

SOC250-1 Ideas and Theories in the Social Sciences (2008 curriculum 3 credits)

Christian Etzrodt

Year: 2013

Semester: Spring

Meeting-time/day: Mon, Wed 15:30-16:45

Office: A3-3

Office Hours: 10:30-11:30/Tue & 13:00-16:00/Tue & 10:30-11:30/Wed

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Website:

Course Description:

Theories determine consciously or unconsciously our perception of reality. They explain human behavior (e.g. egoistic or idealistic, reasonable or irrational), institutions (e.g. why do family structures exist in every society), and human interactions. We can therefore increase our knowledge of the social world by applying different theories to a certain social problem, because we will be able to see the problem from different perspectives. This course introduces students to the main analytical tools of sociology and the related social sciences. The major classical and contemporary sociological ideas and theories will be discussed. Students are provided with a necessary understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of the major theoretical perspectives of the discipline. We will examine their background assumptions, logical consistency, and empirical testability. A substantial part of the course will be related to the practical application of these theories to relevant contemporary social problems.

Objectives:

1. To gain familiarity with the major sociological theories.
2. To develop your ability to move between theories to compare, contrast and critically analyze them.
3. To use sociological theories as schemes of interpretation that allows you to change consciously the point of view in order to analyze social problems from different perspectives.
4. To develop your theoretical creativity, by exploring applications of theories to everyday life.
5. To practice and strengthen your ability to write about social theory in clear and concise prose.

Expected Academic Background:

It is strongly suggested that, prior to enrolling in this course, students have first completed Sociology (Sociology 180).

Textbook:

Harrington, Austin (2005): *Modern Social Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Reference Books/Other Study Materials:

- Callinicos, Alex (1999): *Social Theory: A Historical Introduction*. New York: New York University Press.
- Powers, Charles H. (2004): *Making Sense of Social Theory: A Practical Introduction*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Roberts, Brian (2006): *Micro Social Theory*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.

Assessment:

Students have to make a short presentation (10 minutes). It will be worth 30% of the overall course grade. Students have to write a short (4-10 pages) academic paper. The paper should be about a comparison and evaluation of two discussed theories. The paper will be worth 40% of the overall course grade. Finally, students will receive 25% of the final grade or 25 points for attendance. Each time a student is absent from class without an official excuse, he or she will get 1 point less. Students will receive 1 point up to 5 points (5% of the final grade) for each class he or she actively participated.

Class Schedule:

Week 1:

Introduction: What is Social Theory?

Week 2:

Classical Social Theory, I: Contexts and Beginnings.

Week 3:

Classical Social Theory, II: Karl Marx and Emile Durkheim.

Week 4:

Classical Social Theory, III: Max Weber and Georg Simmel.

Week 5:

Functionalism and its Critics.

Week 6:

Interpretivism and Interactionism.

Week 7:

Historical Social Theory.

Week 8:

Critical Theory.

Week 9:

Psychoanalytic Social Theory.

Week 10:

Structuralism and Post-structuralism.

Week 11:

Structure and Agency.

Week 12:

Feminist Social Theory.

Week 13:

Modernity and Postmodernity: Part I.

Week 14:

Modernity and Postmodernity: Part II.

Week 15:

Reserve

INT230-1 International Cooperation and Development I (2008 curriculum 3 credits)

Koichi MORIZONO

Year: 2013
Semester: Spring
Meeting-time/day: M, W 17:00-18:15
Office: A3-2
Office Hours: M, W 18:20-19:30
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Website:

Course Description:

This is an introductory course of international development studies and development cooperation. It is designed to provide students with basic but broad knowledge and analytical skills to understand the current state of developing countries, examine their development issues and problems, and contemplate possible policy measures and approaches. It will begin with examining of their general development status, together with learning of the basic development indicators. This will be followed by poverty analysis and an overview of other common issues and challenges of developing countries. Development and growth theories and hypotheses will also be touched on. It then proceeds to discussions on key issues of development. While the approaches of economics are used in many parts of analysis and discussion, the social dimensions will also be looked into. Through this course, students will get acquainted with key issues and problems of developing countries and learn how to approach them for solution. This course will also help students identify areas of interest for their further study of development.

Objectives:

Through the course, students are expected to:

- (i) get acquainted with unique characteristics of the current state of developing countries and their development challenges;
- (ii) acquire the basic analytical skills and knowledge to examine development issues and problems of developing countries; and
- (iii) help students build a broad base for higher level of studies relating to international development and cooperation.

Expected Academic Background:

Nothing in particular.

Textbook:

No particular textbook will be used but the first two of the reference books listed below will quite often used. For each class, PP or other materials will be prepared by the instructor and their copies will be distributed to all students or provided through AIMS.

Reference Books/Other Study Materials:

All books or reading materials will be available (reserved) at the library or available at websites. All these information will be given by the instructor in class.

Reference Books/Other Study Materials:

- * World Bank Atlas of Global Development, 3rd Edition, 2011
- * Todaro, Michael P. Economic Development 10th Edition, 2009
- * Meier, Gerald M. Leading Issues in Economic Development 8th Edition, 2005
- * Szirmai, Adam. The Dynamics of Socio-economic Development, Cambridge, 1997
- * Willis, Katie. Theories and Practices of Development, Routledge, 2005
- * de Beer, Frik and Swanepoel, Hennie. Introduction to Development Studies, Oxford, 2001
- * Haynes, Jeffrey. Development Studies, Polity Press. 2008
- * Desai, Vandana and Potter, Robert. The Companion to Development Studies” , Arnold, 2002
- * Kingsbury, D; Remenyi, Joe; Mckay, John. Key Issues in Development, Palgrave, 2004
- * Handelman, Howard. The Challenge of third World, 4th Ed., Pearson, 2005,
- * Sen, Amartya. Development as Freedom, Anchor Books, 2000
- * Collier, Paul. The Bottom Billion, Oxford, 2007
- * Sachs, Jeffrey. The End of Poverty, Penguin, 2006
- * Allen, Tim and Thomas, Alan. Poverty and Development, Oxford, 2004
- * Other readings and information available at Web sites: World Bank, UNDP, OECD/DAC, ADB, etc (List of useful Web sites will be given in class)

Assessment:

Student performance will be assessed and graded in the following (weights):

- (1) Final Exam 40%
- (2) Mid-term Exam 20%
- (3) Homework and Class Presentation 30%
- (4) Class Participation 10%

Note 1: Above weights may change after announcement.

Note 2: The date and the coverage for Mid-term Exam and Final Exam will be announced in due course. Tentative dates are shown in the attached class schedule

Policies & Remarks:

Class sessions will have a lecture- cum- discussion format. Each class will normally start with lectures on the topic(s) of the day and then discussion follows. Discussion may be conducted by the instructor 's interactions with students in form of questions or initiated by group discussion, depending on the subject or the size of class. For student' s out-of-class tasks, two types will be given in class, i.e. mandatory and recommended: the former will be applied to all students as necessary readings or work, and the latter only for those who would like to study more on the subject. The instructor will not accept any submission of homework assignment later than its due date, if so instructed.

Class Schedule:

Week 1:

I. Introduction

- 1) Course Introduction: How developing countries look like?
- 2) What is “Development”

Week 2:

- 3) How can we see better-off?

4) Measurement of Development and Comparison

Week 3:

5) What is a “developing country” ?

6) Social Development: Social Indicators and HDI

Week 4:

II. Poverty and Other Common Characteristics of Developing World

1) Poverty and Inequality (1): What is poverty?

2) Poverty and Inequality (2): Inequality in Income Distribution

Week 5:

3) Other Common Characteristics: Economic Dimension

Week 6:

4) Other Common Characteristics: Social and Cultural Dimensions

Week 7:

5) Case Studies

Week 8:

III. Development Strategies and Approaches

1) Classical Approaches

2) Capitalism and Interventionism

Week 9:

3) Neo-Liberalism and Marxism

4) Neo-Populism

Week 10:

5) Post-development

6) Today’ s controversies and New Approaches

Week 11:

IV. Key Development Issues

1) Population and Development

2) Other population-related Issues

Week 12:

3) Education and Other Human Resource-related Issues

4) Health and Development

Week 13:

5) Environment and Development

6) Direct Investment, Foreign Borrowing, and Foreign Aid

Week 14:

7) Millennium Development Goals and New Challenges

8) Overview

Week 15:

Final Examination