

Course Outline

SOCIAL CHANGE & MODERNIZATION

Soci 4444

Kennesaw State University
Spring 2016

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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. 2015. Evolution versus Revolution: The Paradoxes of Social Change. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers

Recommended 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.

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

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. 1/11 – 1/13 Introduction: An overview of the course. An Overview of social change.

Readings: Fein, Chapt 1

Week II. 1/20 Conventional ideas about social change and progress. Prophecy and teleology. A multi-dimensional synthesis. Classical theorists.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 1, 2

Week III. 1/25 -1/27 Classical theorists continued, including Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Carlyle, Comte, Morgan, Toennies, Weber, Lenski, Ogburn and Diamond.

Readings: Fein, Chapt. 2, 3

Week IV. 2/1 – 2/3 Revolutionary theories, including Marx, Lenin and Wallerstein, Gramsci, Dahrendorf, Skopel, Goldstone, Godwin, and Tilly

Readings: Fein, chapt. 3.

Week V. 2/8- 2/10 Revolutionary theorists continued. Evolutionary theories, including Darwin, Burke, Spencer, Durkheim, Sumner, Parsons, Merton, Lopreato, Chirot, and Runciman.

Readings: Fein,, chapt. 3.

Week VI. 2/15 – 2/17 Evolutionary theorists continued. Integrated Social Evolution (ISE). The paradoxes of social change. The Social Generalist's Dilemma.

Readings: Fein , chapt 4.

First Exam 2/17

Week VII. 2/22 – 2/24 The multi-dimensional objects of social change. The cultural, structural, and institutional orders. The locus of change.

Readings: Fein, chapt 5.

Week VIII. 2/29 – 3/2 The impetus to social change. Destabilization. Internal cultural, structural, and institutional stimuli. External stimuli of social change.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 6.

Week IX. 3/7 – 3/9 Adaptive radiation. The quest for options. Controlled and uncontrolled innovations Cultural structural and institutional impetus to innovation..

Readings: Fein, Chapt 7..

Week X. 3/14 - 3/16 Resistance to change. Ambivalence and plasticity. Cultural and structural impossibilities. Transformative equivocation: cultural, structural and institutional.

Readings: Fein, Chapt 8.

Second Exam 3/16

Week XI. 3/21 – 3/23 Semi-Functional Selection. Natural social selection. Semi-functional calculations. Interpersonal power. Moral and ideological suasion.

Readings: Fein , chapt 9.

Paper Outline Due 3/23

Week XII. 3/28 – 3/30 Patterns of social change. Linear, cyclical curvilinear, and dialectic patterns. Materialism versus idealism. The S-C-S and C-S-C models. The inverse force rule.

Readings: Fein, chapt 10.

Week XIII. 4/11 – 4/13 The Inverse Force Rule. Small to large and weak to strong. Strong, intermediate, and weak social forces. The strength of weakness.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 11.

Week XIV. 4/18 – 4/20 Consolidating social change. Creating comfort zones. S-Blocks and C-Blocks, Social engineering and Chaining effects. Collective Resocialization.

Readings: Fein, chapt. 12

Week XV. 4/25 – 4/27 The Middle Class consolidation. Occupational, family, socialization, political and social class consolidation.

Readings: Fein. chapt. 13.

Paper Due 4/27

Week XVI. 5/2 Conclusion. Evolution versus revolution. Functionalism versus conflict theory, Liberals versus conservatives. Ideological crisis.

.Readings: Fein 2015, chapt. 14.

Final Exam 5/9 3:30 PM

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. (And please number pages)

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 also requires that the paper be submitted to turnitin.com.. (see drop box)

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.