

**3-1****SS 2005**

Module

Cultural Change

**Modern European Thought**ALBERT-LUDWIGS-  
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

Lecturer

[Frank Welz](#)

Department

Sociology

University

[U Freiburg](#)

Course format

seminar

Credits/ECTS

7

Hours

2

Time

Fri. 10:00-11:30/12:00-13:30

Place

kg iv: ü1

Course requirements 1)

essay

2)

class presentation

3)

2 click papers

Office hrs.:

by appointment

Contemporary social and political thought emerged from the pioneering works of the founders of social and political theory. Its history is, as Hegel has shown in the *Phenomenology of mind* (1807), a changing pattern of liberating ideas which necessarily turn into straitjackets, and so stimulate their own replacement by new, emancipating but also enslaving views. The *first step*, therefore, toward the understanding of culture and thought is bringing to consciousness of the concepts that dominate and penetrate men's thought and action.

The course will make us aware of the categories which the classical theorists of modern European thought as well as their contemporary successors apply in their analyses of modern culture and society. The *second task* is to analyse the concepts and models themselves. This will commit the social theorist to accepting or modifying or rejecting them. The *third step* will be searching for and discussing more adequate concepts.

A major aim of the course is to increase awareness, namely in the area of social sciences, where the current concepts of understanding our contemporary world originated from. At least as important is to learn how to vigorously analyse these concepts and criticize them. The more general objective is to learn about and reflect on the *role of theory* in social scientific research, the most crucial step in becoming a social scientist.

Students will be introduced to the "Marxian" realist and structuralist, "Durkheimian" positivist and "Weberian" neokantian and action-oriented perspectives upon social life as well as to current (post)structuralist, systemic and communicative action oriented views.

Finally, we will ask whether the recent expansion of global change will call for a reconceptualization of sociological analysis and theory.

The course has a strong emphasis on the methodology of the social sciences. Its issues will be discussed and supplemented by studying the original texts from its key thinkers.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

- 1 *Introduction to the Course*
- 2 Max Weber (1919), "*Science as a Vocation*", 129-156 in: (1991), From Max Weber. Essays in Sociology. Edited, with an Introduction by H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. With a New Preface by Bryan S. Turner, London: Routledge.  
Peter Lassman/Irving Velody (eds.)(1989), Max Weber's 'Science as a vocation', London: Unwin Hyman.

SW 89/1647

## The Scientific Revolution

- 3 *Kant's Defence of Enlightenment: His Epistemology and Metaphysics.*  
Immanuel Kant (1989), "*Preface to Second Edition*", 17-37 in: Immanuel Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, 2nd ed., London: Macmillan.  
Ruth F. Chadwick (ed.), Immanuel Kant: Critical assessments, London: Routledge.
- 4 *The Hegelian Critique: Historicization of Philosophy.*  
Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1998), The Hegel Reader. Edited by Stephen Houlgate, Oxford/Malden: Blackwell.  
Charles Taylor (1975), Hegel, Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press.  
Robert Stern (ed.)(1993), G. W. F. Hegel: Critical assessments, London: Routledge.

Frei 32/Phil: RB 10/53-

Frei 32/Phil: RD 10/66-

- 5 *Excursus: The Role of Theory in Science*  
Thomas S. Kuhn (1962), "The route to normal science" (chap. II, 10-22); "The nature and necessity of scientific revolutions" (chap. IX, 92-110), in: (1996), *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* ('1962), 3rd ed., Chicago/London: Univ. of Chicago Press.

### Classical Sociology and Modernity

- 6 *Society as a Capitalistic Totality: Karl Marx*  
Karl Marx (2000), "Thesis on Feuerbach" (chap. 13), 171-174; "The German Ideology" (chap. 14), 175-208, in: *Selected Writings*; David McLellan (ed.), 2nd ed., Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press.  
Bob Jessop (ed.)(1990), *Karl Marx's social and political thought: Critical assessments*, London: Routledge. UB Lesesaal Soz & Frei 92/Pol: R III 378-
- 7 *Society as a Moral Universe: Emile Durkheim*  
Emile Durkheim (1984), "Solidarity arising from the division of labour, or organic solidarity" (chap. III), 68-87; "Mechanical solidarity, or solidarity by similarities" (chap. II), 31-67, in: *The Division of Labor in Society*, New York: Free Press.  
Steven Lukes (1973), *Émile Durkheim. His Life and Work. A Historical and Critical Study*, London: Penguin Books. Frei 133 (Soz): III J 110  
Peter Hamilton (ed.), *Emile Durkheim: Critical assessments*, London: Routledge. UB Lesesaal: Soz 711/25-
- 8 *Rationalization: Disenchantment of the World & Disenchanted Methodology*  
Max Weber (1991), "Author's introduction", 13-31 in: *The protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. Transl. by Talcott Parsons. 21. impr., London: Harper Collins Academic. Frei 92/Pol: F II 16,a  
Max Weber (1969), "'Objectivity' in Social Science and Social Policy", 49-112 in: *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*. Eds. E.A. Shils and H.A. Finch, New York: Free Press. Frei 133 (Soz) III J 420  
Stephen Kalberg (1994), *Max Weber's Comparative-Historical Sociology*, Cambridge: Polity Press.  
Peter Hamilton (ed.)(1991), *Max Weber: Critical assessments*, London: Routledge. UB Lesesaal Soz 711/24- & Frei 92/Pol: F II 139-

### Contemporary Social Theory

- 9 *A Kantian Marxist? Habermas' Theory of Communicative Action*  
Jürgen Habermas (1987), "C. Tendencies toward Juridification", 356–373; "3. The Tasks of a Critical Theory of Society", 374–396, in: *The Theory of Communicative Action. Vol.2*, Cambridge: Polity Press (Frankfurt 1981).  
  
Habermas is one of the most prolific and wide-ranging of all contemporary social philosophers. He has played a major part in helping to revive two theoretical traditions: Talcott Parsons' highly abstract theories of social systems, and the phenomenological approach towards the life-world.
- 10 *Anti-Totality: A Macro-Historical Alternative*  
Michel Foucault (1972), "The Discourse on Language", in: *The Archaeology of Knowledge & The Discourse on Language*, New York: Pantheon Books, 215-237.  
Michel Foucault (1995), "The means of correct training", 170-194, in: *Discipline and Punish. The Birth of the Prison*, 2nd ed., New York: Vintage Books.  
Gary Gutting (ed.)(1994), *The Cambridge Companion to Foucault*, Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press. GE 95/11105  
Barry Smart (ed.)(1994), *Michel Foucault. Critical Assessments*, London; New York: Routledge. UB Lesesaal Soz 711/27-  
  
In his inaugural lecture at the Collège de France, 'The Discourse on Language' (1971), Foucault subordinated archaeology to the genealogical study of the formation of discourse.

- 11 *Genetic Structuralism: Secret Patterns which Determine Experience?*  
Pierre Bourdieu (1986), "Three forms of capital", 241-257, in: John G. Richardson (ed.),  
Handbook of theory and research for the sociology of education, New York: Greenwood  
Press. UB Lesesaal Paed 150/34  
Pierre Bourdieu (1984), "The Habitus and the Spaces of Life-Styles", chap. 3, 169-208 (add.  
16-17), in: *Distinction. A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*, Cambridge: Harvard  
Univ. Press.  
Pierre Bourdieu/Loic J.D. Wacquant (1992), *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*, Chicago:  
Univ. of Chicago Press.  
David Swartz (1997), *Culture and Power. The sociology of Pierre Bourdieu*. Chicago: Univ. of  
Chicago Press. SW 98/1291  
Derek Robbins (ed.)(2000), *Pierre Bourdieu*, London: Sage, 4 Vols. UB Lesesaal Soz 711/28-

A former student of Levi-Strauss, Pierre Bourdieu has become the most distinguished French sociologist of the late 20th century. Central to his approach is the concept of habitus.

### Social Theory in the Era of Globalization

- 12 *An Autonomous Culture & the Dissolution of the Social? Language Games.* Jean-François  
Lyotard's post-modernity  
Jean-François Lyotard (1984), "Introduction" & Chapter 1–3/10, in: *The Postmodern Condition.  
A Report on Knowledge*, Manchester: Manchester Univ. Press (xxiii–xxv/3–11/37–41)
- 13 *Society as a Flux of Communications: Niklas Luhmann's Modernity*  
Niklas Luhmann (1998), "Modernity in Contemporary Society", 1-21, in: *Observations on  
Modernity*, Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press.  
Niklas Luhmann (1997), "Globalization or world society. How to conceive of modern society?",  
67-79, in: *International Review of Sociology*, 7.
- 14 Seminar Conclusions

### REQUIREMENTS

- *Class attendance.*
  - *Class presentation* (1-page outline): brief oral presentation on required and optional readings (underlined). It should be designed to provide the class *not* with a summary of what you have read but rather with the key theoretical and methodological principles you identified. Working in pairs, you will also lead the discussion of the assigned reading.
  - *Essay (six pages)*. A good essay should show the following: consistency of argument, along with the introduction of rival arguments; clear and simple structure, evidence of wider reading. Essays must utilize the *primary* sources and secondary commentary. Proper citation and bibliographical referencing is expected. You should try to elaborate a clear thesis statement and systematically develop that thesis. Please include a few references from journal articles and books on social theory, and briefly provide your own personal assessment.
- All book chapters and articles listed on the course outline *and* which are printed in italics are required reading.

### GENERAL AND BACKGROUND READING

- Giddens, Anthony (2001), *Sociology*, 4th ed., Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Giddens, Anthony/Turner, Jonathan (eds.)(1987), *Social Theory Today*, Cambridge: Polity Press. SW 87/1348
- Habermas, Jürgen (2000), *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity. Twelve Lectures*, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Kuper, Adam; Kuper, Jessica (eds.)(1999), *The Social Science Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. (1st publ. in paperback), London/New York: Routledge. UB: LS-Soz 85/15
- Miller, David; Coleman, Janet; Connolly, William; Ryan, Alan (eds.)(1991), *The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Political Thought* (Blackwell Reference), Oxford: Blackwell. UB: LS-Pol 25/15
- Outhwaite, William/Bottomore, Tom (eds.)(2002), *The Blackwell Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Social Thought*, 2nd ed., Oxford: Blackwell. UB: LS-Soz 407/2  
Frei 133/Soz: I A907

- Ritzer, George; Smart, Barry (eds.)(2000), Handbook of Social Theory, London: Sage.  
Ritzer, George (ed.)(2000), The Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists, Oxford: Blackwell.  
Stones, Rob (ed.)(1998), Key Sociological Thinkers, Houndmills/Basingstoke/London: MacMillan [incl. Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Habermas, Bourdieu, Foucault].

UB: LS-Soz 745/3  
UB: LS: Soz 751/28

### **SEMESTERAPPARAT UB (5th floor/left)**

- Bourdieu, Pierre (1984): *Distinction. A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Bourdieu, Pierre; Wacquant, Loic J.D. (1992): *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Collins, Randall (1998): *The Sociology of Philosophies. A Global Theory of Intellectual Change*, Cambridge (MA)/London: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- Durkheim, Emile (1972): *Selected Writings*.
- Foucault, Michel (1984): *The Foucault Reader*, Paul Rabinow (ed.), London: Penguin Books.
- Giddens, Anthony (2001): *Sociology*, 4th ed., Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Habermas, Jürgen (1986): *The Theory of Communicative Action. Vol.1: Reason and the rationalization of society* (dt. 1981; Translated by Thomas McCarthy), Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Habermas, Jürgen (1987): *The Theory of Communicative Action. Vol.2: Lifeworld and System. A critique of functionalist reason* (dt. 1981; Translated by Thomas McCarthy), Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Habermas, Jürgen (2000): *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*, transl. Frederick Lawrence, Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich (1998): *The Hegel Reader (Blackwell Readers)*, Stephen Houlgate (ed.), Oxford/Malden: Blackwell.
- Kant, Immanuel (1991): *Political Writings*; ed. by H.S. Reiss, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kuhn, Thomas S. (1996): *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* [1st ed., 1962], 3rd ed., Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press.
- Luhmann, Niklas (1998): *Observations on Modernity*, Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Lytard, Jean-François (1984): *The Postmodern Condition. A Report on Knowledge*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- Marx, Karl (2000): *Selected Writings*, David McLellan (ed.), Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Prigogine, Ilya (1997): *The End of Certainty. Time, Chaos, and the New Laws of Nature*, New York: Free Press.
- Ritzer, George (1996): *Sociological Theory*, 4th ed., New York et al.: McGraw-Hill.
- Smith, Philip (2001): *Cultural Theory. An Introduction*, Malden/Oxford: Blackwell.
- Turner, Bryan S. (1999): *Classical Sociology*, London: Sage.
- Weber, Max (1991): *From Max Weber. Essays in sociology*. Transl., ed., and with an introduction by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. With a New Preface by Bryan S. Turner, London: Routledge & Paul.