

Course Outline

SOCIAL CHANGE & MODERNIZATION

Soci 4444

Kennesaw State University
Fall 2012

Melvyn L. Fein, PH.D., C.C.S.
Room 4054 Social Science Bldg.
770-423-6599
mfein@kennesaw.edu
professionalized.blogspot.com

Course Description: Our modern world changes with such kaleidoscopic rapidity that it is easy to lose one's moorings. This course explores the origins and consequences of social change. Students will be introduced to the dominant sociological theories of change, as well as to the basic processes through which modifications occur. Both social movements and consciously instituted change will be examined. Special attention will be paid to moral transformations, as well as to the limitations on progress imposed by human frailty and social conflict. A social negotiation perspective will be stressed. The final portion of the course will deal with concrete examples of change, particularly as they apply to modernization, gender roles and race.

Required Texts:

Fein, Melvyn L. 2006. The Great Middle Class Revolution: Our Long March Toward a Professionalized Society. Kennesaw, GA: KSU Press.

Sanderson, Stephen K. 2010. Revolutions: A Worldwide Introduction to Social and Political Contention. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers.

Recommended Texts:

Brooks, David. 2003. Bobos in Paradise. New York.

Sanderson, Stephen K. and Alderson, Arthur S. 2005. World Societies: The Evolution of Human Social Life. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Chirot, Daniel. 1994. How Societies Change. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Vago, Steven. 1999. Social Change, Fourth Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Fein, Melvyn. 1999. The Limits of Idealism: When Good Intentions Go Wrong. New York: Plenum.

Fukuyama, Francis. 1999. The Great Disruption; Human Nature and the reconstruction of Social Order. New York: The Free Press.

Huntington, Samuel P. 1997. The Clash of Civilizations: Remaking the World Order. New York: Touchstone.

Course Outline:

Week I. 8/20 – 8/22 Introduction: An overview of the course. Utopias for the 21st century. The Culture Wars. Liberals vs. Conservatives. An Overview of social change.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 1.

Week II. 8/27 – 8/29 Gemeinschaft to Gesellschaft. Romantic visions versus the reality of change. Idealism. Some general trends. Theories of change; and overview.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 2

Week III. 9/5 Classical theories, through world systems theory and cultural materialism. Materialism versus idealism. Cyclical and dialectical theories. Structuralism versus conflict theory. Evolution through revolution.. Social Movements.

Readings: Sanderson, chapt. 2., 3, 4, 5.

Week IV. 9/10 – 9/12 Revolutions continued. Social solidarity and social change. The roles of technology and human nature. Weak versus intermediate and strong forces.. The macro social revolutions.

Readings: Sanderson, chapt. 2, 3, 4, 5. Fein, chapt. 2.

Week V. 9/17 – 9/19 Class versus estate systems. The nature of the middle class. The dominance of the middle class.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 3.

Week VI. 9/24 – 9/26 Responses to change. Progress versus reaction. Cultural lag. Intra and inter-generational change.

Readings: Fein, chapt 7.

First Exam 9/24

Week VII. 10/1 – 10/3 Origins of social change. Hunter-gatherers through the classical period. The symbolic and agricultural revolutions.

Readings: Fein chapt 4.

Week VIII. 10/8 – 10/10 The beginnings of the commercial revolution. The effects of commercialization.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 4.

Week IX. 10/15 – 10/17 Change slows down, The Middle Ages. Change then accelerates. The birth of the modern world.

Readings: Fein, Chapt 5.

Week X. 10/22 – 10/24 The commercial revolution continues. The birth of the nation state. The enlightenment period. The beginning of industrialization.. The Victorian era.

Readings: Fein, Chapt 5. Video;.

Second Exam 10/24

Week XI. 10/29 – 10/31 The Proud tower. The Great Depression and the Great Wars. The middle class ascendancy and further industrialization. The tipping point.

Readings: Fein, chapt 6.

Paper Outline Due 10/31

Week XII. 11/5 – 11/7 The Great Middle Class Revolution. The beginnings of professionalization. The reaction to change. The great disruption.

Readings: Fein, chapt 7.

Week XIII. 11/12 – 11/14 The culture wars. The socialist impulse. Of bobos and the temples of liberalism. Reactionary liberalism.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 7 and 8.

Week XIV. 11/19 Racial and gender issues. The Marxist connection. The effects of industrialization. Family issues. Family values.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 8 and 9

Week XV. 11/26 -11/28 Voluntary intimacy. Discipline and socialization. Poverty and social engineering. The social work ideal. The limits of change and the limits of moralism. Moral change Moral negotiations.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 9 and 10.

Paper Due 11/28

Week XVI. 12/3 – 12/5 Toward a professionalized society. Is it possible?

Readings: Fein, chapt. 10 and 11.

Final Exam 12/12 6PM

Course Paper:

Students will research and write a 10-12 page paper about social change. The types of change examined may be economic, political, or social, but must be concrete. Among the possibilities are abortion, eugenics, euthanasia, family roles, the legal system, the market economy, early childhood education, the drug culture, the computer revolution, childhood socialization, the health care system, sexual mores, higher education, world government, gender roles, the gerontological revolution, dating customs, the media, religious

convictions, and business organization. Virtually anything perceived as a social problem would make an excellent choice. The paper should analyze the mechanisms of change involved and if possible explain why they may work or fail.

A paper outline will be due three weeks before the paper itself. This should include anticipated references.

Grading criteria will include: organization, documentation, and originality.

Please note: The paper should be double spaced 10 or 12 point font Times Roman, with margins of no more than 1.25 inches. The Reference page does not count as a page, nor does the title page. (Nor do pictures)

Because of the possibility of plagiarism, the professor reserves the right to require that the paper be submitted to turnitin.com..

The Course Grade will depend equally on the three (3) examinations, and the course paper. (Value 25% each). Exam and paper grades will be graded in a letter format, which for purposes of the final grade will be translated into a four point system with A = 4.00, A- = 3.67, A-/B+ = 3.5, B+ = 3.33, B = 3.0, etc. Class attendance and participation will be monitored and will influence the course grade as to be explained in class. Attendance is further encouraged because the examinations may incorporate materials covered only in class.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has a special need which may be the result of a disability. I am reasonably sure we can work out whatever arrangement is necessary, be it seating, testing, or other accommodation. Please see me after class, as soon as possible, if you have such a need.

Academic Integrity: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the undergraduate and graduate Catalogs. Section II of this Code addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.