

HISTORICAL SOCIOLOGY

CSHS/SOCI 504

FALL 2021

Class time: Monday, 11:30-14:10

Class location: SNA 121

Instructor: Burak Gürel

Office: SOS 253

Office hours: Monday, 09:30-10:30

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Course Description

This graduate seminar aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to the field of historical sociology. It will help the students to critically analyze the theoretical content and methodological aspects of some of the key works of the literature. This skill will enable them to design and carry out historical sociological research projects of their own.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: Unless you have a legitimate excuse, you are expected to attend all classes. If there is an extenuating situation that prevents you from coming to class, please inform me in advance. If you miss more than two classes *without* a legitimate excuse, the possibility of you successfully finishing this class would significantly decrease. The course will primarily run in seminar format. Each student is expected to actively participate in class discussions.

Presentation: Each student is required to make a presentation (20 minutes **maximum**) on one of the assigned course materials.

Position papers: Each student is required to write a total of **four position papers** (Times New Roman, 12-font, 4 double-spaced pages **maximum**, Word – **not PDF**– document) on the assigned texts of her/his own choosing. Students are required to submit a position paper on the reading materials that they are assigned to present in class. Position papers should be sent to the instructor via email by **Tuesday(s) at 8 am the latest** (in order to give the instructor enough time to review them before the seminar meeting). Late submissions will **not** be accepted.

Final assignment: You need to submit **two** (separate) reviews of English-language academic books (having strong historical or historical sociological content) that have been published in the **last two years** to two (different) academic journals. A typical book review is between 1000 and 2000 words in length but each journal has its own rule. You need to submit the list of two books and two journals and provide information about the book review space limits of the selected

journals to the instructor via email by **December 1**. Late proposals will be responded but will **not** be graded (i.e., their grade will be zero). The instructor may immediately approve the list or may ask certain changes before approval. The deadline for the submission of all books reviews to the instructor is **January 14, 2022**. Late submissions will **not** be accepted/graded.

The instructor will grade the final assignment and give feedback for the revision of the book reviews (**if necessary**) to each student by **January 18**. **In order to receive the formal final grade, each student should submit both of her/his book reviews to journals and forward the submission confirmation email received from the journal to the instructor by January 21, 2022**. Those who do not submit this information to the instructor on time will **not** receive a final paper grade (i.e., their final paper grade will be **zero**).

Grade Distribution

Participation: 15%

Presentation: 15%

Position papers: 20% (5% each)

Final paper proposal: 10%

Book reviews: 40% (20% each)

Koç University's Policy on Academic Honesty

Official university regulations describe academic dishonesty and sanctions against it as follows: "Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating, plagiarism, or collusion are serious offenses and are not tolerated at Koç University. University Academic Regulations and the Regulations for Student Disciplinary Matters clearly define the policy and the disciplinary action to be taken in case of academic dishonesty. Failure in academic integrity may lead to suspension and expulsion from the University. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying from a classmate or providing answers or information, either written or oral, to others. Plagiarism is borrowing or using someone else's writing or ideas without giving written acknowledgment to the author. This includes copying from a fellow student's paper or from a text (whether printed or electronic) without properly citing the source. Collusion is getting unauthorized help from another person or having someone else write a paper or assignment."

Disability statement

If you have a disability that you think might interfere with your performance in this course, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible for proper accommodation.

Reading List & Schedule

Week 1: Introduction (September 27)

Week 2: Overview of the Field (October 4)

Richard Lachmann, *What is Historical Sociology?*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013.

Week 3: Theory and History of Social Power (October 11)

Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power, Volume 1: A History of Power from the Beginning to A.D. 1760*, Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 1986, pp. 1-104.

Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power, Volume 2: The Rise of Classes and Nation-States, 1760-1914*, Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993, pp. 1-91.

Week 4: Agrarian Roots of Modern Political Power (October 18)

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*, Harmondsworth: The Penguin Press, 1966 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9).

Week 5: The Formation of the Modern State (October 25)

Charles Tilly. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1992*, Cambridge, MA: Basil Blackwell, 1990.

Marcel van der Linden, "Charles Tilly's Historical Sociology," *International Review of Social History*, Vol: 54, No: 2, 2009, pp. 237-274.

Week 6: Origins of Capitalism (November 1)

T. H. Aston and C.H.E. Philpin (eds.), *The Brenner Debate: Agrarian Class Structure and Economic Development in Pre-Industrial Europe*, Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985 (Introduction and Chapters 1, 8, 10).

Jairus Banaji, *Theory as History: Essays on Modes of Production and Exploitation*, Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2010 (Chapters 2, 10, 12).

Nasser Mohajer and Kaveh Yazdani, "Reading Marx in the Divergence Debate," in Benjamin Zachariah, Lutz Raphael, and Brigitta Bernet (eds.), *What's Left of Marxism: Historiography and the Possibilities of Thinking with Marxian Themes and Concepts*, Berlin & Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2020, pp. 173-240.

Week 7: Gendered Origins of Capitalism (November 8)

Silvia Federici, *Caliban and the Witch*, New York: Autonomedia, 2004.

WINTER BREAK (November 15-19)

Week 8: World-Systems Analysis I (November 22)

Immanuel Wallerstein, *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2004 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7).

Terence K. Hopkins, Immanuel Wallerstein, and Associates, *World-Systems Analysis: Theory and Methodology*, Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, 1982 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7).

Week 9: World-Systems Analysis II (November 29)

Giovanni Arrighi, *The Long Twentieth Century: Money, Power and the Origins of Our Times*, London & New York: Verso, 2010 (Second edition), pp. 1-162, 371-386.

Due date of the final paper (book review) proposal is DECEMBER 1.

Week 10: Uneven and Combined Development (December 6)

Alexander Anievas and Kerem Nişancıoğlu, *How the West Came to Rule: The Geopolitical Origins of Capitalism*, London: Pluto Press, 2015.

Optional:

Leon Trotsky, *The History of the Russian Revolution Volume 1: The Overthrow of Tzarism*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1937, pp. 3-15, 33-51.

Marcel van der Linden, "The 'Law' of Uneven and Combined Development: Some Underdeveloped Thoughts," *Historical Materialism*, Vol: 15, No: 1, 2007, pp. 145-165.

Marcel van der Linden, "Gerschenkron's Secret: A Research Note," *Critique*, Vol: 40, No: 4, 2012, pp. 553-562.

Week 11: Comparing the Eastern and Western Trajectories of Social and Political Change I (December 13)

Giovanni Arrighi, *Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the Twenty-First Century*, London & New York: Verso, 2007 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Epilogue).

Week 12: Comparing the Eastern and Western Trajectories of Social and Political Change II (December 20)

Ho-fung Hung, "Agricultural Revolution and Elite Reproduction in Qing China: The Transition to

Capitalism Debate Revisited,” *American Sociological Review*, Vol: 73, No: 4, 2008, pp. 569-588.

Ho-fung Hung, *Protest with Chinese Characteristics: Demonstrations, Riots, and Petitions in the Mid-Qing Dynasty*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2011, pp. 1-46, 68-193.

Week 13: Methods of Historical Sociology (December 27)

Charles Tilly, *Big Structures, Large Processes, Huge Comparisons*, New York: The Russell Sage Foundation, 1989.

Michael Burawoy, “Two Methods in Search of Science: Skocpol versus Trotsky,” *Theory and Society*, Vol: 18, 1989, pp. 759-805.

Philip McMichael, “Incorporating Comparison within a World-Historical Perspective,” *American Sociological Review*, Vol: 55, No: 3, 1990, pp. 385-397.

Beverly J. Silver, *Forces of Labor: Workers’ Movements and Globalization since 1870*, Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003, pp. 25-34.

Alexander Anievas and Kerem Nişancıoğlu, *How the West Came to Rule: The Geopolitical Origins of Capitalism*, London: Pluto Press, 2015, pp. 54-57.

Week 14: Data Sources of Historical Sociology (January 3)

Roberto Franzosi, “The Press as a Source of Socio-Historical Data: Issues in the Methodology of Data Collection from Newspapers,” *Historical Methods*, Volume: 20, No: 1, 1987, pp. 5-16.

Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power, Volume 2: The Rise of Classes and Nation-States*, Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993, pp. 358-401.

Beverly J. Silver, “Labor Unrest and World-Systems Analysis: Premises, Concepts, and Measurement,” *Review*, Vol: 18, No: 1, 1995, pp. 7-34.

Şahan Savaş Karataşlı, “Political Economy of Secession: Global Waves of State-Seeking Nationalism, 1492 to Present,” in Albert J. Bergesen and Christian Suter (eds.), *The Return of Geopolitics*. Zurich: Lit, 2018, pp. 69-95.

Ho-fung Hung, *Protest with Chinese Characteristics: Demonstrations, Riots, and Petitions in the Mid-Qing Dynasty*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2011, pp. 47-67.

The deadline for the submission of all books reviews to the instructor is JANUARY 14, 2022.

The deadline for forwarding the submission confirmation email received from the journal to the instructor is JANUARY 21, 2022.

Useful Additional (and Optional) Sources

Philip Abrams, *Historical Sociology*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1982.

Julia Adams, Elisabeth S. Clemens, and Ann Shola Orloff (eds.), *Remaking Modernity: Politics and Processes in Historical Sociology*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2005.

Kevin B. Anderson, *Marx at the Margins: On Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Non-Western Societies*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010.

Alexander Anievas and Kamran Matin (eds.), *Historical Sociology and World History: Uneven and Combined Development over the Longue Durée*, London and New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

Salvatore Babones and Christopher Chase-Dunn (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of World Systems Analysis*, London and New York: Routledge, 2012.

Gerard Delanty and Engin İşin (eds.), *Handbook of Historical Sociology*, London: Sage Publications, 2003.

James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (eds.), *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Terence J. McDonald (ed.), *The Historic Turn in the Human Sciences*, Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1996.

Theda Skocpol (ed.), *Vision and Method in Historical Sociology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.

Dennis Smith, *The Rise of Historical Sociology*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991.

Eric R. Wolf, *Europe and the People without History*, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1982.