chapter on Simmel

"The Stranger"

"The Metropolis and Mental Life"

VI. Review

Dec. 4 and 11

Secondary Sources (optional; not on reserve)

Albrow, Martin, Max Weber's Construction of Social Theory

Antonio, Robert A., "Values, History, and Science: The Meta-theoretic Foundations of the Weber-Marx Dialogue." Pp. 20-45 in A Weber-Marx Dialogue, edited by Antonio and R. Glassman

---"Karl Marx." Pp. 93-131 in The Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists, ed. by Ga. Ritzer.

Bendix, Reinhard, "Inequality and Social Structure: A Comparison of Marx and Weber." Pp. 307-25 in Lewis A. Coser and Bernard Rosenberg, eds., Sociological Theory: A Book of Readings (Fifth Ed.)

---, "Two Sociological Traditions." Pp. 282-98 in Bendix and Guenther Roth, Scholarship and Partisanship

Birnbaum, Norman, "Conflicting Interpretations of the Rise of Capitalism: Marx and Weber." Brit. J. of Sociology 4 (June, 1953): 125-41.

Braverman, Harry, Labor and Monopoly Capital

Durkheim, E., "Sociology in France in the Nineteenth Century," in Emile Durkheim on Morality and Society, edited by Robert Bellah

Giddens, Anthony, Capitalism and Modern Social Theory

---, "Marx's Theory of Classes" and "The Weberian Critique." Pp. 23-52 in The Class Structure of Advanced Societies

Jones, Robert Alun, Emile Durkheim

Kaern, Michael, "The World as Human Construction." Pp. 75-98 in Georg Simmel and Contemporary Sociology, edited by Kaern, Bernard S. Phillips, and Robert Cohen.

Kalberg, Stephen [articles available from author]:

"Max Weber's Types of Rationality: Cornerstones for the Analysis of Rationalization Processes in History." AJS 85 (March, 1980): 1145-79.

---, Max Weber's Comparative-Historical Sociology (Chicago, 1994)

---, "On the Neglect of Weber's Protestant Ethic as a Theoretical Treatise: Demarcating the Parameters of Post-War American Sociological Theory." Sociological Theory 14, 1 (March 1996): 49-70.

---, "Max Weber." Pp. 132-92 in The Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists, ed. by Ga. Ritzer.

---, "Tocqueville and Weber on the Sociological Origins of Citizenship: The Political Culture of American Democracy." Citizenship Studies 1 (July, 1997): 199-222.

---, "Should the 'Dynamic Autonomy' of Ideas Matter to Sociologists? Max Weber on the Origin of Other-Worldly Salvation Religions and the Constitution of Groups in American Society

- Today." Journal of Classical Sociology 1, 3 (Dec., 2001): 291-327.
- Levine, Donald N., "Introduction." Pp. iv-lxv in Georg Simmel on Individuality and Social Forms, edited by Levine.
- Löwith, Karl, "Weber's Interpretation of the Bourgeois-Capitalistic World in Terms of the Guiding Principle of 'Rationalization.'" Pp. 101-22 in Max Weber, edited by Dennis Wrong
- Lukes, Steven, Emile Durkheim: His Life and Work
- Mamelet, Alfred, "[Simmel's] Sociological Relativism." Pp. 64-73 in Georg Simmel, edited by Lewis A. Coser.
- McClellan, David, The Young Hegelians and Karl Marx
- Nisbet, Robert, The Sociological Tradition.
- Roth, Guenther, "Introduction." Pp. xxvii-xxxiv, lvi-xci in Economy and Society
- Salomon, Albert, "Money and Alienation." Pp. 135-38 in Coser, ed., Georg Simmel.
- Smelser, Neil J., Comparative Methods in the Social Sciences, pp. 38-150.
- Tenbruck, F.H., "Formal Sociology." Pp. 61-99 in Kurt Wolff, ed., Georg Simmel.
- Westby, David L., The Growth of Sociological Theory
- Wrong, Dennis H., "Introduction." Pp. 1-76 in Max Weber, edited by Dennis Wrong.