CC203: Foundations of the Social Sciences  
Fall 2006

Faculty: James Johnson, Ted Murphy, Judith Swanson, David Swartz, Jon Westling

Foundations of the Social Sciences explores the origins of the social sciences from the early-modern period to the early twentieth century. Over the course of the semester we will examine works by a number of penetrating thinkers who have shaped contemporary ideas on politics, class relationships, economics, and religion. Themes will include social contract theory, the nature of democracy, the search for economic justice, and the religious and psychological origins of the modern West.

Grades will be determined by your seminar leader. They will be based on a combination of written work, examinations, and class participation. The midterm and final exams will each count for 20%, the remaining proportions of the grade will be determined by your seminar leader. The entire CC203 faculty will create the exams, which will include questions based on lectures, seminar discussions, and readings. Attendance at all lectures is required and is essential for success in the course.

The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. Writing Tutors are graduate and undergraduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works we read in the Core. To make an appointment with a tutor, stop by the Core Office (CAS 119) or call 353-5404. Tutors’ offices are in the Core Office.

We expect that the work on which you are evaluated is your own. Taking credit for someone else's work, in any way, shape, or form is plagiarism, and will be punished by an F for the assignment; more severe sanctions by the University Academic Conduct Committee are possible. The Boston University Conduct Code describes plagiarism as including each of the following: “copying the answers of another student on an examination, copying or substantially restating the work of another person or persons in any oral or written work without citing the appropriate source, and collaboration with someone else in academic endeavor without acknowledging his or her contribution” (p. 2). A more detailed discussion with examples appears on pp. 9-14 of the Code. It is your responsibility to read these pages carefully and know exactly what constitutes plagiarism.

Required Texts are available at the Boston University Bookstore:

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings*
- Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*
- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*
- Max Weber, *Protestant Ethic & Spirit of Capitalism*
- Karl Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*
- Montesquieu, *Selected Political Writings*
- Emile Durkheim, *Suicide*
- Bronislaw Malinowski, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*
**Schedule of Lectures and Readings**
*All lectures will be in SMG 105 at 12:30, unless otherwise noted.*

Sept. 7 - Introduction to the Course; Hobbes, "Leviathan" (1-27, 57-63, 74-146)

Sept. 14 - Locke, "Second Treatise on Government" (Chapters 1-15, 18, 19, pp. 240-43)

Sept. 21 - Montesquieu, "Selected Political Writings" (55-83, 106-81, 194-213, 218-28)

Sept. 28 - Rousseau, "Second Discourse"

Oct. 5 - Smith, "Theory of Moral Sentiments" (9-91, 109-13, 134-39, 171-93)


Oct. 19 - Midterm exam


Nov. 9 - Weber, "The Protestant Ethic" (3-79, 100-25)

Nov. 16 - Durkheim, "Suicide" (35-59, 145-70, 177-80, 208-23, 227-28, 241-58, 260-76, 297-300, 321-25)

Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving - No lecture

Nov. 30 - Malinowski, "Argonauts of the Western Pacific" (xv, 2-25, 81-104, 173-76, 352-65, 509-15); Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight" (available on the Core website: www.bu.edu/core)

Dec. 7 - Conclusion and Review

Final - To Be Announced