

REL/SOC/ANT 651 Classics in the Sociology of Religion and Morals Fall 2014
Wed 6:45-9:30 504 HL

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Office Hours: By appointment

Classics in the Sociology of Religion focuses on the distinctive interpretative perspectives for the study of religion and morals provided Max Weber and Emile Durkheim, and some of their contemporary followers. The seminar explores Weber's leading concepts (e.g., charisma, rationalization, legitimation), hypotheses, Protestant Ethic thesis, comparative studies of the world religions and sociopolitical/ethical perspective on modern societies. Emile Durkheim's very different contributions to the study of religion and morals are examined in depth in his now classical texts: *The Division of Labor*, *The Rules of the Sociological Method*, *Suicide*, and *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. Durkheim's foundational assumptions, leading concepts (e.g., anomie, sacred, profane, ritual, civil religion, community, individualism, collective representations), leading hypotheses, and treatment of current sociopolitical/ethical issues are analyzed. The course concludes with several recent texts by Robert Bellah, Jonathan Lear and Robert Wuthnow that draw on and grapple with major themes in Weber and Durkheim.

Course requirements: Two 15 page papers, one due by Oct 28, the other by December 20. The first should be on one of the concepts, hypotheses or theories studied in the course. The other may be a topic of your own choosing related to some aspect of the course. Weekly reflection papers should raise a question or two (1-2 pages) that you would like to discuss in class.

Course Evaluation: 40% for each paper. 20% for class participation and reflection papers. More than one absence will require instructor's consent.

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

WEEK 2 BASIC CONCEPTS IN WEBER'S COMPARATIVE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS MORALS

Wrong, Dennis, "Introduction," Max Weber, 1-74.
Weber, Max, "The Fundamental Concepts of Sociology," in The Theory of Social and Economic Organization, Part I, 87-157.

Supplementary Readings: Jeffrey Alexander, Theoretical Logic in Sociology, III; Raymond Aron, Main Currents in Sociological Thought, II, pp. 179-252; Reinhard Bendix, Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait; R. Bendix and G. Roth, Scholarship and Partisanship: Essays on Max Weber;

J.E.T. Eldridge, ed., Max Weber; Julian Freund, The Sociology of Max Weber; H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, From Max Weber, pp. 3-74; Anthony Giddens, Capitalism and Modern Social Theory, Part III; Martin Green, The von Richthofen Sisters; Russell Keat and John Urry, Social Theory as Science; David Little, "Max Weber and the Comparative Study of Religious Ethics," Journal of Religious Ethics, Vol. 2 (Fall, 1974), pp. 5-40; Arthur Mitzman, The Iron Cage; Talcott Parsons, "Introduction," in Weber, Theory of Social and Economic Organization; Talcott Parsons, ; Talcott Parsons, The Structure of Social Action, Part III; G. Roth and W. Schluchter, Max Weber's Vision of History; Alfred Schutz, The Phenomenology of the Social World; Dennis Wrong, ed., Max Weber.

WEEK 3 WEBER ON THE PROTESTANT ETHIC AND MODERNITY

Weber, Max, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

or

Walzer, Michael The Revolution of the Saints.

Supplementary Readings: Robert Bellah, Tokugawa Religion, "Reflections on the Protestant Ethic Analogy in Asia," The Journal of Social Issues, Vol. 19, Religion and Progress in Modern Asia; S.N. Eisenstadt, The Protestant Ethic and Modernization; David Little, Religion, Order and Law; Karl Loewith, "Weber's Interpretation of the Bourgeois-Capitalist World in Terms of the Guiding Principle of 'Rationalization'," in Wrong, ed. Max Weber, pp. 101-122; Steven Lukes, "Some Problems about Rationality," in Bryan R. Wilson, ed., Rationality, pp. 194-213; Kurt Samuelson, Religion and Economic Action; Michael Walzer, The Revolution of the Saints.

WEEK 4 WEBER'S COMPARATIVE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS MORALS

Parsons, Talcott, "Introduction," to Max Weber, The Sociology of Religion, xix-lxvii.

Weber, Max, The Sociology of Religion, ch. 1.

Weber, Max, "The Social Psychology of the World Religions," in H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, From Max Weber, ch. 11, 267-301.

WEEK 5 DURKEHM'S METHODOLOGY AND SOCIAL ONTOLOGY

Durkheim, The Rules of the Sociological Method, chs. 1-2.

Wallwork, Durkheim: Morality and Milieu, chs. 1-2.

Durkheim, "The Principles of 1789 and Sociology," in Robert Bellah, ed., Emile Durkheim on Morality and Society, ch. 3.

Durkheim, "Sociology in France in the Nineteenth Century," in Robert Bellah, ed., Emile Durkheim on Morality and Society, ch. 1.

Supplementary Readings: For Durkheim's background and early thought, see: J. Alexander, Theoretical Logic in Sociology, Vol. II, ch. 4;

Steven Lukes, Emile Durkheim, chs. 1-5, pp. 39-109; Robert Nisbet, Emile Durkheim, Selected Writings, 1, pp. 51-68; Talcott Parsons, et al., The Theories of Society, Vol. I, Section A, with an "Editorial Forward" by Parsons, pp. 85-143; Henry Payre "Durkheim: The Man, His Time, and His Intellectual Background," in Essays on Sociology and Philosophy, ed., Kurt H. Wolff, pp. 3-31; Roscoe C. Hinkle, Jr., "Durkheim in American Sociology," ibid., pp. 267-295; Emile Durkheim, "Les Etudes de science sociale," Revue philosophique, XXII (1886), pp. 61-80; La Philosophie dans les universités allemandes," Revue international de l'enseignement, XII, 313-338, 423-440; "La Science positive de la morale en Allemagne," Revue philosophique, XXIV (1887), pp. 33-58, 113-142, 275-284; "Cours de science sociale: Leçon d'ouverture," Revue international de l'enseignement, XV (1888), pp. 23-48. Ivan Strenski, Durkheim and the Jews of France.

WEEK 6 DURKHEIMIAN SOCIOLOGY AND THE INTEGRATION OF MODERN SOCIETIES

Wallwork, Durkheim: Morality and Milieu ch. 4, pp. 75-85.
Durkheim, Selections from The Division of Labor in Robert Bellah, ed., Emile Durkheim, pp. 63-146. These selections are from The Division of Labor in Society, pp. 174-229, 329-409.

Supplementary Readings: on The Division of Labor see: Robert K. Merton, "Durkheim's Division of Labor in Society," in Emile Durkheim, ed., Nisbet, pp. 105-112; Talcott Parsons, The Structure of Social Action, pp. 308-324; Steven Lukes, Emile Durkheim, ch. 7, pp. 135-178; Anthony Giddens, Capitalism and Modern Social Theory, pp. 70-81; Raymond Aron, Main Currents in Sociological Theory, Vol. II, ch. 1, pp. 11-23; Dominick LaCapra, Emile Durkheim, ch. 3, pp. 79-143; Georges Friedmann, "La These de Durkheim et les formes contemporaines de la division du travail," Cahiers internationaux de sociologie, XIX (1955) 45-48; Ernest Wallwork, "Religion and Social Structure in The Division of Labor," American Anthropologist, 86 (1984), 43-64.

WEEK 7 DURKHEIM'S THEORY OF SUICIDE AND COMMUNAL MORALITY

Wallwork, Ernest, Durkheim: Morality and Milieu, ch. 3, pp. 47-53.
Durkheim, Emile, Suicide, Book Two, chs. 2-5, (pp. 152-276), Book Three, ch. 3 (pp. 361-384).

Supplementary Readings: For Suicide see: Hanan C. Selvin, "Durkheim's Suicide: Further Thoughts on a Methodological Classic," in Emile Durkheim, ed., R. Nisbet, pp. 113-136; Talcott Parsons, The Structure of Social Action, pp. 324-338; Raymond Aron, Main Currents in Sociological Theory, Vol. II, ch. 2, pp. 24-34; Dominick LaCapra, Emile Durkheim, ch. 4, pp. 144-186; Bruce Dohrenwend, "Egotism, Altruism, Anomie: A Conceptual Analysis of Durkheim's Types," American Sociological Review (1959), pp. 446-472; Steven Lukes, Emile Durkheim, ch. 9, pp. 191-225; Jack D. Douglas, The Social Meaning of Suicide, Pt. 1, pp. 3-76.

WEEK 8 DURKHEIM ON THE STATE, MEDIATING STRUCTURES AND ETHICS

Wallwork, Durkheim: Morality and Milieu, pp. 85-150.

Durkheim, "Preface to the Second Edition," The Division of Labor.

Wallwork, Durkheim: Morality and Milieu, ch. 6, pp. 151-181.

Supplementary Readings: for Durkheim's political theory see: E. Durkheim, Socialism; E. Durkheim, Professional Ethics and Civic Morals, Joseph Neyer, "Individualism and Socialism in Durkheim," in Essays on Sociology and Philosophy, pp. 32-76; Melvin Richter, "Durkheim's Politics and Political Theory," ibid., pp. 211-232; Raymond Aron, Main Currents in Sociological Thought, Part 2, ch. 7, pp. 95-104; T. Parsons, The Structure of Social Action, pp. 338-342; Steven Lukes, Emile Durkheim, pp. 320-330; Irving Zeitlin, Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory, ch. 15. Peter Berger and Richard Neuhaus, To Empower People: The Role of Mediating Structures in Public Policy.

Supplementary Readings: for Durkheim's Ethics see: E. Wallwork, "Sentiment and Structure: A Durkheimian Critique of Kohlberg: Moral Theory." Journal of Moral Education, Vol. 14 (1985), pp. 87-101. Douglas Challenger, Durkheim Through the Lens of Aristotle; Michele Moody-Adams, Fieldwork in Familiar Places: Morality, Culture and Philosophy.

WEEK 9 DURKHEIM'S INTERPRETATION OF RELIGION

Wallwork, Ernest, "Durkheim's Early Sociology of Religion," Sociological Analysis (1985), pp. 201-218.

Durkheim, Emile, The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life. Be sure to read the "Introduction," Book One, ch. 1.; Book Two, chs. 7 & 8, Book Three, chs. 1, 2 (pp. 337-381, 385-392), ch. 5 (pp. 434-435, 442-449, 455-461), "Conclusions" (pp. 462-479).

Supplementary Readings: Steven Lukes, Emile Durkheim, ch. 11, 237-244, ch. 23, 450-484, and ch. 25, 506-510; Talcott Parsons, The Structure of Social Action, pp. 411-450; E. Evans-Pritchard, Theories of Primitive Religion, ch. 3; D. LaCapra, Emile Durkheim, ch. 6, pp. 245-291; Hugh Dalziel Duncan, "The Development of Durkheim's Concept of Ritual and the Problem of Social Disrelationships," in Essays on Sociology and Philosophy, ed., Wolff, pp. 97-117; Anthony Giddens, Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings, ch. 11, pp. 219-238; Raymond Aron, Main Currents in Sociological Thought, pp. 35-58; Robert Nisbet, The Sociological Tradition, ch. 6, exp. 243-251. Ivan Strenski, Durkheim and the Jews of France.

Supplementary Readings: for Ritual; Catherine Bell, Ritual Theory, Ritual Practice; R. Grimes, "Defining Nascent Ritual," JAAR, 50 (1982); 539-55; Clifford Geertz, The Interpretation of Cultures, ch. 6; Jonathan Z. Smith, "The Bare Facts of Ritual," in Imagining Religion: From Babylon

to Jonestown, 53-65; Lawrence Sullivan, "Sounds and Senses: Toward a Hermeneutics of Performance," History of Religions, 26 (1986), 1-33; Victor Turner, Forest of Symbols: Aspects of Ndembu Ritual; "From Ritual to Theater," "The Ritual Process," Sally Moore and Barbara Myerhoff, eds., Secular Ritual, 1977.

WEEK 10 CIVIL RELIGION

Durkheim, Emile, "Individualism and the Intellectuals," in Robert Bellah, ed., Emile Durkheim: On Morality and Society, pp. 43-57.
Richey, Russell and Jones, Donald, American Civil Religion, chs. 2, 4, 5, 6, 12. President Reagan's Second Inaugural Address (Reprint)

Supplementary Readings: Richey and Jones, American Civil Religion, chs. 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11; Jurgen Moltmann, Herbert Richardson, et al., Religion and Political Society; Richard Ferm, "A New Sociology of Religion," Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Vol. 11, 1 (1972), pp. 16-32; "Civil Religion and Education: Pre-Convention Symposium," in Religious Education, LXX (1975), pp. 467-750; E. Smith, The Religion of the Republic.

WEEK 11 CONTEMPORARY AMERICA'S TROUBLED ETHOS

Bellah, Robert, et al., Habits of the Heart.

Supplementary Readings: Robert Bellah, Beyond Belief; R. Bellah, The Broken Covenant; Berger, Peter and Richard Neuhaus, To Empower People: The Role of Mediating Structures in Public Policy; Novak, Michael, ed., Democracy and Mediating Structures; Charles Reynolds and Ralph Norman, ed., Community in America: The Challenge of "Habits of the Heart"; Robert Bellah, et al., The Good Society. Robert Bellah, et al., Individualism and Commitment in American Life.

WEEK 12 THINKING WITH DURKHIEM TODAY

Lear, Jonathan. Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation, chs 1-3

WEEK 13 Wuthnow, Robert. America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity, Preface, chs 1-6 and 10 (pp. 286-295, 306-314).

WEEK 14 Student Paper Reports

Books at SU Bookstore:

- Bellah, Robert. Ed. Emile Durkheim On Morality and Society. The University of Chicago. Paper ISBN 0-226-17336-4
- Bellah, R. et al. Habits of the Heart. Univ of California Press. Paper
- Durkheim, Emile. The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life. Ttrans. Cosman. Oxford. Paper. ISBN 0-19-283255-7
- Durkheim, Emile. Suicide. Trans. Karen Fields. Simon and Schuster.
- Walzer, Michael. The Revolution of the Saints
- Weber, Max. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Books to be purchased online:

- Lear, Jonathan. Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006
- Wuthnow, Robert. America and the Challenges of Religious Diversity. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005.

Academic Integrity Statement: The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>.

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