Lectures: Thursday, 12:30-2:00, SAR 101
Sections:
B1: MWF 12:00-1:00, K. Haynes, CAS 323A
B2: TR 2:00-3:30, T. Barfield, CAS 204A
B3: TR 2:00-3:30, D. Swartz, CAS 229
B5: TR 9:30-11:00, TBA, M. Kremer, COM 210
B6: MWF 3:00-4:00, T. Glick, CAS 226

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

1) Introduction (September 3)

2) Social Science and the Ancient World (September 10)
   Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War; Tacitus, Germania (source book)

3) The Desert and the Sown (September 17)

4) The State of Nature (September 24)
   Thomas Hobbes, The Leviathan (source book)
   J.-J. Rousseau, "On the Origin of Inequality," Basic Political Writings, pp. 51-70, 79-81

5) The Social Contract (October 1)
   J.-J. Rousseau, "The Social Contract," Basic Political Writings, pp. 139-227
   David Hume, On The Original Contract (source book)

6) Law and Social Order (October 8)
   Declaration of Independence (source book)

7) Social Forces: The Invisible Hand (October 15)
   Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations, Theory of Moral Sentiments (source book)

8) Social Forces: Darwinian Evolution (October 22)
   Charles Darwin, Descent of Man, chapter 5 (source book)
   Herbert Spencer, The Evolution of Society (source book)

9) Theory Into Practice: American Society (October 29)
   Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, pp. 100-142, 189-202, 243-255, 290-317

10) Theory Into Practice: The French Revolution (November 5)

11) Social Forces: The Rise and Demise of Capitalism (November 12)
    Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, The Marx Engels Reader: "Communist Manifesto" (469-500, 553-5, 683-87, 693-4, 699-702, 706-17); "Consciousness" (148-65, 172-75, 143-45); "Alienation" (70-81, 12-25); "Wage labor" (203-10, 439-41); "Communist society" (81-93, 218-19, 542-48); "Origin of the Family and Property" (734-51)

12) Social Forces: The Cultural Origins of Modern Capitalism (November 19)

Thanksgiving Vacation

13) Social Forces: The Individual and Society (December 3)
    Emile Durkheim, Suicide: pp. 46-53, 145-70, 197-228, 241-76, 297-302 (middle), 309 (middle)-325

14) Concluding Lecture (December 10)
Assigned Books

Durkheim, Emile, Suicide (Doubleday)
Locke, John, Second Treatise on Government (Hackett)
Rousseau, J-J., Basic Political Writings (Hackett)
Tocqueville, Alexis de, Democracy in America (NAL/Mentor)
Tocqueville, Alexis de, The Old Regime and the French Revolution (Doubleday Anchor)
Weber, Max, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (Unwin)

Source book: Xeroxed material available from the Core Office

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. (The second semester will focus on social science in the 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. 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

The syllabus outlines the schedule of lecture topics and reading assignments for each week. It is vital that you keep up with the reading if the course is to be a success. To the extent possible the assigned selections from longer works have been specifically chosen so that you can focus on the major ideas. There are three components to the course that will make up the final grade:

1. Lecture attendance, section attendance and participation in discussion. Sections will meet as scheduled. Topics for discussion will be provided each week although students are encouraged to raise other issues that may arise during the course of lectures or in the readings.

2. Writing assignments
These writing assignments are designed to integrate the lectures, readings and discussions. Topics will be provided but students may suggest their own as well if approved in advance. Each instructor will provide details about the length, schedule, and number of papers required.

3. Final examination: Saturday, December 19, 1998, at 12:30 PM
[Please note this date well, do not plan to take your vacation break before taking the exam; the date is not movable!] To repeat:

Final examination: Saturday, December 19, 1998, at 12:30 PM