

Political Science 765

Social Theory for Social Scientists I: Smith, Marx, Durkheim, & Weber

Spring

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Class: Tues. 3:30-6:18
Office Hrs.: Wed. 4-5
2114 Derby Hall

Smith, Marx, Durkheim, and Weber essentially founded modern social science. Yet their work combined normative, empirical, and theoretical research in a way that is rarely found today. This course will explore how and why they did so, and trace out the path that begins with Smith's seamless integration of economics, ethics, and politics to Weber's vision of these fields becoming sundered in a way that traps us moderns in an "iron cage" from which we must merely "choose our gods and demons." These themes will be considered with an eye toward their relevance for how social science gets practiced today.

Course Requirements

There are two main course requirements:

1. Seminar presentation and seminar participation. Each member of the seminar is expected to participate each week in seminar discussion. In addition, each member of the seminar will be responsible for making two presentations designed to spark seminar discussion on an assigned topic. The presentations and seminar participation more generally count for 40% of the final course grade.
2. Final paper. One 15-20 page paper on a subject of the seminar member's choice, based on either the course readings, or an application to current research. This paper will count for 60% of the final course grade and is due on June 9th.

Course Materials

The following books are available for purchase at the Ohio State Book Store.

Anthony Giddens, ed. *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*. Cambridge University Press, 1972.

W. G. Runciman, ed. *Weber: Selections*. Cambridge University Press, 1978.

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (Abridged by Laurence Dickey). Hackett, 1993.

Robert C. Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader 2nd Ed.* Norton, 1978.

Students with disabilities should make their needs known to the instructor and seek available assistance in the first week of the quarter. For course materials in alternative formats please see Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 292-2880, also in the first week of the quarter.

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

Week 1: April 2

Introduction

Week 2: April 9

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (Abridged by Laurence Dickey). pp. 1-116

Week 3: April 16

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (Abridged by Laurence Dickey). pp. 116-210

Week 4: April 23

Marx: Week 4 (Order of Readings)

Methodology

Tucker p. 221-246

Tucker p. 143-146

Alienation

Packet: From *Comments on James Mill* (4)

Tucker p. 66-81

Packet: From the *Grundrisse* (6)

Tucker: p. 319-329

Economics/Exploitation

Tucker: p. 329-343

Packet: From *Results of the Immediate Process of Production* (11)

Tucker: p. 525-532

Tucker: p. 364-376

Tucker: p. 403-417

Week 5: April 30

The Marx-Engels Reader. pp. 66-105; 143-203; 469-501; 594-618

Week 6: May 7

Anthony Giddens, ed. *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*. pp. 51-172

Week 7: May 14

Anthony Giddens, ed. *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*. pp. 173-268

Week 8: May 21

W. G. Runciman, ed. *Weber: Selections*. pp. 7-131

Week 9: May 28

W. G. Runciman, ed. *Weber: Selections*. 138-284

Week 10: June 4

Discussion on How Social Science Today Does & Should Get Done: Readings TBA