Anthropology 705: Seminar – Social Theories of Modernity  
Spring 2017

Meeting Time: Fridays, 9:30-12:10pm, Sabin 394
Instructor: Thomas Malaby  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00pm
Office: Sabin 397  
Fax: 414-229-5848
Email: malaby@uwm.edu  
Phone: 414-229-475

This seminar begins with Alexis de Tocqueville’s classic work, *Democracy in America*, taking it as a landmark example of ethnography that contributed foundationally to the development of modern social theory. We proceed to trace this development by exploring classic works of modern social theory, thereby introducing students, through focused readings and extensive class discussion, to the leading thinkers whose legacy continues to shape the social sciences, including anthropology. All of the social theorists we read in one way or another sought to answer questions about what modernity meant for society. That is, in the aftermath of revolutions political, economic, intellectual, and religious, these thinkers asked what they meant for the human condition, with an emphasis on a picture of humanity as fundamentally social.

**Assignments:**
Students are expected to do the weekly readings, attend seminar without exception, and participate actively in discussion. In addition, students are required to prepare a précis for one or two week’s readings (depending upon enrollment), including up to four questions for class discussion. Graduate students will in addition write a final position paper for the course; the undergraduates will complete a final essay about one of the theorists focused on in the course.

**Course Readings:**
Shorter course readings will be available through the course’s D2L site. The following books are required and can be purchased through ecampus.com. Please note that it is important that we share the same editions; if purchasing through another source or in another format, please obtain the ISBNs I have provided below:

- *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir (Pashley Translation [may be difficult to find new], Vintage; ISBN 0679724516)
- *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, Jürgen Habermas (MIT; ISBN 978-0262581080)

**Course Schedule**

*Week 1*

- Tocqueville, *DIA*:
  - Editor’s Introduction
  - Introduction
Week 2
Tocqueville, *DIA*
Vol 1, Part 2, Ch 4; pp 187-191, 210-219; Chs 6-9; pp 326-348; Conclusion

Week 3
Tocqueville, *DIA*
Vol 2, Preface, Part 1, chs 1 & 2; Part 2, chs 1-8, 13, 20; Part III, chs 1-5, 8, 9, 17, 21; Part 4, entire

Week 4
Tocqueville, *Old Regime* – Selection TBA
Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

Week 5
Marx – TBA

Week 6
Marx – TBA
Durkheim
“Individualism and the Intellectuals”
“The Dualism of Human Nature and its Consequences”

Week 7

Week 8
Weber, “Objectivity in the Social Sciences”
Weber, *From Max Weber*
“The Social Psychology of World Religions”
“Religious Rejections of the World and Their Directions”
“Science as a Vocation”

Week 9
Weber, *From Max Weber*
“Structures of Power”
“Class, Status, and Party”
“Bureaucracy”
“Politics as a Vocation”

Week 10
de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
Chapters 2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 21, 23, 25

Week 11
Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* ° Entire

Week 12

Week 13

Week 14
Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 3* – Entire

Week 15
Habermas, TBA