SO3200 Social Theory 2013-14

Part One: Classical Social Theory

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Course outline and readings

Class 1: Introduction. Why theory and why classical theory
Class 2. How to study society: Social Facts and Social Action. Weber and Durkheim
Class 3. Conflict or consensus? Marx and Durkheim.
Class 4. Explaining Social Change. Marx and Weber
Class 5. Class. Weber and Marx
Class 6. The condition of modernity: iron cage or individual freedom? Weber and Durkheim
Class 7. The problems of modernity - Anomie and alienation. Durkheim and Marx
Class 8. Large-scale and small-scale sociology. Marx and Simmel.
Class 9. The sociologies of Simmel
Class 10. Reading and writing sociology.
Class 11. Dead White European Men? The limitations of classical sociology

Class 1: Introduction. Why theory and why classical theory

Readings


First seminar: Introduction to the course
Class 2. How to study society: Social facts and Social Action. Weber and Durkheim

Readings

Commentaries

Seminar Reading: Chapter 1 ‘What is a Social fact’ in The Rules...

Class 3. Conflict or consensus? Marx and Durkheim

Readings
Marx: Communist Manifesto, especially Section 1: ‘Bourgeois and Proletarians’. Parts are reprinted in Ian Mcintosh op cit; section 1.4 ‘The Communist Manifesto’ pp 39-47
Durkheim: Preface to second edition of The Division of Labour in Society.

Commentaries
Ritzer, George op cit; Chapter 2 ‘Karl Marx’ Section: ‘The structure of capitalist society’ pp 56-65.

Seminar Reading: Section 1: ‘Bourgeois and Proletarians’ in Communist Manifesto
Class 4. Explaining Social Change. Marx and Weber

Readings
Marx: Ian McIntosh op cit; section 1.8 ‘The So-called Primitive Accumulation’ pp 72-105
Weber: Ian McIntosh op cit; section 2.1 ‘The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism’ pp 115-132

Commentaries

Seminar Reading: Ian McIntosh op cit; section 2.1 ‘The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism’

Class 5. Class. Weber and Marx

Readings
Marx: Ian McIntosh op cit; section 1.3 ‘The German Ideology and Historical Materialism’ pp 26-38
Weber: Ian McIntosh op cit; section 2.2 ‘Class, status, and Party’ pp 132-141

Commentaries

Seminar Reading: Weber: Ian McIntosh op cit; section 2.2 ‘Class, status, and party’
Class 6. The condition of modernity: iron cage or individual freedom? Weber and Durkheim

Readings
Ian McIntosh op cit; section 3.2 ‘Sanctions and Mechanical and Organic Solidarity’. pp. 185-193

Commentaries
George Ritzer op cit; Chapter 4 Sections on ‘Structures of Authority’ and ‘Rationalisation’. pp. 129-147

Seminar Reading: Emile Durkheim: Selected writings. Chapter 6. ‘The Division of Labour and Social Differentiation’

Class 7. The problems of modernity - Anomie and alienation. Durkheim and Marx

Readings
Marx: Ian McIntosh op cit; section 1.1 ‘Alienated Labour’ pp 15-23 and 1.7 ‘The Fetishism of Commodities’. pp. 68-71

Commentaries
Seminar Reading: Ian McIntosh op cit; section 1.1 ‘Alienated Labour’ and 1.7 ‘The Fetishism of Commodities’.
Class 8. Large-scale and small-scale sociology. Marx and Simmel.

Readings

Commentaries
Ian Craib op cit. for Marx, Chapter 4. for Simmel Chapter 10. Especially section ‘The philosophy of money.’


Class 9. The sociologies of Simmel
Simmel can be seen as a bridge from the sociologists of modernity to more contemporary sociologists of postmodern society. This class examines his main sociological ideas – his critique of objective culture and his position on modern urban society.

Readings

Commentaries
George Ritzer op cit Chapter 5

Seminar Reading: ‘The Metropolis and Mental Life’ in *Simmel on Culture*. pp. 174-185

Class 10. Reading and writing sociology.

Readings


Class 11. Dead White European Men? The limitations of classical sociology

Readings

Commentaries