



SciencesPo.

COLLÈGE UNIVERSITAIRE

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY – 1ST YEAR
REIMS & MENTON
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This course is designed as an introduction to the theories and practices of sociology. It will provide you with a variety of tools and knowledge in order to reflect on the contemporary world and its transformations. Along the way, you will become familiar with a number of key sociological concepts, authors and theories, whether classical or contemporary.

The organization of the course is twofold. The weekly lecture will serve as an introduction to the main theoretical perspectives on a given topic. It will cover major substantive areas of sociological inquiry (culture, norms and deviance, social movements, hierarchies and stratification, power and inequalities, state and/in society, social organization of the economy). While focusing on specific empirical topics every week, the lectures will highlight similarities in the approach to these questions. All quarter long, you will thus be introduced to the various forms of reasoning and the different methods commonly used in the discipline.

By difference, the discussion session, a hands-on approach, will provide you with the opportunity to grapple with both texts and methods. Key readings as well as important techniques of data collection in the social sciences will be either presented, or thoroughly investigated. Overall, the aim of this course is to equip you with the necessary knowledge to navigate the current debates about the topics discussed, and the major debates among sociologists about them.

Attendance, Academic honesty and plagiarism

The same rules apply in this course as in the rest of the program. Class attendance is mandatory for the discussion sections, and highly recommended for the lectures. All the same, no form of plagiarism nor academic dishonesty will be accepted during this course. In particular:

- All work submitted is clearly understood to be your own, one you have done research for it.
- All citations should be put between quotes. Please do remember that it is your duty as a (young) scholar to duly acknowledge any borrowings to someone else. This includes: ideas, languages, information and original material.

Please be aware that all take-home papers and memos will be scanned through by an anti-plagiarism, software. Don't try to beat the technology, it's a lost cause (just FYI: all of last year's memos are archived in the system).

Course Organization, Goals, and Grading Policy

This class meets bi-weekly. The lecture is meant to introduce you to the main concepts, theories and debates on the topics dealt with on that week. Discussion sessions are designed to help you actively engage with these ideas. **They are closely connected to the lectures.** For they are also the moment when the knowledge is put into practice (and assessed), they constitute the central moment around which the whole course is organized, both intellectually and in terms of validation. As a consequence, **you must come prepared to these sessions.**

Your **overall grade** will be determined by 5 types of required written assignments, added to a grade of class participation.

During discussion sessions: 64%

- i.* Weekly quiz on the “discussion” text and class participation (with an emphasis on methodological sessions – special exercises can apply): 16%
- ii.* Once-in-a-quarter oral presentation of a selected text: 16%
- iii.* Mid-term paper (in-class): 16%
- iv.* A 5 to 7 pages memo on a book (to pick from a list handed out by your TA): 16%

Final exam: 36%

The final exam consists in two different types of exercises:

- An analysis of documents informed by the lectures and the discussion sessions.
- A short essay on one question (to be chosen out of a few) directly linked to the lecture.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction: What is Sociology?

In-class discussion: Berger, P., 1963, *An Invitation to Sociology*, Anchor Press, pp. 1-22.

2. Norms (1): Norms and Deviance

- In-class discussion: Durkheim, E., 1997, *Suicide. A Study in sociology*, Chapter 2 & 3: “Egoistic Suicide”, Free Press – Excerpts: p. 152-170 & 189-197
- Methodology: Reasoning “*all things being equal*” with Durkheim, in *Suicide*, pp. 180-189.

For further reading

- Chauvel, L., 1997, "L'uniformisation du taux de suicide masculin selon l'âge : effet de génération ou recomposition du cycle de vie ?" *Revue française de sociologie*, 38 (4), p. 681-734.
- Durkheim, E., 2007, *Division of Labor in Society*, The Free Press, 1984 [1893].
- Stockhard, J. et O'Brien, R., 2006, "Cohort variations in suicide rates among families of nations: an analysis of cohorts born from 1875 through 1985", *International journal of comparative sociology*, 47, p. 5-33.

3. Norms (2): On the Production of Norms and of Social Problems

- In-class discussion: Becker, *Outsider. Studies in the Sociology of Deviance*, “The Culture of a Deviant Group: the Dance Musician,” p. 79-100.
- Presentation: E. Goffman, “The Presentation of Self in Everyday life,” in Clark C. and Robboy H., *Social Interaction: Readings in Sociology*, New York: Worth Publisher, 1992 [1959], pp. 112-122.

For further reading

- Elias, N., 1973, *The Civilizing Process. Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations*, Wiley-Blackwell.
- Goffman, E., 1961, *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*, Transactions Publishers.
- Gusfield, J., 1983, *The Culture of Public Problems: Drinking-Driving and the Symbolic Order*, University of Chicago Press.

4. Social Movements

- In-class discussion: D. McAdam, « The Biographical Consequences of Activism », *American Sociological Review*, 54 (5), 1989, p 744-760 (a special attention should be paid to the regressions).
- Presentation: Tilly, C., 1984, « Les origines du répertoire d’action collective en France et en Grande-Bretagne », *Vingtième siècle*, p. 89-109.

For further reading

- Neveu, E., 2005, *Sociologie des mouvements sociaux*, Paris, La découverte, Repères.
- McAdam, Doug (1999 [1982]). *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press
- Snow D., Soule S. et Kriesi H., 2004, *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*, Blackwell Publishing.

5. Religion

- In-class discussion: Weber, M., 1978 [1910]. "Anticritical Last Word on The Spirit of Capitalism", *American Journal of Sociology*, 85 (5), pp. 1110-1131
- Presentation & Methodology: Höllinger F. et Haller M., 2009, "Decline or persistence of religion? Trends in religiosity among Christian societies around the world". In Haller M., Jowell R., Smith T.W., eds., *The International Social Survey Programme, 1984-2009. Charting the Globe*. London, New York, Routledge, pp. 281-301.

For further reading

- Haller, M., 2002, "Theory and method in the comparative analysis of values. Critique and Alternative to Inglehart", *European Sociological Review*, vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 139-158
- Halman, L.C.J.M., Inglehart, R., Diez-Medrano, J., Luijkx, R., Moreno, A. et Basanez, M., 2008, *Changing values and beliefs in 85 countries. Trends from the value surveys from 1981 to 2004*, Leiden, Brill.
- Hamilton M., 1995, *The Sociology of Religion. Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives*, chapter 12, "Religion and Rationality: Max Weber."
- Weber, M., 1976, "The Evolution of the Capitalist Spirit" in *General Economic History*. London: Unwin Paperbacks.

6. Capitalism: Origins and Contemporary Developments

- In-class discussion: Polanyi, K., 1983, in "The Self Regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Labor, Land and Money" in *The Great Transformation. The Beginning of our Religious Traditions*, Alfred A. Knopf, pp. 68-76.
- Presentation: Mizruchi, M. S., 2010, "The American corporate elite and the historical roots of the financial crisis of 2008", in Hirsch, P. et Lounsbury, M. (dir.), *Markets on trial. The economic sociology of the U.S. financial crisis. Research in the sociology of organizations, Volume 30B*, p. 103-139.

For further reading

- Dobbin, F., 1994, *Forging industrial policy: the United States, Britain and France in the railway age*, Cambridge, Cambridge university press, 262 p.
- Fligstein, N., 1990, *The Transformation of Corporate Control*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 391 p.
- Useem, M., 1996, *Investor Capitalism. How money managers are changing the face of corporate America*, New York, Basic books, 332 p.
- Windolf, P., 2002, *Corporate networks in Europe and the United States*, Oxford, Oxford university press, 244 p.

7. State(s)

- In-class discussion: Elias N., 1994 [1939], "On the Monopoly Mechanism" in *The Civilizing Process*, Blackwell, pp. 104-116.
Presentation: Bevan, G. et Hood, C., 2006, "What's measured is what matters: targets and gaming in the English public health care system", *Public administration*, 84 (3), p. 517-538.

For further reading

- Silberman, B. S., 1993, *Cages of reason. The rise of the rational state in France, Japan, The United States and Great Britain*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

- Skowronek S., 1982, *Building a New American State: the expansion of national administrative capacities, 1877-1920*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Ziblatt, D., 2006, *Structuring the State. The formation of Italy and Germany and the puzzle of federalism*, Princeton, Princeton university press, 240 p.

8. Welfare States

- In-class discussion: de Swan, A., 1988, "The Beginnings of Social Security in Western Europe and in the United States," in *In Care of the State. Health care, Education and welfare in Europe and the USA in the Modern Era*. Cambridge: Oxford University Press, pp. 187-217.
- Presentation: Van Bavel, J. et De Winter, T., 2011, "Becoming a grandparent and early retirement in Europe", *Social Sciences Research Network TransEurope, Working paper*, (28), p. 1-17.

For further reading

- de Swan, A., 1988. *In Care of the State. Health care, education and welfare in Europe and the USA in the Modern Era*. Cambridge: Oxford University Press.
- Esping-Andersen, G. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*, Princeton University Press, 1990.

9. Social Hierarchies and Inequalities (1): Class, Strata, Groups

- In-class discussion: Bourdieu, P., 1979, *Distinction. A Social Critique of Judgment*, Paris, Harvard University Press– 114-131 and 260-267.
- Presentation: Marx, K., 1977, Excerpts in "Manifesto of the Communist Party," in Tucker, R., *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Norton, pp. 473-483.

For further reading

- Breen R. (ed.), 2004, *Social Mobility in Europe*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.
- Bourdieu P., 1984 [1979], *Distinction*, Harvard University Press.
- Pakulski J. and M. Waters, 1996, *The Death of Class*, London, Sage.
- Wright E.O., 2006, *Class counts*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Marx K., 1850, *The Class Struggle in France*, (available online).

10. Social Hierarchies and Inequalities (2): Multidimensional aspects

- In-class discussion: Coulangeon Ph, "The Social Stratification of Musical Taste: Questioning the Cultural Legitimacy Model", in *Revue Française de Sociologie* (Annual English Supplement), 2005, 46, pp. 123-154.
- Methodological Discussion: Figures II and III in Coulangeon Ph., *art. cit*, p. 132.

For further reading

- Lebaron, Frédéric. 2009. "How Bourdieu 'Quantified' Bourdieu: The Geometric Modelling of Data" in K. Robson and C. Sanders (ed.), *Quantifying Theory: Pierre Bourdieu*, Springer.
- Le Roux B. et Rouanet H., 2004. *Geometric Data Analysis: From Correspondence Analysis to Structured Data Analysis*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht.

11. Social Hierarchies and Inequalities (3): Urban

In-class discussion: E. Burgess, 1925, "The Growth of a City. Introduction to a Research Project", in Park, Burgess and McKenzie, *The City*, University of Chicago Press, pp. 47-62.

Presentation: Massey, D. et Denton, N., 1993, *American Apartheid. Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*, Cambridge University press. – “The Continuing Causes of Segregation”, ch. 4, pp. 83-114.

For further reading

- Wilson, W.J., 1987, *The Truly Disadvantaged*, University of Chicago Press, 1987
- Massey, D. and N. Denton, 1993. *American Apartheid*. Harvard University Press, 1993.
- Wacquant, L., *Urban Outcasts. A Sociology of Advanced Marginality*. Polity Press, 2007.

12. Social Hierarchies and Inequalities (4): Education

- In-Class Discussion: P. Bourdieu and J-C. Passeron, “Selecting the Elect,” in *The Inheritors. French Students and their relation to culture*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-27
- Presentation: D. Ray, G. Crozier and J. Clayton, 2009, “Strangers in Paradise. Working Class Students in Elite Universities,” in *Sociology*, December, 43, pp. 1103-1121.