

# **EUROPEAN SOCIAL THOUGHT: Conceptions of Social Differentiation and the Global Dimension of Inequality**

**Tue 10-12, room 00014, Belfortstrasse 18, backyard**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Florian Schumacher

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**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:** student presentations, seminar discussions

**LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION:** English

**DESCRIPTION:** The course is to familiarize participants with the most influential social theories on social differentiation developed in Europe since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. These theories are Eurocentric, evolutionary and unilinear. However, they still form the basis of all social thinking anywhere in the world as they provide the basic concepts and theorems even for contemporary discussions about the global dimensions of inequality. Each of the authors discussed in the first part of the course defined at least one core problem of social structures in modern society.

In the second part of the course more recent subsequent concepts and theorems are discussed. The seminar is divided into two blocks. Each block consists of five sessions, which will be prepared by the participants.

**(7 credits)**

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:** Two essays (1/3 each), presentation and participation in course (1/3)

## **Assignment**

Participation in the seminar lessons

Essay 1 (deadline 07.06.2013)

Essay 2 (deadline 19.07.2013)

**Seminar discussions** are based upon the compulsory readings and teaching introductions to the subject given during each session. Students are assigned to present a short summary of the compulsory readings/research assignments at the beginning of a session and to come up with several conclusions of their own for the discussion. The participants are expected to join the debate with (prepared) questions and points related to the readings.

The **essays** (2.500 - 3.000 words) have to be handed in on time, send digital versions (pdf, doc, odt) per email, if deadline is not met one grade step will be reduced (example: 1,0 to 2,0; 2,3 to 3,3).

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course, students are able to:

- Understand basic theoretical concepts of social differentiation.
- Demonstrate substantial knowledge about European sociological concepts
- Understand the influence of classical sociology to globalization theories
- Create awareness of links between culture, history, institutions and transitions
- Learn to apply theoretical frameworks to social reality

## **23.4 Introduction**

# **Classical Conceptions of Social Differentiation: Class, Status and Reproduction**

## **30.04 Session 01: Social classes and status groups**

Marx, Karl /Engels, Friedrich (1848 [1998]): Manifesto of the Communist Party. In: M. Cowling (Ed.), The Communist Manifesto. New Interpretations. Edinburgh: University Press, p.14-37

Weber, Max (1947 [1921/22]): The theory of social and economic organization. New York: Oxford University Press, p.424-429

### **07.05 Session 02: Mechanical and Organical Solidarity and the Protestant ethic**

Durkheim, Emile (1893 [2004]): The division of labor in society. In: Thompson, Kenneth (Ed.), readings from Emile Durkheim. London / New York: Routledge, p.23-47

Weber, Max (1970 [1904]) The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. Translated by Talcott Parsons London: Unwin University Books, p.98-128

### **14.05. Session 03: Social range and the meaning of culture**

Bourdieu, P. (1986 [1983]): The forms of capital in Richardson, J.G. (ed.) Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education. New York: Greenwood.

Bourdieu, Pierre (1979): Distinction: a social critique of the judgment of taste. London / New York 1984: Harvard University Press, p.108-129, 165-180

### **28.05. Session 04: The reproduction of social structure through education**

Bourdieu, Pierre (1979 [1964]): The Inheritors. French students and their relation to culture. Chicago: University Press, p.1-27

Bourdieu, Pierre (1977 [1973]): Changes in Social Structure and Changes in the Demand for Education. In: Salvador Giner / Margaret Scotford-Archer (Ed.): Contemporary Europe. Social Structures and Cultural Patterns. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, p.197-227

### **04.06. Session 05: Individualization and elite-reproduction**

Beck, Ulrich (1992 [1986]): Risk Society. Towards a New Modernity. London: Sage Publications, p.91-102.

Hartmann, Michael (2000): Class-specific habitus and the social reproduction of the business elite in Germany and France. In: The Sociological Review, 48, p.241-261.

## **Recent Conceptions of social differentiation: The Globalization of Inequality**

### **11.06. Session 06: A transnational capitalist class?**

Sklair, Leslie (2001): The Transnational Capitalist Class. Oxford: Blackwell.

### **18.06. Session 07: Globalization as Heterogenization or Homogenization: globalized rich and localized poor**

Ritzer, George (1983): The McDonaldization of society. In: Journal of American Culture, 6, p. 371-379

Bauman, Zygmunt (1998): On Glocalization: or Globalization for some, Localization for some Others. In: Thesis Eleven 54 (1), p. 37-49.

Robertson, Roland (1995): Glocalization: Time – Space and Homogeneity – Heterogeneity, In: Featherstone, Mike; Lash, Scott; Robertson, Roland (ed.) (1995): Global modernities. London: Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage Publications, p.25-44

### **25.06. Session 08: social fields and global “-scapes”**

Bourdieu, Pierre (1992): The logic of fields. In: Bourdieu, Pierre / Wacquant, Loic J. D.: An invitation to Reflexive Sociology. Chicago: University Press, p.95-115

Bourdieu, Pierre (1993): Some properties of fields. In: id.: Sociology in question. London: Sage, p. 72-78

Appadurai, Arjun (1996): Modernity at large. Cultural dimensions of globalization. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, p.27-47

### **02.07. Session 09: The new spirit of capitalism**

Boltanski, Luc / Chiapello, Eve (2005): The New Spirit of Capitalism. In: International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society, 18, p.161-188

### **09.07. Session 10: the capitalist world system and the question of global justice**

Hopkins, Terence K. / Wallerstein, Immanuel (1982): Patterns of development of the modern world-system. In: id.: World-systems analysis. Theory and Methodology. Beverly Hills, p.41-57

Sen, Amartya (1999). Global Justice. Beyond International Equity. In: Inge Kaul et al. (eds.): Global Public Goods. International Cooperation in the 21st Century. New York / Oxford: Oxford University Press, p.116-125.

### **16.7 Concluding Session: Summary and further discussions**