

Political Science 298-601

Spring 2005

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MW 6-7:30

Office hrs: W 2-3:30

(& by appointment)

MODERNITY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

READINGS: Some of the required readings will be drawn from the following books, which you can purchase at the bookstore:

Philippe Ariès, *Centuries of Childhood: A Social History of Family Life* (Vintage)

E.J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution: 1789-1848* (Vintage)

E.J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Capital: 1848-1875* (Vintage)

E.J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991* (Vintage)

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (Beacon)

Ian Watt, *The Rise of the Novel* (California)

The other required readings, for which xeroxed copies will be available, are marked with an asterisk (*) in the list of reading assignments. (A complete list of the xeroxed readings is given at the end of this syllabus.)

Course Procedures and Requirements

This is a lecture course. The lectures and readings go together and will, I hope, clarify each other, so you should plan on keeping up with both. The required reading really is **all** required; I would not call it a light reading load, but I have tried to make sure that it is realistically do-able and, by and large, fascinating. (On the other hand, the suggested readings really are just that, **suggested** and not at all required.) In order to benefit fully from the course, it is very important that you carefully read and **think** about the assigned material as we go along.

--> **Discussion Groups:** To provide a supportive framework for ongoing conversation and reflection about the readings and the issues they raise, members of the class will organize themselves the first week into discussion groups of 4-5 students apiece (depending on the overall size of the class). Each group will meet at least once a week outside the regular class meetings (set a firm time or times, and let me know when they are) to discuss the assigned reading. Every week, each group should prepare a **memo** of about 1-2 pages which <1> provides a concise synopsis or reconstruction of what seems to you to be the main thrust of the week's readings; and <2> identifies and addresses what you take to be one or more key issues or problems raised by the material; and, if you want, <3> suggests an issue (or issues) raised by the reading that you think ought to be addressed by the class as a whole. I will not give the memos a letter grade (nor will I necessarily write comments on them), but I will give each one a check or, if it is unsatisfactory, a minus. Accumulated minuses, or failure to turn in memos every week **on time**, will have a significantly damaging effect on group members' grades for class participation.

--> There will be three take-home exams. For each, you will be asked to write an essay in response to one of several possible topics; the first will be about 5-7 typed, double-spaced pages, and the next two will be about 7-9 pages apiece. For the last essay, you will also have the option of proposing a topic of your own (subject to my approval). The approximate due dates for these take-home exams are indicated in the course outline, below. These essays will account for about 85% of the course grade in all (roughly 25% for the first and 30% apiece for the second and third), and class participation will account for about 15%. All this is subject to slight variation.

--> Incidentally: Students are encouraged to come see me in my office hours--either to raise specific questions, or just to talk over issues that interest you.

Suggested: Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
Norbert Elias, *The Civilizing Process*
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
Jeff Weintraub & Krishan Kumar, eds., *Public and Private in Thought and Practice*
Lawrence Stone, *The Family, Sex, and Marriage in England 1500-1800*
Sharon Hays, *The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood*
Thomas Mann, *Buddenbrooks* (a north German merchant family makes the transition from *Gemeinschaft* to *Gesellschaft* rather badly)

The Revolution Continues

Work on your essays and reflect.

Food for thought: Reinhard Bendix, "Tradition and Modernity Reconsidered"
(in *Nation-Building and Citizenship*)
Krishan Kumar, "The Rise of Modern Society" (in *The Rise of Modern Society*)
Theodore von Laue, *The World Revolution of Westernization*
Ernest Gellner, *Conditions of Liberty: Civil Society and Its Rivals*
James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve
the Human Condition Have Failed*

= > Essay #2: Due Friday 3/25 < =

PART II: PRESENT DIRECTIONS AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Read first: E.J. Hobsbawm, "The Century: A Bird's Eye View" (*The Age of Extremes*, pp. 1-17)

Weeks 10-11 The Triumph of Organization and the Dilemmas of Neo-Capitalism

3/21-3/28 *Daniel Bell, "The Breakup of Family Capitalism"
*J.K. Galbraith, *The New Industrial State*: chs. I-VIII, X, XV, XIX-XX,
XXIII (section 5), XXVI, XXVIII
3/30 E.J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*, chs. 9-10, 14
*Robert Reich, *The Work of Nations*, Introduction, chs. 14 & 17

Suggested: Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*
Tom Bottomore, *Theories of Modern Capitalism*
Saskia Sassen, *Globalization and Its Discontents*
Michael Piore & Charles Sabel, *The Second Industrial Divide*
Fred Block, *Post-Industrial Possibilities*
Richard Sennett, *The Corrosion of Character: The Personal Consequences of
Work in the New Capitalism*

Weeks 12-13 Equality, Inequality, and Insecurity in an Age of Acceleration

4/4-4/11 *Daniel Bell, "The Public Household"
*Robert Reich, *The Work of Nations*, chs. 23, 24 (pp. 290-300), 25
*Carole Pateman, "The Patriarchal Welfare State"
*John Gray, "After Social Democracy"

Suggested: T.H. Marshall, "Citizenship and Social Class"
(in *Class, Citizenship, and Social Development*)
Charles Lindblom, *Politics and Markets*
Robert Kuttner, *Everything for Sale: The Virtues and Limits of Markets*
Michael Walzer, *Spheres of Justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality*
Robert Dahl, *Democracy and Its Critics*

Weeks 13-14 Some Thoughts on the Texture of Modern Life

- 4/13-4/18 *Daniel Bell, "Work and Its Discontents"
"Culture and Consciousness"
*Leo Lowenthal, "The Triumph of Mass Idols"

*John Gray, "Hollowing out the Core," "The Sad Side of Cyberspace,"
"Casualties of the Carousel," & "Virtual Democracy"
*Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital"
*Philip Slater, *The Pursuit of Loneliness*, ch. 1
E.J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*, ch. 11

Suggested: Christopher Lasch, *The Culture of Narcissism*
Anthony Giddens, *The Transformation of Intimacy*
Irving Kristol, *Two Cheers for Capitalism*
Daniel Bell, *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism*
Peter Berger *et al.*, *The Homeless Mind: Modernization and Consciousness*
Adam Seligman, *The Problem of Trust*

Week 14 Facing the Consequences of Modernity

4/20 E.J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*, ch. 19

Suggested: Marshall Berman, *All That Is Solid Melts Into Air: The Experience of Modernity*
Anthony Giddens, *The Consequences of Modernity*
Ulrich Beck, *The Risk Society*
Robert Bellah *et al.*, *The Good Society*
Craig Calhoun, "Indirect Relationships and Imagined Communities: Large-Scale
Social Integration and the Transformation of Everyday Life"
(in Bourdieu & Coleman, eds., *Social Theory for a Changing Society*)

= > **Essay #3: Due (about) Monday 5/2** < =

Some Additional Recommended Readings

On western society before the great transformation:

Marc Bloch, *Feudal Society*
Johan Huizinga, *The Waning of the Middle Ages*
Peter Laslett, *The World We Have Lost*

On modern society's attempts at self-comprehension:

Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*
Raymond Aron, *Main Currents in Sociological Thought*
Anthony Giddens, *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*
H. Stuart Hughes, *Consciousness and Society (1890-1930)*
Raymond Williams, *Culture and Society: 1780-1950*
Steven Seidman, *Contested Knowledge: Social Theory in the Postmodern Age*

COMPLETE LIST OF XEROXED READINGS

Robert Nisbet, *The Sociological Tradition*, ch. 2: "The Two Revolutions"

David Landes, Introduction to *The Unbound Prometheus*

R.R. Palmer, *The World of the French Revolution*: Introduction, chs. 1-4 & 10

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*: Preface & parts I, II, IV

Daniel Bell, "The Breakup of Family Capitalism" (from *The End of Ideology*, pp. 39-45)

J.K. Galbraith, *The New Industrial State*: chs. I-VIII, X, XV, XIX-XX, XXIII (section 5), XXVI, XXVIII

Robert Reich, *The Work of Nations*: Introduction, chs. 14 & 17

Daniel Bell, "The Public Household" (from *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism*)

Robert Reich, *The Work of Nations*: chs. 23, 24 (pp. 290-300), 25

Carole Pateman, "The Patriarchal Welfare State" (from *The Disorder of Women*)

John Gray, "After Social Democracy" (from *Endgames: Questions in Late Modern Political Thought*)

Daniel Bell, "Work and Its Discontents" (from *The End of Ideology*)

Daniel Bell, "Culture and Consciousness" (from *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society*, pp. 475-480)

Leo Lowenthal, "The Triumph of Mass Idols" (from *Literature, Popular Culture, and Society*)

John Gray, *Endgames*: "Hollowing out the Core" (pp. 116-119)
"The Sad Side of Cyberspace" (pp. 119-121)
"Casualties of the Carousel" (pp. 121-124)
"Virtual Democracy" (pp. 137-140)

Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital" (from Larry Diamond & Marc F. Plattner, eds., *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, second edition)

Philip Slater, *The Pursuit of Loneliness*, ch. 1