

FU/BEST Program

Name: Prof. Dr. Klaus Müller

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Course title: European Traditions in Sociology

Course number: FU-BEST 21

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 45

ECTS-Credits: 5 **U.S. semester credits:** 3

Course description

Sociology as new science, concerned with the impact of the industrial revolution on traditional forms of communal life, traditional beliefs, and authorities, emerged in late nineteenth-century Europe. The pioneers of sociology like Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, and Leonard Hobhouse, today regarded as classics, managed to establish the young discipline at the universities in France, Germany and Great Britain. The transatlantic exchange of sociological ideas intensified during the 1920s with American scholars (like Talcott Parsons) visiting Europe and especially with the large wave of emigrants (Paul Lazarsfeld, Reinhard Bendix, members of the Frankfurt School, and many others) to the United States. Modern Analytical Sociology was created in the United States in cooperation between European immigrants and Americans and (re-)exported to Europe during the 1950s and 1960s.

Today sociology is offered at universities all over the world – with some significant regional specializations. While American sociology is best known for its strong empirical orientation ('social research'), sociology in Europe has developed further the theoretical traditions of the classics ('social theory'). Some paradigmatic questions from Weber to Elias seem still relevant: Why have essential elements of modern societies – from the rise of modern capitalism, to individualism, urban culture, and democracy – occurred first in the West? Alienation from society has been a big theme from Marx to Durkheim and Bourdieu. New topics emerged in the face of new challenges: European Integration, the lifting of the 'Iron Curtain' between Western and Eastern Europe, the pressures of globalization on the European 'social model', and the effects of the internet on state power and society. And, of course, since Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* (1835-1840), sociologists on both sides of the Atlantic have been fascinated to compare Europe and the American Experience.

The aim of the course will be to portray prominent European sociologists and apply their ideas to the challenges of our time.

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Student profile

Second-semester sophomore or above

Prerequisites

None.

Course Requirements

Midterm exam: 25%

Term-Paper: 30%

Final Exam: 25%

Attendance and participation: 20% (includes 1 mandatory Independent Project report).

Literature

Photocopied course reader. Additional readings available in electronic versions.

Course schedule

Sessions	Topics, Reading, etc.
Session 1	<p>Topic: Introduction: Sociology. Traditions and Topics.</p> <p>Reading: Turner, Bryan S.: <i>The Cambridge Dictionary of Sociology</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Introduction; Giddens, Anthony: <i>Sociology</i> (Cambridge: Polity, 2005), Chapter 1.</p>
Session 2	<p>Topic: The Making of Modern Globalization: Creating the World Market</p> <p>Reading: Marx, Karl & Engels, Friedrich: "Manifesto of the Communist Party" (1848), in McLellan, David ed.: <i>Karl Marx. Selected Writings</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000, pp. 245-255; Hobsbawm, Eric 1975: <i>The Age of Capital</i>, London: Abacus, pp. 64-87.</p>
Session 3	<p>Topic: World Religion and the Rise of Modern Capitalism</p> <p>Reading: Weber, Max 1920: The Viewpoint of Sociology of World Religions (original: 'Vorbemerkung'), in <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i>, London 1979: Routledge, xxix-xlii. Giddens, Anthony 1971: <i>Capitalism & Modern Social Theory</i>, Cambridge: CUP, 124-132.</p>

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	<p>Darmon, Isabell 2011: No 'New Spirit'? Max Weber's Account of the Dynamic of Contemporary Capitalism Through 'Pure Adaption' and the Shaping of Adequate Subjects, <i>Max Weber Studies</i>, Vol. 11, No 2, 193-216, esp. 201-209.</p>
Session 4	<p>Topic: Individual, Society, Humanity</p> <p>Reading: Elias, Norbert: "Changes in the We-I Balance"(1987), in Elias, Norbert: <i>The Society of Individuals</i> (New York: Continuum 2001, pp. 155-237).</p>
Session 5	<p>Topic: Suffering in/from Society: The Case of Urban Decline</p> <p>Reading: Bourdieu, Pierre et al.: <i>The Weight of the World. Social Suffering in Contemporary Society</i> (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999), selected chapters; V.A. 2013 on the Insolvency of Detroit, <i>New York Times</i>.</p>
Session 6	Midterm Exam
Session 7	<p>Topic: Surveillance, Discipline & Power</p> <p>Reading: Foucault, Michel 1975: <i>Discipline and Punish. The Birth of the Prison</i>, NY: Vintage Books, pp. 195-228. Ceyhan, Ayse 2012: Surveillance as Biopower, in Ball, Kirstie et al. eds. 2012: <i>Routledge Handbook of Surveillance Studies</i>, London: Routledge, pp. 39-45. Bamford, James 2013: They Know More Than You Think, <i>New York Review of Books</i>, August 15th.</p>
Session 8	<p>Topic: Global Problems! Global Solutions?</p> <p>Reading: Giddens, Anthony: <i>The Politics of Climate Change</i>, (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2009), pp. 1-16; pp. 203-230</p>
Session 9	<p>Topic: Europe after 1989</p> <p>Reading: Habermas, Jürgen & Adam Michnik: Overcoming the Past, <i>NLR</i>, No. 203, 1994, pp. 3-16; Michnik, Adam: "Reflection on the Collapse of Communism", <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 11, No. 1, 2000, pp. 119-126. Garton Ash, Timothy: "Velvet Revolution. The Prospects," in <i>New York Review of Books</i>, Vol. 56, No. 19, 2009.</p>
Session 10	<p>Topic: Europa and America after 9/11</p> <p>Reading: Kagan, Robert: "Power and Weakness",</p>

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	<p>in <i>Policy Review</i>, No. 113, June/July 2000, pp. 3-28. Habermas, Jürgen: "Letter to America," <i>The Nation</i>, December 16, 2002; Habermas, Jürgen: "Fundamentalism and Terror," in Giovanna Borradori, <i>Philosophy in a Time of Terror. Dialogues with Jürgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida</i> (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2003); Habermas, Jürgen & Eduardo Mendueta: "America and the World. A Conversation," in <i>Logos</i>, Vol. 3, No. 3, 2004; Chase, Jefferson: "Europa, Europa. The Mixed-up Debate over the New European Patriotism," in <i>Boston Daily Globe</i>, 20 July 2003; Jarausch, Konrad H.: "Continental Drift. The Divisions that Damage the U.S.–EU Relationship", <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, September 8, 2015.</p>
Session 11	<p>Topic: Mass Immigration: The Transformation of European Societies?</p> <p>Reading: Collier, Paul 2013: <i>Exodus. How Migration is Changing Our World</i>. Oxford University Press, Chapter 1 & 2.</p>
Session 12	<p>Topic: Marx and Weber Today: Global Power Shift and Global Crisis</p> <p>Reading: Huntington, Samuel 1996: The West: Unique, Not Universal, in <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, Nov/Dec. 1996, pp. 28-46; Standing, Guy 2011: <i>The Precariat. The New Dangerous Class</i>, London: Bloomsbury Academic, pp. i-25.</p>
Session 13	Final Exam