

HISTORY OF SOCIAL THEORY

This is the second semester of our two-semester course devoted to the history of social theory. Last semester we studied the development of Marxism beginning with the writings of Marx and Engels followed by Lenin, Gramsci and Fanon. This semester we will study various critical responses to Marxism, beginning with Durkheim and Foucault, and then moving on to Weber and Beauvoir, followed by MacKinnon and Collins. Although attacking Marx and Marxism has loomed large in classical sociological theory, as it will in this course, we shall also construct a critical dialogue among Durkheim, Foucault, Weber and Feminism. Thus, we will see how Foucault's ideas are both continuous with and hostile to Durkheim, how Foucault also engages Weber, and how Weber's social theory provides some surprising anticipations of Beauvoir, who in turn lays the foundations for MacKinnon and Collins. More generally, we will see how both Foucault and Feminism (here represented by Beauvoir, MacKinnon, and Collins) assimilate, reject and move beyond the sociological canon (Marx, Weber and Durkheim).

As last semester, we will study our theorists through the lens of the division of labor and the inspiration this gives to their different conceptions of history. We will see how the major historical divide is not, as it was for Marxism, between a communist future and a pre-communist past, but between "modern," "rational-legal," "industrial" and "disciplinary" society on the one side and a historically prior "traditional," "patrimonial," "feudal," and "repressive" society on the other. The communist future is denied in different ways. The optimistic Durkheim argues that "socialism," or something like it, is almost already with us whereas the pessimistic Weber argues that "communism" can only lead to deeper bureaucratization. Foucault goes even further to dismiss any conception of a utopian future as dangerous fantasy while feminists naturally ask what happens to male domination in this classless utopia.

For each theorist "the division of labor" signifies something different. Where Marxism examined the consequences of the division of labor for "class", Durkheim is interested in the relationship of the division of labor to "solidarity," Weber its relation to "rationalization," Foucault its relation to "power," and feminism its relation to "gender." To gain insight into each theorist we will continue to ask about the form, origins, conditions of existence, mechanisms of development and future of the division of labor. In the process we will see which collective identities each theorist recognizes. We will also examine how each theorist understands the relation of the division of labor to "individuality" and "individualism." We will pay particular attention to where the "individual" comes from, how "it" is produced, how "it" is fitted into the division of labor and with what consequences.

There will be two mid-semester examinations. The first will deal with Durkheim and the second will revolve around Weber and Foucault. The first mid-term will be worth 20% and the second mid-term 30% of the final grade. The final oral examination will cover the entire year's work and count for 25% of the final grade. The remaining 25% will be allocated on the basis of participation in sections.

A xerox reader containing materials from Weber, Beauvoir, MacKinnon, and Collins will be available at Copy Central on Bancroft. Durkheim's *The Division of Labor in Society* and Foucault's, *Discipline and Punish* are available from the ASUC Bookstore, NEDS and CTE.

My office hours are 4-5p.m. on Mondays and 4-6p.m. Tuesdays in Barrows 454. Please sign up ahead of time. I will offer an open question and answer seminar, "Anything Goes," on Mondays, 5-6p.m. Your Graduate Student Instructors are the redoubtable: Chris Herring, Manuel Rosaldo, Josh Seim, Ben Shestakofsky, and Shelly Steward. Sections begin the second week of classes.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Those articles marked with an "*" are contained in the reader.

January 21 **Introduction: Why Durkheim, Weber, Foucault and Beauvoir?**

DURKHEIM (1858-1917)

January 23 **Roots of Durkheim. Sociology as Science. Is the division of labor a pathology or normal?**

The Division of Labor in Society, Preface to First Edition (pp.xxv-xxx);
Introduction (pp.1-8)

January 28 **The Argument. The functions of the division of labor? What are Durkheim's two notions of solidarity? How to measure solidarity? What is the relation between division of labor and solidarity? How to explain conflict and disorganization?**

The Division of Labor in Society, Book I, chapter 1 (pp.11-30)

January 30 **What is a Crime? What is the Function of Punishment? What is the form of punishment? Mechanical Solidarity and the State.**

The Division of Labor in Society, Book I, chapter 2 (pp.31-67)

February 4 **What is organic solidarity? Restitutive Law. Durkheim's criticism of Spencer. Organic solidarity and the state.**

The Division of Labor in Society, Book I, chapter 3 (pp.68-72; 77-87) and chapter 7 (pp.149-175)

February 6 **What happens to the collective consciousness under organic solidarity? What are the origins and impetus behind the development of the division of labor.**

The Division of Labor in Society, Book I, chapter 5 (pp.118-123) and Book II, chapter 2 (pp.200-225)

February 11 **Normal and Abnormal division of labor. Anomic, forced and discontinuous division of labor.**

The Division of Labor in Society, Book III, chapters 1, 2 and 3 (pp.291-328)

February 13 **Why Durkheim? Marx and Durkheim? Ransacking Durkheim.**

The Division of Labor in Society, Conclusion (pp.329-341)

February 17 **FIRST TAKE-HOME EXAMINATION DUE**

FOUCAULT (1926-1984)

- February 18 **Introduction to Foucault.**
“The Power and Politics of Michele Foucault,” Interview in *Daily Californian*
- February 20 **Compare Durkheim and Foucault with respect to (a) punishment, (b) restitutive law and discipline, and (c) occupational associations/workplace and the microphysics of power?**
Discipline and Punish, pp.3-31
- February 25 **Discipline: Hierarchical Observation, Normalization and Examination**
Discipline and Punish, pp.170-194
- February 27 **The Plague and the Leper. Panopticon vs. Hegemony and Bureaucracy.**
Discipline and Punish, pp.195-215
- March 4 **The Disciplinary Society. Foucault’s vs. Durkheim, Weber and Gramsci.**
Discipline and Punish, pp.216-228.

WEBER (1864-1920)

- March 6 **What Does Weber mean by Rationalization and by Modern Western Bourgeois Capitalism?**
Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, pp.13-31
- March 11 **What is the Spirit of Capitalism?**
Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, pp.47-78
- March 13 **What is the Protestant Ethic? The difference between Luther and Calvin?**
Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, pp.79-128.
- March 18 **What is the connection between the Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism? What is the difference between the origins of the Capitalist Division of Labor and its reproduction?**
Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, pp.155-183
- March 20 **From Capitalism to Bureaucratization. What is Bureaucracy?**
*Bureaucracy**, Sections 1 and 2, (pp.196-204).
- March 24 – March 28 MID-SEMESTER BREAK

- April 1 **What are the Conditions and Origins of Bureaucracy?**
*Bureaucracy**, Sections 3 (pp.204-9), 9 (pp.224-228), and 11 (pp.230-232).
- April 3 **What are the tensions between democracy and bureaucracy? Between power and knowledge?**
*Bureaucracy**, Sections 12 (pp.232-235), and 14 (pp.240-44)
- April 8 **Why is bureaucracy so permanent? Whose interests are served by bureaucracy? What threatens bureaucracy? Weber vs. Lenin?**
*Bureaucracy**, Sections 6 (pp.214-216), 10 (pp.228-30), and 7 (ONLY pp.220-1)
- April 10 **What are the types of legitimate domination? Weber vs. Gramsci. Legitimacy vs. Hegemony?**
*Types of Legitimate Domination**
- April 14 SECOND TAKE-HOME DUE

FEMINISM: FROM BEAUVOIR (1908-1986) TO MACKINNON AND COLLINS

- April 15 **Women as Other. Why do women submit to male domination?**
 Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Introduction (pp.xix-xxxvi)
- April 16 **6.30p.m. Film: Daughters of Beauvoir**
- April 17 **Liberation and the independent woman.**
 Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Conclusion (pp.716-732).
- April 22 **Marxism and Feminism. Work and Sexuality.**
 Catharine MacKinnon, *Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State: An Agenda for Theory**, pp.227-239
- April 24 **Sexuality and Gender. Objectification. Objectivity. Consciousness Raising.**
 Catharine MacKinnon, *Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State: An Agenda for Theory**, pp.240-256
- April 29 **Multiple Oppressions**
 Patricia Hill Collins, *Learning from the Outsider Within**
- May 1 **Seeking Universality**
 Patricia Hill Collins, *Learning from the Outsider Within**
- May 5 SUMMARY AND REVIEW

May 6

SUMMARY AND REVIEW