

**Sociology 244**  
***Institutional Analysis: Comparative and  
Historical Perspectives***

**Department of Sociology**  
**UC-Riverside**  
**Winter Quarter 2007**  
**Fridays, 3.10-6.00 pm, 1117 Watkins**

***Course Syllabus***

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***I. General Information***

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Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-12:00; Fridays, 1:00-3:00

***II. Required Reading Materials***

See Section VI.

***III-A. Course Content***

This will be a course on social institutions that closely follows the description given in the UCR catalog. Emphasis is on some of the most important lines of thinking and most seminal contributions regarding five basic institutions: religion, economy, polity, law, and education. The course will have a very strong comparative and historical focus.

### III-B. *Course Structure*

The UCR catalog says “lecture,” but for students of this advanced level I don’t want to give many lectures. I will give a few short ones here and there, but mostly this course will be a seminar. Students will read a number of articles and book excerpts in common, and also give 30-minute presentations on a selected major work. Students should be sure to do all the required reading in advance and be prepared to contribute to discussions of the readings. To facilitate these discussions, I recommend that students bring one or two comments and one or two questions to class each week.

### IV. *Course Requirements*

- A 30-minute presentation on a major work from the list at the end of this syllabus.
- A 10-page paper – a “review essay” – on the same work. (Alternatively, you could write a different paper on some theme of your own choosing if you wish.)
- Take-home final exam.
- Participation in class discussions.

### V. *Grading*

- 25% on the 30-minute presentation
- 25% on the review essay (or theme paper)
- 25% on the take-home final
- 25% on class participation

### VI. *Course Outline and Reading Assignments*

Books listed in **boldface** are to be chosen for 30-minute presentations and review essays. They will not be read by everyone else (although no punishment will be inflicted if anyone cares to do so!).

## **Week**

## **Topic**

### **1 (Jan. 5) Introduction/Organization**

- Lecture on comparative-historical sociology: (a) the virtues of comparative-historical sociology; (b) some ways to do comparative-historical sociology (Golden Age, theories, methods, data)
- Stephen Sanderson, “The provincialism of introductory sociology,” *Teaching Sociology* 12:397-410, 1985.

## **2 (Jan. 12) Religion: Weber's Protestant Ethic Thesis and Its Status**

- Randall Collins, "An Asian route to capitalism: Religious economy and the origins of self-transforming growth in Japan," *ASR* 62:843-65, 1997
- Jacques Delacroix and Francois Nielsen, "The beloved myth: Protestantism and the rise of industrial capitalism in nineteenth century Europe," *Social Forces* 80:509-53, 2001
- S. Sanderson and Wesley Roberts, "Religion and economic development: An idea whose time has *gone*")

## **Religion: Weber's General Sociology of Religion**

- Weber, *Economy and Society*, pp. 399-630 – read as much as time and inclination allow
- professor will talk

## **3 (Jan. 19) Religion: Evolution of the Gods**

- W. Roberts and S. Sanderson, "The evolutionary forms of the religious life: A cross-cultural study of the social origins of the gods"
- Rodney Stark and William Sims Bainbridge, *A Theory of Religion* (Rutgers UP, 1987), chs. 1-3
- R. Stark, "Micro foundations of religion: A revised theory," *Sociological Theory* 17:264-89, 1999

## **Religion: The Axial Age and the Evolution of Monotheism**

- ***R. Stark, The Rise Of Christianity (Princeton UP, 1996)***
- Sanderson, "Neo-Darwinian theories of religion and the social ecology of religious evolution"

## **4 (Jan. 26) Economy: Precapitalist systems**

- S. Sanderson and Arthur S. Alderson, *World Societies*, chs. 3-4
- S. Sanderson, *Social Transformations*, chs. 2, 4
- S. Sanderson, *Evolution of Human Sociality*, ch. 14

## **5 (Feb. 2) Economy: Origins of Capitalism**

- S. Sanderson, "The transition from feudalism to capitalism: The theoretical significance of the Japanese case," *Review* 17:15-55, 1994
- Christopher Chase-Dunn and Thomas D. Hall, *Rise and Demise*, chs. 8-9
- **Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age* (U of California Press, 1998)**
- James Mahoney, "Long-run development and the legacy of colonialism in Spanish America," *AJS* 109:50-106, 2003
- M. Lange, J. Mahoney, and M. vom Hau, "Colonialism and underdevelopment: A comparative analysis of Spanish and British colonies," *AJS* 111:1412-62, 2006

## **6 (Feb. 9) Economy: Modern Industrial Economies**

- Harold Wilensky, *Rich Democracies* (U of California Press, 2002), chs. 1, 2, 4, and 12
- S. Sanderson, "World-systems analysis after thirty years: Should it rest in peace?" *Intl J Comp Sociology* 46:179-213, 2005

## **7 (Feb. 16) Polity: Aristocratic Empires/Early Modern States**

- **John Kautsky, *The Politics of Aristocratic Empires* (U of North Carolina Press, 1982)**
- **Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States, 990-1990* (Blackwell, 1990)**

## **8 (Feb. 23) Polity: Rise of Democracy**

- **Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens, and John D. Stephens, *Capitalist Development and Democracy* (U of Chicago Press, 1992)**
- S. Sanderson, "World democratization, 1850-2000"
- Barbara Wejnert, "Diffusion, development, and democracy, 1800-1999," *ASR* 70:53-81, 2005

## **Polity: World Society/World Polity**

- John W. Meyer, John Boli, George M. Thomas, Francisco O. Ramirez, "World society and the nation-state," *AJS* 103:144-81, 1997

## **9 (Mar. 2) Law**

- **Robert Unger, *Law in Modern Society* (Free Press, 1977)**
- **Donald Black, *The Behavior of Law* (Academic Press, 1976) (the student presenting on Black should also read M. Gottfredson and M. Hindelang, “A study of *The Behavior of Law*,” *ASR* 44:3-18, 1979, which is a critique, and then Black’s reply, “Common sense in the sociology of law,” *ASR* 44:18-27, 1979)**

## **10 (Mar. 9) Education**

- R. Collins, “Some comparative principles of educational stratification,” *Harvard Educ Rev* 47:1-27, 1977
- J. Boli, F. Ramirez, and J. Meyer, “Explaining the origins and expansion of mass education,” *Comp Educ Rev* 25:245-70, 1985
- Evan Schofer and J. Meyer, “The worldwide expansion of higher education in the twentieth century,” *ASR* 70:898-920, 2005
- **R. Collins, *The Credential Society* (Academic Press, 1979)**

**Take-home final will be distributed at the end of the last class period and will be due back in ten days (March 19).**

**One more (optional) assignment for finals week:** Read on your own Marc Schneiberg and Elisabeth S. Clemens, “The typical tools for the job: Research strategies in institutional analysis,” *Sociological Theory*, 24:195-227, 2006. It occurred to me at the last minute that, in a course on institutions, it seems odd that we are not giving any consideration to the approach known as sociological institutionalism (or neoinstitutionalism), except for a little bit on the work of Meyer, Boli, and Ramirez and the so-called “world polity” school. The reason for this is that I have never paid too much attention to this, except for education. And the reason for that is that I am not particularly persuaded by it. It’s pretty far removed from my own theoretical thinking. But at any rate, this article may help to overcome this deficiency to some extent. Maybe Seth Abrutyn, or another student who specializes in institutions, can enlighten all of us.

**Below are some leading works on social institutions from a comparative and historical perspective that can be highly recommended as supplementary reading as time and inclination allow:**

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Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power. Vol. 1: From the Beginning to AD 1760*. Cambridge UP, 1986.

Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power. Vol. 2: The Rise of Classes and Nation-States, 1760-1914*, Cambridge UP, 1993.

Michael Mann, *States, War, and Capitalism*, Blackwell, 1988.

- Randall Collins, *Weberian Sociological Theory*, Cambridge UP, 1986.
- John A. Hall, *Powers and Liberties: The Causes and Consequences of the Rise of the West*, U of California Press, 1985.
- Jonathan Turner, *Human Institutions: A General Theory of Societal Evolution*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2002.
- Theda Skocpol, *Vision and Method in Historical Sociology*, Cambridge UP, 1984.
- J. Adams, E.S. Clemens, and A.S. Orloff, eds., *Remaking Modernity: Politics, History, and Sociology*, Duke University Press, 2006.
- E. Huber and J.D. Stephens, *Development and Crisis of the Welfare State*, U Chicago Press, 2001.
- K. Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*, Princeton UP, 2000.
- J.M. Hobson, *The Eastern Origins of Western Civilization*, Cambridge UP, 2004.
- C. Camic, P.S. Gorski, and D.M. Trubek, eds., *Max Weber's Economy and Society: A Critical Companion*, Stanford UP, 2005.
- D.K. Brown, *Degrees of Control: A Sociology of Educational Expansion and Occupational Credentialism*. Columbia Teacher's College Press, 1995.
- D.F. Labaree, *How to Succeed in School Without Really Learning: The Credentials Race in American Education*, Yale UP, 1997.
- S. Brint, *Schools and Society*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Stanford UP, 2006.
- R. Stark, *One True God: Historical Consequences of Monotheism*, Princeton UP, 2001
- R. Stark, *For the Glory of God: How Monotheism Led to Reformations, Science, Witch-Hunts, and the End of Slavery*, Princeton UP, 2003
- R. Stark, *The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success*, Random House, 2005
- R. Stark, *Cities of God: The Real Story of How Christianity Became an Urban Movement and Conquered Rome*, HarperSanFrancisco, 2006
- S. Sharot, *A Comparative Sociology of World Religions*, NYU Press, 2001.
- P. Anderson, *Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism*, New Left Books, 1974.
- P. Anderson, *Lineages of the Absolutist State*, New Left Books, 1974.
- A.G. Frank and B.K. Gills, eds., *The World System: Five Hundred Years or Five Thousand?*, Routledge, 1993.
- F. Braudel, *Civilization and Capitalism 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century*. 3 vols., Harper & Row, 1979-81.
- I. Wallerstein, *The Modern World-System*. 3 vols., 1974, 1980, 1989.
- Daniel Bell, *The Coming of Post-Industrial Society*, Basic Books, 1973.
- Krishan Kumar, *From Post-Industrial to Post-Modern Society*, Blackwell, 1995.
- S. Sanderson, *Macrosociology: An Introduction to Human Societies*, 4 editions, Harper & Row 1988, HarperCollins 1991, 1995, Addison Wesley Longman 1999.
- S. Sanderson, *Social Transformations: A General Theory of Historical Development*, expanded ed. Rowman & Littlefield, 1999.
- S. Sanderson, *The Evolution of Human Sociality: A Darwinian Conflict Perspective*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2001.

- S. Sanderson, *Evolutionism and Its Critics: Deconstructing and Reconstructing an Evolutionary Interpretation of Human Society*, Paradigm Publishers, 2007.
- S. Sanderson and A. Alderson, *World Societies: The Evolution of Human Social Life*, Allyn & Bacon, 2005.