CAS CC203: Foundations of the Social Sciences
Fall Semester 2010
Lectures: Thursday, 12:30-2:00, CAS 522

Faculty
David Swartz (Sociology) dswartz@bu.edu
Course Coordinator
Maureen Sullivan (Core) maureens@bu.edu
Stephanie Nelson (Classics) nelson@bu.edu
Jon Westling (History) westling@bu.edu
Thornton Lockwood (Core) tlock@bu.edu

Discussion Sections
A1 - Thurs. 2-3:30, CAS 522
HS - TTH, 2-3:30, CAS 119
B1 - MWF 10-11 CAS 203
B3 - MWF 11-12 CAS 212
B4 - MWF 12-1 CAS 237
B5 - MWF 1-2, CAS 218
B6 - TTH 2-3:30, CAS 235
B8 - TTH 3:30-5, CAS 322

Course Design
The Social Science Core is designed to complement the Humanities and Natural Sciences Cores by introducing the social sciences within their historical setting. It will pursue major intellectual themes rather than attempt to cover each discipline separately. The first semester focuses on the emergence of the social sciences up to the end of the 19th century and early 20th century. Our purpose is to outline the modes of thought, scope of problems, types of analysis and their significance in understanding the world. For this reason historical context plays a vital role in determining how the very societies we study have changed through time and helps explain why some problems received more attention in one period than another. We will read and discuss some of the most insightful and influential thinkers on social forces, politics, economics, and religion who have shaped contemporary ideas about the structures of society. The readings for each lecture theme are drawn from original sources in order to represent the most fundamental theories as they were first presented.

Course Structure
This course syllabus outlines the schedule of lecture topics and reading assignments for each week. You will receive in addition a section syllabus for your section. Most all of the assigned readings are from original sources. To the extent possible the assigned selections from longer works have been specifically chosen so that you can focus on the major ideas. It is vital that you keep up with the reading if the course is to be a success. There are three components to the course that will make up the final grade:

1. **Attendance** at Thursday lectures, and section attendance and participation in section discussion. You are expected to attend the Thursday lectures. Sections will meet as scheduled. Topics for discussion will provided each week during the Thursday lectures and/or section meetings although students are encouraged to raise other issues that seem relevant to the lectures and readings.

2. **Writing assignments.** Writing assignments are designed to integrate the lectures, readings and discussions. Each instructor will provide details about the topics, length, schedule, and number of papers required.
3. **Midterm and Final examinations.** A midterm and final will cover materials presented in the Thursday lectures and in the assigned readings. Each examination will ask you to reflect on the materials covered during the semester.

Grades will be determined by your section professor. They will be based on a combination of written work, class participation, and a midterm and final examination according to the following percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm (around Oct. 14)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (Sat., Dec. 18, 9-11am)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>40-60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your section professor will set percentages for papers ranging from 40 to 60% and class participation ranging from 10% to 20%. The midterm will be administered in the sections. All will take the final exam at the same time on the date set by the university. It will be held Saturday, December 18, 9-11am in CAS 522.

**Important Dates**
September 16 is the last day you can add this course if there are available places. October 7 is the last day you can drop this course without a "W" grade. November 5 is the last day you can drop this course with a "W" grade. October 7 is the last day you can change from a credit to audit status for this course.

The final exam is Saturday, December 18, 9-11am. Take careful note of this date. The date is fixed by the College for the exam period and cannot be taken in advance. So do not plan to take your vacation break before taking the final exam!

The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. The Core faculty encourage you to make good use of it. Writing Tutors are graduate and undergraduate students who have been trained in grammar and compositional skills and are familiar with the works 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.

**Honor Code and Conduct Expectations**
All written work for this course must represent your own, original effort. Do not copy material from any unidentified source (including the Internet) and attempt to pass it off as your own. You are expected to abide faithfully by university regulations regarding all aspects of course performance. You should familiarize yourself with those standards and regulations as outlined in the CAS ACADEMIC CONDUCT CODE at www.bu.edu/cas/academics/programs/conductcode.html Since you will be analyzing and writing about classical texts, be sure you understand how to properly distinguish summarization in your own words from quotation and paraphrase. The Boston University Academic Conduct Code describes plagiarism as: “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 an academic endeavor without acknowledging his or her contribution” (p. 2). A more detailed discussion with examples appears on pp. 9-14 of the Code. Consult the CODE for good illustrations. Any violation of those academic standards, such as plagiarism, will lead to automatic dismissal from the course with a failing grade.

All websites consulted for use in written work must be acknowledged in your papers. Unacknowledged use of material from the internet will be considered plagiarism and punished as such.
It is your responsibility to read these pages from the Academic Conduct Code carefully and know exactly what constitutes plagiarism.

**Accommodation for Disability**
If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because of a documented disability, contact your section leader and present your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations you should contact Dr. Lorraine Wolf in the Office of Disability Services. Letters of accommodations should be presented as soon as possible to ensure that student needs are addressed from the start of the course.

**Books Available for Purchase**

- Durkheim, Emile, *Suicide* (Doubleday)
- Hobbes, Thomas, *The Leviathan* (Hackett)
- Locke, John, *Second Treatise on Government* (Hackett)
- Rousseau, J-J., *Basic Political Writings* (Hackett)
- Tocqueville, Alexis de, *Democracy in America* (Hackett)
- Malinowski, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* (Wavelength)

ISBN info for each of these books can be found at http://bu.edu/core/books. Note: The Core Source Book contains assigned photocopied material. It is available free from the Core Office and will be handed out at the first Thursday lecture.

**Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments**

**Week 1 (September 2)** The Rise of Social Scientific Concerns
Analytical grid of key questions (source book)
Lecturers: Prof. David Swartz (Department of Sociology)

**Week 2 (September 9)** The Ancient World & Writing History
Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War (source book)
Tacitus, *Germania* (source book)
Lecturer: Prof. Thornton Lockwood (Core)

**Week 3 (September 16)** The Desert and the Town – Comparative Sociology
Lecturer: Prof. Tom Barfield (Department of Anthropology)

**Week 4 (September 23)** States of Nature & Political Order
Thomas Hobbes, *The Leviathan* (pp. 1-27, 57-63, 74-100, 106-45)
Lecturer: TBA

**Week 5 (September 30)** Rights, Liberty, and Resistance
“Declaration of Independence” (source book)
Lecturer: Prof. James Schmidt (Department of History)
Week 6 (October 7) Origins of Inequality & The Social Contract
J-J. Rousseau, “Discourse on the Origin of Inequality” (Basic Political Writings, pp. 39-81) and “Social Contract” (Basic Political Writings, pp. 141-227)
Lecturer: Parker Shipton (Department of Anthropology)

Week 7 (October 14) Social Forces: The Invisible Hand
Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations, (source book)
Lecturer: TBA

Week 8 (October 21) Social Forces: Evolution and Society (October 14)
Charles Darwin, Descent of Man, chapter 5 (source book)
Lecturer: Prof. Thomas Glick (Department of History)

Week 9 (October 28) Theory into Practice: America as a Society
Lecturer: Prof. John Stone (Department of Sociology)

Week 10 (November 4) Social Forces: The Industrial Revolution
Lecturer: Prof. Jeff Coulter (Department of Sociology)

Week 11 (November 11) Social Forces: Culture and the Origins of Modern Capitalism
Lecturer: Prof. Stephen Kalberg (Department of Sociology)

Week 12 (November 18) The Individual and Society
Emile Durkheim, Suicide: pp.15-29, 147-178, 210-247, 262-305, 329-335 (ending with “how it operates”), 343 (starting with “So the terms”) - 361
Lecturer: Prof. David Swartz (Department of Sociology)

Thanksgiving Vacation

Week 13 (December 2) Exchange and Reciprocity
Malinowski, Argonauts of the Western Pacific (xv, 2-25, 81-104, 173-76, 352-65, 509-15)
Lecturer: Prof. Parker Shipton (Department of Anthropology)

Week 14 (December 9) Concluding synthesizing forum

Final examination: Saturday, December 18, 9-11am in CAS 522