CC 203: Foundations of the Social Sciences

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
CORE CURRICULUM
Thursday, 12:30-2:00 pm, CAS Room 522, 685 Commonwealth Avenue
Fall 2012

David Swartz (coordinator; Sociology) dswartz@bu.edu  A1 - Thurs. 12:30-1:50, CAS 522
B1 - MWF, 2-3, CAS 318
Stefan Kalt (Core) kaltst@bu.edu    B3 – TTH 11-12:30, CAS 204B
B5 - TTH 3:30-5, CAS 323B
Thomas Barfield (Anthropology) barfield@bu.edu   B4 - TTH 2-3:30, CAS 212

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.

Grades will be assigned and proportioned by your section professor, according to the following percentages:

Class participation: 10-20%  Papers: 50-70%  Final exam: 20%

Class participation (Thursday lecture attendance, section attendance and participation in section discussion). You are expected to attend both section discussions and Thursday lectures. Section and lecture attendance will be monitored by section leaders and irregular attendance will adversely affect your final grade. 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. Papers are designed to integrate the lectures, readings and discussions. Each instructor will provide details about the topics, length, schedule, and number of papers required. The final exam (an essay exam) will cover materials presented in the Thursday lectures and in the assigned readings, and will ask you to reflect on the materials covered during the semester.

Writing is an essential component of the Core Curriculum and is coordinated closely with the Boston University Writing Program. Students who successfully complete both semesters of the second-year Core Humanities or the Core Social Sciences (either CC201/202 together or CC203/204 together) receive credit for WR150. The Core Writing Center is available for help throughout the semester. 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, stop by CAS 119 or call 617-353-5404. The tutors’ office is found in CAS 129.

On the Core website—http://bu.edu/core—students will find faculty office hours, reading lists, supplemental course material, a department activities and academic calendar, syllabi, tutor appointment forms and writing FAQs, and other resources. We hope you will also take advantage of the Core Blog at blogs.bu.edu/core, where you can stay up to date with Core events and participate in a wide-open conversation with Core lecturers and faculty about the issues of the course.
Important Dates. September 19 is the last day you can add this course if there are available places. October 9 is the last day you can drop this course without a “W” grade. November 9 is the last day you can drop this course with a “W” grade. October 9 is the last day you can change from a credit to audit status for this course.

The date of the final exam will be posted in September. 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!

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 the standards and regulations outlined in the Academic Conduct Code, available online at http://bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct. 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”;

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, you should 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.

Required Texts

- History of the Peloponnesian War by Thucydides  (Penguin, 9780140440393)
- The Muqaddimah by Ibn Khaldun  (Princeton, 9780691120546)
- The Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes  (Hackett, 9780872201774)
- Basic Political Writings by Jean-Jacques Rousseau  (Hackett, 9780872200470)
- Second Treatise of Government by John Locke  (Hackett, 9780915144860)
- Democracy in America by Alexis de Tocqueville  (Hackett, 9780872204942)
- The Old Regime and the French Revolution by Alexis de Tocqueville  (Anchor Books, 0-385-09260-1)
- The Marx-Engels Reader, edited by Robert C. Tucker  (Norton, 9780393090406)
- Protestant Ethic & Spirit of Capitalism by Max Weber  (Oxford, 9780199747252)
- On Suicide by Emile Durkheim  (Penguin Books, 9780140449679)
- Argonauts of the Western Pacific by Bronislaw Malinowski  (Waveland Press, 9780881330847)

Note: The CC203 Coursepack 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 6) The Ancient World & Social Science
Lecturer: Prof. Michael Corgan (International Relations)

Week 2 (September 13) The Desert and the Town: Comparative Sociology
Lecturer: Prof. Thomas Barfield (Department of Anthropology)
Week 3 (September 20) States of Nature & Political Order
   Thomas Hobbes, The Leviathan (pp. 3-27, 57-63, 74-100, 106-45)
   Lecturer: Prof. Susanne Sreedhar (Department of Philosophy)

Week 4 (September 27) Inequality, Property & Social Contract
   Declaration of Independence (course packet)
   Lecturer: Prof. Brendan McConville (Dept. of History)

Week 5 (October 4) Social Contract & Its Critics
   Lecturer: TBA

Week 6 (October 11) Social & Economic Forces: The Division of Labor & The Invisible Hand
   Lecturer: Prof. David Swartz (Department of Sociology)

Week 7 (October 18) Theory into Practice: America as a Democratic Society
   Lecturer: Prof. John Stone (Department of Sociology)

Week 8 (October 25) The French Revolution
   Lecturer: TBA

Week 9 (November 1) Social & Economic Forces: The Industrial Revolution
   Lecturer: Prof. David Swartz (Department of Sociology)

Week 10 (November 8) Social & Cultural Forces: Culture and the Origins of Modern Capitalism
   Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism, (pp. 67-138, 158-79) & “Science as a Vocation” (course packet)
   Lecturer: Prof. Stephen Kalberg (Department of Sociology)

Week 11 (November 15) The Individual and Society
   Emile Durkheim, Suicide: pp. 15-29, 147-78, 210-47, 262-305, 329-35 (ending with “how it operates”), 343 (starting with “So the terms”) 361
   Lecturer: Prof. David Swartz (Department of Sociology)

Fall Recess: Wednesday, November 21–Sunday, November 25

Week 12 (November 29) Exchange and Reciprocity
   Lecturer: TBA

Week 13 (December 6) Concluding synthesizing forum