

## COURSE DETAIL

### EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGY AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

**Country**

Germany

**Host Institution**

Free University of Berlin

**Program(s)**

European Studies

**UCEAP Course Level**

Upper Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Sociology

**UCEAP Course Number**

100

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGY AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

EU SOC&CONT SOCTIES

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

4.50

**UCEAP Semester Units**

3.00

## **Course Description**

Sociology, a newer science concerned with the impact of the industrial revolution on traditional forms of communal life, beliefs, and authorities, emerged in late 19th century Europe. The pioneers of sociology (regarded as classics today) such as Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, and Leonard Hobhouse, managed to establish the young discipline at the universities in France, Germany, and Great Britain. The transatlantic exchange of sociological ideas intensified during the 1920s with American scholars such as Talcott Parsons visiting Europe and especially with the large wave of emigrants (Paul Lazarsfeld, Reinhard Bendix, members of the Frankfurt School, and many others) to the United States. Modern analytical sociology was created in the United States in cooperation between European immigrants and Americans and (re-)exported to Europe during the 1950s and 1960s. Today, sociology is studied at universities all over the world with some significant regional specializations. While American sociology is best known for its strong empirical orientation ("social research"), sociology in Europe has developed further the theoretical traditions of the classics ("social theory"). Some paradigmatic questions from Weber to Simmel seem still relevant: "Why have essential elements of modern societies – from the rise of modern capitalism, to individualism, urban culture, and democracy – occurred first in the West?" Alienation from society has been a major theme from Marx to Durkheim and Bourdieu. New topics emerged in the face of new challenges: European Integration, the end of the "Iron Curtain" between Western and Eastern Europe, and the pressures of globalization on the European "social model." And, of course, since Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* (1835-1840), sociologists on both sides of the Atlantic have been fascinated to compare Europe and the American Experience. The objective of the course is to portray prominent European sociologists and apply their ideas to the challenges of our time.

## **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

## **Host Institution Course Number**

FU-BEST 21

**Host Institution Course Title**

EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGY AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

**Host Institution Course Details**

[http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/fubest/prog/courses/21\\_european\\_traditions.html](http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/fubest/prog/courses/21_european_traditions.html)

**Host Institution Campus**

Free Univ. Berlin

**Host Institution Faculty****Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

FU-BEST

**Course Last Reviewed**

2021-2022

[Print](#)