CC 203: Foundations of the Social Sciences  

Fall 2013  

BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
CORE CURRICULUM  

LECTURES  Thursdays 12:30-2 pm in CAS Room 522, 685 Comm Ave  

COORDINATOR  Thomas Barfield. Dept. of Anthropology, 232 Bay State Road, Room 103  

SEMINARS  
B2  TR 11-12:30pm in CAS 213 with David Roochnik  roochnik@bu.edu  
B3  TR 2-3:30pm in CAS 212 with Thomas Barfield  barfield@bu.edu  
B4  MWF 10-11am in CAS 119-B with John Thornton  jkthorn@bu.edu  

Course design. The Core Social Sciences are designed to complement the course sequences in Humanities and Natural Sciences 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 discussion section syllabus for your section leader. Most all of the assigned readings are from original sources. To the extent possible excerpts 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 entails attendance at Thursday lecture and attendance and participation in section discussion. 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 be 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.

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 8 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 date of the final exam will be announced in September. Take careful note of this date. The date is determined by the University Registrar, and the exam cannot be taken in advance. Keep this in mind as you make your December travel plans.

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 composition 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, a departmental 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. At http://bu.edu/core/cc203 you will be able to access audio recordings of lectures, and archived versions of the media materials and handouts used by lecturers throughout the semester.

Academic Conduct. All members of the University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity; we have the same expectations of each other in this course. Seminar leaders take the issue of plagiarism seriously and expect all the work you do in this course to be your own. If you have questions about what plagiarism is and how it differs from the appropriate use of other people’s work, speak with your instructor or consult the Academic Conduct Code at http://bu.edu/academics/cas/policies/academic-conduct.

Learning and testing accommodation. 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 textbooks are available at the BU Bookstore and are on reserve in Mugar Library:

1. History of the Peloponnesian War by Thucydides (Penguin, 9780140440393)
2. The Muqaddimah by Ibn Khaldun (Princeton, 9780691120546)
3. *The Leviathan* by Thomas Hobbes (Hackett, 9780872201774)
4. *Basic Political Writings* by Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Hackett, 9780872200470)
5. *Second Treatise of Government* by John Locke (Hackett, 9780915144860)
6. *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville (Hackett, 9780872204942)
7. *The Old Regime and the French Revolution* by Alexis de Tocqueville (Anchor, 9780385092609)
10. *On Suicide* by Emile Durkheim (Penguin, 9780140449679)
11. *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* by Bronislaw Malinowski (Waveland, 9780881330847)

Students may refer to Hacker’s *Rules for Writers*, 7th edition (the same as used in first-year Humanities last year) when completing papers for the course. This is a recommended, not required, textbook.

A course pack containing assigned photocopied material will be distributed at the first lecture.

**CC 203 Fall 2013 Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments**

**Week 1. September 5: The Ancient World and Social Science**
Lecturer: Loren Samons, Department of Classical Studies

**Week 2. September 13: Comparative Sociology of Civilizations**
Lecturer: Thomas Barfield, Department of Anthropology

**Week 3. September 19: States of Nature and Political Order**
Lecturer: David Roochnik, Department of Philosophy
Reading: Hobbes, *The Leviathan* (pp. 3-27, 57-63, 74-100, 106-45)

**Week 4. September 26: Inequality, Property and Social Contract**
Lecturer: Aaron Garrett, Department of Philosophy
Reading: Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, pp. 7-30, 42-53, 63-9, 107-16, 123-4; Declaration of Independence (course packet)

**Week 5. October 3: Social Contract and Its Critics**
Lecturer: David Roochnik, Department of Philosophy
Reading: Rousseau “Discourse on the Origin of Inequality” (*Basic Political Writings* pp. 39-81) and “Social Contract” (pp. 156-85, 191-195, 198-200, 217-220, 224-228, 239-252); Hume, “On The Original Contract” (course packet)

**Week 6. October 10: Social and Economic Forces – The Division of Labor and The Invisible Hand**
Lecturer: Aaron Garrett, Department of Philosophy
Week 7. October 17: Theory into Practice – America as a Democratic Society  
Lecturer:  John Stone, Department of Sociology  

Week 8. October 24: The French Revolution  
Lecturer:  Thomas Barfield, Department of Anthropology  

Lecturer:  Stephen Kalberg, Department of Sociology  

Week 10. November 7: Social and Cultural Forces – Culture and the Origins of Modern Capitalism  
Lecturer:  Stephen Kalberg, Department of Sociology  
Reading:  Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism*, (pp. 67-138, 158-79) and “Science as a Vocation” (course packet)

Week 11. November 14: The Individual and Society  
Lecturer:  Parker Shipton, Department of Anthropology  
Reading:  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

Week 12. November 21: Exchange and Reciprocity  
Lecturer:  Thomas Barfield, Department of Anthropology  

Fall Recess: Wednesday, November 27 - Sunday, December 1, 2013

Week 13. December 6: Conclusions and discussion  
Lecturer:  Thomas Barfield, Department of Anthropology

Final Exam: date and location TBA.