

230.602
Fall 2009
Wednesdays 3-5 p.m.
526 Mergenthaler

Beverly J. Silver
Office Hours:
Wed 5:30-6:30 or by appt.
541 Mergenthaler

Theories of Society (To be revised)

Course Requirements:

- 1) Regular class participation informed by careful reading of assigned works.
- 2) Twice during semester: A one-single-spaced-page comment on the week's reading, to be pre-distributed via the course WebCT site. They should highlight key concepts in the readings and raise questions and comments for discussion. They should *not* be summaries of the readings, which everyone should have read.
- 3) One short essay (approximately 5 pages) on Marx (due
- 4) Final paper (approximately 15-20 pages) applying theoretical concepts and frameworks studied in the course to a research problem of interest to you—for example, a preliminary dissertation research problem. The final paper may incorporate revised material from the short essays. You should make an effort to incorporate concepts and frameworks from at least three theorists in your final essay.

Course Schedule:

9/2 Introduction to Course

9/9 Marx: Capitalism as Historical Social System

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

Giovanni Arrighi, "Marx, Schumpeter and the Endless Accumulation of Capital and Power", chapter 3 in *Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the Twenty-first Century*, Verso, 2007.

} Read
for
9/16

9/16 Marx: Commodities and Social Relations

Karl Marx, *Capital I*, preface to the First (German) edition, chapter 1 (sections 1. 2 & 4), chapters 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7

9/23 Marx: The Labor Process and Class Conflict

Karl Marx, *Capital I*, chapters 8-15

Selections from Beverly J. Silver, *Forces of Labor: Workers' Movements and Globalization since 1870*, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

9/30 Marx: Uneven Development in Time and Space: Industrial Reserve Armies and “Primitive Accumulation”

Karl Marx, *Capital I*, chapters 25-33

David Harvey, “Accumulation by Dispossession”, chapter 4 in *The New Imperialism*, Oxford University Press, 2003.

10/7 No Class: First Essay Due

10/14 Weber: Class, Domination and Legitimacy

Weber, *Economy and Society*, Table of Contents, 212-307, 901-955

10/21 Weber: Rationality and Bureaucracy

Weber, *Economy and Society*, 956-1005, 1111-1157

10/28 Durkheim: Modernity and the Production of Social Solidarity

Emile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, Preface to First and Section Editions, Introduction, Book I (chapters 1-3, chapter 5 [sections 1, 2 and 5, chapter 7 [section 4]); Book II (chapter 2 [section 1, 3], Book III (chapters 1-3, conclusion)

Debate by Charles Tilly and Piven/Cloward on Durkheim (Xeroxed articles)

11/4 Karl Polanyi I

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*

11/11 Karl Polanyi II

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*

11/18 Schumpeter

Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*

11/25 No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

12/2 Final Discussion

12/18 Last Day of Exams (Final Paper Due)