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 (1853-1840), 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

Host Institution Campus
Free Univ. Berlin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
FU-BEST

Course Last Reviewed
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