Module Reading List 2008

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Module Dates
31st Jan – 13th March; 14th April -1st May
Teaching and Learning Methods
Teaching will comprise one-and-a half hour classes (on Thursdays) and one-hour classes on Mondays. Some of them will consist of lectures with discussion (mostly in the early part of the module) and others of seminars with student presentations. Students are expected to make at least one presentation during the course.

Coursework and Assessment
The course is assessed by a 1 X 2000 word essay (due in week ?) and by an exam.

This course examines contemporary Europe from a variety of comparative perspectives covering Europe’s place in the world, regional, social structural and cultural differences and processes of convergence and divergence. The course will introduce you to a variety of debates on the way in which Europe – East, West, North and South – has evolved in the modern era.

Lecture Topics
1. Europe in its place: historical and comparative perspectives.
2. Theories of European society; eurocentrism and its critics.
4. How many Europes?, North/South, centre and periphery, town and country etc.
5. The Rise and Fall(?) of Class Politics in Europe.
6. Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism.
7. The Rise and Fall(?) of the European Nation-state.
8. Political Futures for Europe.
1) Europe in its Place (historical and comparative perspectives)

In this introductory class, we place Europe in the context of modernity and consider the contribution of social theory in making sense of European society.

**Essay/Seminar Topics**
To what extent do concepts of modernity and post modernity help us to understand the historical and contemporary nature of European society?

**Key Reading**

**Further reading**
Therborn, G *European Modernity and Beyond*, ch.2
2) Theories of European society; eurocentrism and its critics.

Some theorists see Europe’s rise in the second half or third of the last millennium as a ‘miracle’, while others are more sceptical or hostile, pointing to Europe’s imperialism and colonialism and its role in generating two, and almost three, world wars.

Essay/Seminar Topic
Compare the case ‘for’ and ‘against’ Europe’s role in world history.

Key reading

Further reading
Crow, G Comparative sociology and social theory: beyond the three worlds
Delanty, G and C.Rumford, Rethinking Europe: Social Theory and the Implications of Globalization
Delanty, G Inventing Europe: Idea, Identity, Reality Macmillan 1995 (see later chapters on Europe and Modernity)

3) How many Europes? East and West

While the East – West “divide” has been a recurring feature of many attempts to understand European Society, the contrast became particularly stark in the post war era as the two halves of Europe became identified as capitalist and communist. Since 1989 (and some might argue particularly since May 2004) the two parts have moved closer together. Yet many argue that there remain fundamental differences between East and West. This class explores the dimensions of the divide.

Essay/Seminar Question
Are the differences between East and West Europe a consequence of the period communist rule or do they have deeper roots?

Key Reading
Therborn, G European Modernity, Ch. 3, 16.
Further reading
Sakwa, R & A. Stevens (eds), Contemporary Europe
Crouch, C Social Change in Western Europe, Ch. 14
Outhwaite, W and Ray, L Social Theory and Post-Communism, esp. Ch. 4.
Sakwa, R Postcommunism
Einhorn, B Cinderella Goes to Market
Holmes, L Postcommunism: An Introduction, 1997, Chapter 1
Schopflin, G Politics in Eastern Europe, 1993 chapter 1
Berend, I Central and Eastern Europe 1944-1993: Detour from the periphery to the periphery, 1996
Swain, G and Swain, N Eastern Europe since 1945, 2nd edition, 1998

4) How many Europes? North and South, Centre and Periphery, Town and Country, Catholic and Protestant

In this class we consider some of the other differences which have been characteristic of Europe, both as a whole and within individual societies.

Essay/Seminar Questions
Are North-South differences within Europe increasing or decreasing?
Are contemporary European societies “converging” and if so what are they converging towards?

Key Reading
Dunkerley, D et al, Changing Europe, Ch. 5.
Therborn, G European Modernity, esp. Chs. 3, 9-11.
Crouch, C Social Change in Western Europe, Chs. 9,10

Further reading
Allum, P State and Society in Western Europe Polity 1995.
Harvie, C The Rise of Regional Europe, Routledge 1994
Le Galès, P and C Lequesne Regions in Europe (1998)

5) The rise (and fall?) of class politics
For much of the modern era, class was arguably the fundamental cleavage in European politics and society: class affected life chances and defined political stances. Yet many claim that its significance has declined considerably in the last few decades. In this class we explore how important class is to understanding of contemporary Europe.

**Essay/Seminar Question**
Is class still important to our understanding of European societies? If not, what has replaced it?

**Key Reading**
Crouch, C. *Social Change in Western Europe*, ch. 15
Therborn, G *European Modernity*, ch. 15
Waters, M ‘Inequality after Class’, in D.Owen (ed), *Sociology after Postmodernism*

**Further Reading**
Allum, P *State and Society in Western Europe* Polity 1995.
Edye, D and Lintner, V *Contemporary Europe: economics, politics and society*, Prentice Hall 1996 (chapters 4 and 8)
Outhwaite, W. ‘Bourdieu and postcommunist class formation’, socresonline (12, 6, autumn 2007).

6) Gender, Race, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism

In this class we analyse the way in which factors such as gender, ethnicity and race have changed in East and West Europe since the war. We consider whether the inequality and discrimination which have often been associated with these factors have been eroded or whether they persist. We also examine the different responses within Europe to the idea of “multiculturalism”: has it challenged traditional visions of European society or is it itself challenged?

**Essay/Seminar Questions**
To what extent have gender inequalities been overcome in Europe?
Have European societies more or less “integrated” over the post war period?

**Key Reading**
7) The Rise and Fall(?) of the European Nation-state.

In this session, we will look at some aspects of the emergence of so-called nations, and of the nation-state as a specific form of state. Nationalism may be a crucial element in the legitimating ideology of a state or something opposed to it. French or British nationalism is an example of the former: Scottish or Breton separatist nationalism of the latter. Some theorists see nationalism as subordinate to state power: others as (in some cases at least) its basis. Internationalists, socialist or otherwise, federalists, anarchists and others have looked forward to a world where nations and national identities are replaced by, or subordinated to, other identities. We shall look at these ideas in general terms and, in the following sessions, in relation to regional identities, such as a European one.

Essay/seminar questions:
Which comes first: nations or nationalism? Compare the forms taken by national identities in two or more European countries or regions.
What alternatives are there to the nation-state, and are they viable?

Dunkerley D et al, Changing Europe, Ch. 6.

Further Reading
Ceserani, D and Mary Fulbrook (eds), Citizenship, Nationality and Migration in Europe (1996)
Crouch, C Social Change in Western Europe OUP, 2000 Ch 10
Einhorn, B Cinderella Goes to Market
Feminist Review Special Issue no 76
White, P ‘Ethnicity, Racialization and Citizenship as Divisive Elements in Europe’, in Hudson, R & A.Williams (eds), Divided Europe, Ch. 9.
Bleich, Erik, Race Politics in Britain and France (Cambridge, 2003).
Brubaker, R Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany (1991)
Edye, D and Lintner, V Contemporary Europe, Prentice Hall 1996 (chapter 4)
Silverman, M Deconstructing the Nation: Immigration, Racism and Citizenship in Modern France (1992)
Therborn, G Between Sex and Power: Family in the World, 1900-2000
8) Political Futures for Europe.

The Treaty of Rome speaks of European member states forming an 'ever closer union', but the ultimate destination of the European Union remains uncertain. It could break up, it could become a federal state like the USA, or it could remain in something like its present state. What can social science say about these prospects?

**Essay/seminar question:**
Assess the prospects of European federalism and other political futures for Europe.

**Key Reading**

Dunkerley et al (eds), *Changing Europe*, ch. 9.


<http://www.socresonline.org.uk/socresonline/3/1/1.html>

André Fontaine, ‘Farewell to the United States of Europe: long live the EU’, 29.11.01, [http://www.opendemocracy.org.uk/](http://www.opendemocracy.org.uk/)
9) European Identity?

If there is such a thing as a European identity in the early twenty-first century, it exists against the historical background of a Europe of nation-states and the more recent process of European integration. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, many Europeans still think of nationality as fundamental, while others look towards a ‘post-national’ and/or European future. We shall be examining the social and intellectual bases of some of these differences.

In addition to printed texts such as those listed below, there are useful electronic resources, such as <http://www.theglobalsite.ac.uk> and the sites of the following projects on European identity:
http://www.ed.ac.uk/sociol/youth/index.html,
http://www.borderidentities.com/

**Essay/seminar questions:**
To what extent can the study of national identity clarify the issues involved in conceptualising a European identity?
Assess, with examples, the importance of national and/or other identities for contemporary Europeans.
What determines the relative strengths of national and European identities in different European states?

**Key Reading**
Dunkerley et al (eds), Changing Europe, chs. 6 and 8.

**Further reading**