Anthropology 705: Seminar – Social Theories of Modernity
Spring 2020

Meeting Time: Fridays, 9:30-12:10pm, Sabin 394
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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 two or three weeks of 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)


**Course Schedule**

*Week 1 – 1/24*

Tocqueville, *DIA*:
- Editor's Introduction
- Introduction
- Vol 1, Part 1, pp 19-104, 146-164
Week 2 – 1/31
Tocqueville, DIA
Vol 1, Part 2, Ch 4; pp 187-191, 210-219; Chs 6-9; pp 326-348; Conclusion

Week 3 – 2/7
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 – 2/14
Tocqueville, Old Regime – Forward, Pt. 1 (entire), P. 2 (chs. 1, 3, 5-9, pp. 104-107, chs. 11, 12), Pt. 3 (entire), Appendix (entire)
Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France

Week 5 – 2/21
Marx
“On the Jewish Question”
“Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right: Introduction”
“Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” (to p. 105)
“Theses on Feuerbach”
“The German Ideology”
“Marx on the History of His Opinions (Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy)”
“Manifesto of the Communist Party”

Week 6 – 2/28
Marx
“Inaugural Address to the Working Men’s International Association”
“Economics and Politics in the Labor Movement”
“The Possibility of Non-Violent Revolution”
“Critique of the Gotha Program”
“The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte”

Durkheim
“Individualism and the Intellectuals”
“The Dualism of Human Nature and its Consequences”

Week 7 – 3/6

Week 8 – 3/13
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”

– Spring Recess 3/20 –

Week 9 – 3/27
Weber, From Max Weber
“Structures of Power”
“Class, Status, and Party”
“Bureaucracy”
“Politics as a Vocation”

Week 10 – 4/3
Mead, G. H. Mind, Self, & Society (selections)
Week 11 – 4/10
   de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*
   Chapters 2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 21, 23, 25

Week 12 – 4/17
   Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, Entire

Week 13 – 4/24

Week 14 – 5/1
   Foucault, Essays TBA
   Habermas, Essays TBA