

University of Magdeburg
Institute of Sociology

Term: Winter 2007/2008

**Social Change in Europe:
Theories and Empirical Findings**

WPF EUS;B ab 2 (ECTS-Credits: 6) (Module II PM 2, WPM 4)
WPF MAG-So ab 3 (ECTS-Credits: 6) (Modul PO 1.2)

Time/Room: Thursday, 1-3 pm, [G152-1.01](#)

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Course Outline 2007

SOCIAL CHANGE IN EUROPE: THEORIES AND EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

Seminar Theme

This seminar gives an introduction to the Sociology of Social Change in the empirical context of European societies. Social change represents a theme of sociology that is connected with foundations and founders of the discipline (Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber) as well as current developments and influential sociologists like Zygmunt Bauman, Ulrich Beck, Anthony Giddens, Piotr Sztompka, or Charles Tilly. The seminar will deal with main subjects, decisive perspectives, key categories, and theoretical approaches of the Sociology of Social Change as well as applications to selected historical and important contemporary phenomena in Europe's past and present. It is structured in three parts. While the first part introduces to phenomena and perspectives of social change, the second one treats classical thinkers and conceptions of social change. This examination is connected with (empirically oriented) discussions of main historical processes those conceptions investigated (industrialization, the origin of capitalism, democratization, modernization). The third part deepens the understanding of social change by introducing to current theoretical perspectives and discussing contemporary phenomena of social change in Europe. Among others, concepts and phenomena like revolution, reform, transformation as well as aspects of post-modernization, Europeanization, and globalization will be dealt with.

Classes

Part I: Phenomena and Experiences of Social Change

1. (10-11) Introduction and Organization
2. (10-18) Phenomena, Problems, and First Classifications of Social Change

Part II: Classical Theories and Classical Topics

3. (10-25) From Antique Philosophers up to Ideas of Enlightenment: On Circles, Fate, and Human Progress
4. (11-01) "Law and Order" of Social Change and Progress: Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer and Emile Durkheim
5. (11-08) Historical Materialism (Karl Marx) I: Foundations
6. (11-15) Historical Materialism (Karl Marx) II: Class Structure, Class Struggle, and the Idea of Revolution
7. (11-22) Max Weber's "Interpretive Sociology" I: Origin, Spirit, and Dynamics of Capitalism
8. (11-29) Max Weber's "Interpretive Sociology" II: Singularities and the Ambivalent Process of Rationalization

Part III: Current Phenomena and Theoretical Trends

9. (12-06) Modernizations after the WWII: Convergences and Divergences or: Between “Evolutionary Universals” and “Multiple Modernities”
10. (12-13) Modernities After Modernity?: Postmodernization, New Social Structures and Movements in the West
11. (12-20) Post-Socialist Transformations in the East: Revolution, Transition, and “Catching-up Modernizations”
12. (01-10) Europeanization: Levels and Processes, Actors and Consequences
13. (01-17) Globalization and World-System: (Trans-)Formations of Centers and Peripheries
14. (01-24) Social Change Reconsidered: Evolution, Revolution, and Reform

Study Programs

This seminar is offered for: (a) EUS;B II/PM 2 und WPM 5 (old program), 4 (new program); (b) MAG-So MPO 1.2 (Macrosociology)

Course Format

Weekly class sessions consist of presentations by students and discussion based on required readings. Normally, the class starts with a short introduction to main issues by the instructor following by one or two short oral presentations prepared and given by students. The following discussion serves to deepen crucial aspects.

Requirements and Grading

Attendance and the readiness to give a presentation are *obligatory*. Course grades will be based on four components: Attendance, oral presentation, prospectus of the written essay, written essay. Topics and guidelines for the essays will be discussed in the first two sessions.

Credits: EUS;B: 5/6 CP, MAG-So: 6 CP (see below).

Course grades (from 1.0 to 4.3) will be based on three components (and their values):

- (1) *Participation*: Attendance is obligatory. Participation, i.e. weekly preparation, active participation in discussion and constructive critique, is expected. The value of participation (i.e. attendance and active participation in discussions) amounts to 10%.
- (2) *Oral presentation*: Each student has to prepare and give a presentation on one of the session’s topics. The length of the presentations must not exceed 15 min. Topics of presentations are offered in class descriptions. Notice about selected topics has to be given until the third session (Please, consult the course instructor, if you want to change the topic, etc.): 10%.
- (3) *Prospectus of the written essay*: The essay should base on the topic of the oral presentation. Each student has to turn in a prospectus of the written essay including title, outline of the essay’s topic and structure, and a preliminary bibliography. The prospectus should consist of 500 words (exclusive of the bibliography) (**due November 22**): 20%

(4) *Written essay*: The essay should base on the oral presentation and has to consist of 6,000 words in minimum (**due February 25**): 60%

Late Work: In cases in which written essay is late without a satisfactory excuse (i.e. illness or accidents), marks will be deducted, to ensure fairness to students who hand their work in on time. The deduction will be 10% per business day. Last day for handing in is: **February 29**.

To obtain 5 or 6 credits the requirements must be filled in *all* parts. To obtain the minimum of 2 or 3 credits students have to attend (1) and to give an oral presentation or to hand a short paper (500 words) in that discuss one of the class' topics using corresponding literature (*consultation with the instructor is obligatory - without consultation till November 22 no credits will be given*).

Reading lists, reader

(1) A reader is provided. It **must be purchased** by the students (price: 5 Euro).

(2) Additionally, I recommend the purchase of the textbook by *Piotr Sztompka (1993), The Sociology of Social Change (Basil Blackwell)*.

(3) The reading list (see below) contains alternative and/or additional readings that might be helpful for preparing classes and oral presentations.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property. In particular, it means presenting another person's ideas, findings or work as one's own by copying or reproducing the work without due acknowledgement of the source. Usually, plagiarism at universities and in study encompasses presentations of written work that contains sentences, paragraphs or longer sections from published work without acknowledgement. Another form is the reproduction of portions of the work of another student and present it as own results. This includes the use of another's argument, even if the wording is changed.

Reflecting these forms and problems, the Faculty encourages students to think and write for themselves, and to provide all information concerning used sources in writing required essays.

In assessing your work teachers look for evidence of your understanding and capacity for independent thought, so we are always disappointed to discover plagiarism. Our disappointment is only mitigated by the delight of successful detection: academics have very sensitive antennae and derivative phrasing will swiftly alert our suspicions. Plagiarism from the Internet is easy to detect.

The faculty's first responsibility is educative, and where plagiarism seems to arise from poor referencing practices or lack of confidence, we will alert you to the problem and suggest strategies for improvement. Plagiarized work is never acceptable, and may fail because it does not meet the requirements of academic merit.

If parts of the requirements for this course (in particular parts of the essay) will be detected as clear and obviously intended plagiarism, there is no grading for the course. A formal information will be given to the study program and the faculty. There will be no possibility to repeat this course.

Part I: *Phenomena and Experiences of Social Change*

1. (10-11): Introduction and Organization

Besides talking about organizational problems, the introductory session should fix the main topics, perspectives and problems in dealing with the Sociology of Social Change. Why should we explore and discuss this subject? Students will be asked to collect buzzwords, important phenomena and relevant representatives to gain a first entry into the field. This collection should be linked into aims and topics covered in the seminar as a whole. A brief road-map of the rest of the course will be provided.

2. (10-18): Phenomena, Problems and First Classifications of Social Change

The second session serves the phenomenal approaching. We will try to win a first overview of “objective” phenomena of social change in the history of humankind as well as “subjective” experiences from the perspective of everyday life. A first classification of processes of social change (spheres, objectives, time-spans, forms, etc.) will be elaborated.

Seminar Reading (Reader)

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 1-8, 12-23.

Part II: *Classical Theories and Classical Topics*

3. (10-25) From Antique Philosophers up to Ideas of Enlightenment: On Circles, Fate, and Human Progress

Following the phenomenological approaching of the first part, the second part turns to the theoretical perspective. The first session is devoted to the long period between the antique thinkers (like Herodotus or Plato) over the theological tradition of the medieval age up to the enlightenment in the 18th century. We shall discuss problems in perceiving and thinking “change” in pre-modern times, the idea of eternal circles and returns, “progression” as transgression, and the ambivalences and dilemmas of the enlightenment’s thinking (necessity and fate of progress vs. freedom of action and the meaning of enlightenment [the idea of “Reason”], the image of humankind’s perfectibility, the idea of the monarch enlightened by philosophers). Historical contexts that will be taken to elucidate key categories are: the antique epoch, feudalism and monarchist/absolutist rule in Europe.

Seminar Reading (Reader)

Condorcet, Antoine Nicolas de Caritat (Marquis de): *Der Fortschritt des menschlichen Geistes* (Extraction from: *Esquisse d’un tableau historique des progrès de l’esprit humain*, 1794). In: Dreitzel, Hans Peter (1972): *Sozialer Wandel. Zivilisation und Fortschritt als Kategorien der soziologischen Theorie*. Neuwied/Berlin: Luchterhand: 95-110.

Kant, Immanuel (1784): *Idee zu einer allgemeinen Geschichte in weltbürgerlicher Absicht*. In: ders. (1947): *Zur Geschichtsphilosophie*. Berlin: Keiper: 15-30.

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 24-40.

Additional Reading

Davis, Norman (1998): *Europe. A History*. New York: Harper: 95-147, 291-382, 577-896.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. Antique ideas of “history” (Herodotus, Plato, Aristotle, Polybios) (10 min.)
2. The ideas of the Enlightenment (d’Holbach, Diderot, Condorcet)
3. Immanuel Kant’s conception (10 min.)

4. (11-01) “Law and Order” of Social Change and Progress: Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer and Emile Durkheim

This class deals with the first “scientific” conceptions of social change connected with the origin of sociology. What is the reason for the close connection of sociology’s origin and the problem of social change? Or could it be a pure coincidence? Before deepening this problem the session is to present and discuss three prominent conceptions in this epoch, i.e. the approaches of Comte, Spencer, and Durkheim. With respect to categorial problems the session shall tackle termini like: science (philosophy, biology [Darwin], sociology and the problem of transfer), stages and laws of history/progress, differentiation, evolution, moral, social integration/solidarity, and others. Conceptually, we discuss the mutual contextualization of the rise of the bourgeoisie, industrialism, modern state, and modern science as well as the problem of progress, its recognizability, the role of ideas and - not last - the problem of “steering” or “controlling” social change.

The historical “material” for discussing provides the French Revolution, the post-revolutionary age, and the dynamics of (early) industrialization in the 19th century in Europe.

Seminar Reading

Comte, Auguste (1877): *The Progress of Civilization through Three States*. In: Etzioni, Amitia/Etzioni-Halevy (Eds./1973): *Social Change. Sources, Patterns, and Consequences*. New York: Basic Books: 14-19.

Spencer, Herbert (1892): *The Evolution of Societies* (extracts from “Sociology”). In: Etzioni, A./Etzioni-Halevy, E. (Eds./1973): *Social Change. Sources, Patterns and Consequences*. New York: Basic Books: 9-13.

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 24-40, 101-102.

Additional Reading

Durkheim, Emile (1893): Extracts from “*The Division of Labour in Society*”. In: McIntosh, Ian (Ed./1997): *Classical Sociological Theory. A Reader*. New York: NYUP: 179/180 (Biographical Sketch), 181-206.

Comte, Auguste (2003): *Positive Philosophy of Auguste Comte, Part I*. Kessinger Publishing: 399-403, 498-517, 521-541.

Spencer, Herbert (2004): *Illustrations of Universal Progress*. Kessinger Publishing: chpts. I, IX, X.

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 69-81, 99-112.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. Comte: laws and stages
2. Spencer and Durkheim: Differentiation, organism, division of labor (and scientific transfers) (20 min. or 2 x 10 min.)

5. (11-08) Historical Materialism (Karl Marx) I: Foundations

The following two sessions are devoted to one of the sociological classics: Karl Marx. The idea of social change and progress was crucial for his conceptual framework. Being based on concepts, theories and empirical findings of the Hegelian philosophy, the French enlightenment and historiography, the classical Political Economy, and the utopian socialists of the 19th century Karl Marx created a unique synthesis that combines a sober and sharp analysis of society and processes of social change with political engagement and eschatological hope. The result is a sophisticated, very complex, partly contradictory, but at any rate very rich and fruitful concept of social change. The so-called “Historical Materialism” is less simple as one might think at the first glance, and Marx’ analysis of capitalism is more up-to-date as some critiques believe. The first session on Marx deals with basics of his theory: productive forces and relations, modes of production, basis-superstructure-relation, socio-economic formations, forces and forms of social progress, etc. Using these categorial apparatus we shall discuss theoretical problems of structure vs. action as well as universal vs. singular phenomena in social change, necessity (laws) vs. chance, “material” vs. “ideal” factors as well as (and again:) stages of progress and the role of contradictions.

Historical background is above all the rise of capitalism and the “Industrial Revolution” (16th - 19th century) in Europe (above all in England).

Seminar Reading

Marx, Karl/Engels, Friedrich (1846): *The German Ideology* (Extraction). In: Tucker, Robert B. (ed./1978): *The Marx-Engels-Reader*, 2nd Edition. New York/London: Norton: 149-155.

Marx, Karl (1859): *Historical Materialism Summarized AND The Class Struggle*. In: Etzioni, Amitia/Etzioni-Halevy (Eds./1973): *Social Change. Sources, Patterns, and Consequences*. New York: Basic Books: 30-39.

McIntosh, Ian (1997): *Classical Sociological Theory. A Reader*. New York: NYUP: 13-14 (Biographical Sketch to Karl Marx),

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 155-178.

Additional Reading

Trebilcock, Clive (2001): *The Industrialization of Modern Europe, 1750-1914*. In: Blanning, T.C.W. (Ed.): *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*. Oxford: OUP: 40-69.

Marx, Karl (1867): *The So-Called Primitive Accumulation (Extractions)*. In: Tucker, Robert B. (ed./1978): *The Marx-Engels-Reader*, 2nd Edition. New York/London: Norton: 431-438.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. Marx’ Historical Materialism: Basics
2. The origin of capitalism and the role of violence

6. (11-15) Historical Materialism (Karl Marx) II: Capitalism, Class Struggle, and Revolutions

Taking up the general conception of Marx dealt with in session 5 the sixth session concentrates on (the theory of) capitalism, its development and the role of classes and class struggle. In this context, the question of unintended consequences of (intentional) human action will be dealt with. Furthermore we will consider the concept of revolution, communism and the transition to the latter. Key problems we will discuss are: rise, mature, crisis, and transi-

tion of socio-economic formations and the question of revolution (necessity, forms, etc.) wherein the relation between mass/class and leader/intellectuals will be paid special attention to (class, class organizations, and collective action). Finally, Marx' theory gives the opportunity to ask for current phenomena and dynamics of global capitalism.

Historical-empirical material in discussing these problems will be taken from the 19th century. Central processes shall be: Dynamics of capitalism (ca. 1800-1900) and class struggle in Europe, the series of revolutions in Europe (1789; 1848/49; 1917-1919).

Seminar Reading

Like session 5 plus:

Marx, Karl/Engels, Friedrich (1848): *The Communist Manifesto (Extract)*. In: Tucker, Robert B. (ed./1978): *The Marx-Engels-Reader*, 2nd Edition. New York/London: Norton: 483-491.

Additional Reading

Like session 5 plus:

Pilbeam, Pamela (2001): *From Orders to Classes: European Society in the Nineteenth Century* In: Blanning, T.C.W. (Ed.): *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*. Oxford: OUP: 94-120.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. Marx' theory of classes and capitalism
2. Marx' explanation of the Industrial Revolution (late 18th century till mid-19th century)
4. The end of capitalism and the revolutionary transition to communism (economy and politics)

7. (11-22) Max Weber' "Interpretive Sociology" I: Origin, Spirit and Dynamics of Capitalism

In direct connection with the sessions before, session seven will be devoted to Max Weber's conception of social change - in a first step regarding his theory of the origin, the spirit and the dynamic of occidental capitalism. Comparable with dangers of simplification of Marx' approach, Weber's theory of capitalism is often considered as an attempt to contradict Marx' *materialist* theory by reversing the logic: the religious spirit of Protestantism appears as a kind of *deus ex machina*. The session strives for correcting this vulgarizing interpretation. In order to achieve this goal, we discuss key categories/concepts like: (forms of) capitalism; religion and Christian confessions, the "protestant revolution" and its impact on conducts of life and economic behavior. Conceptual problems we want to deal with are: the role of culture and "spiritual" factors in social change and their connection with "material" factors; the so-called micro-macro-transition in explaining social change; and the problem of routinization and tradition's formation.

Historical-empirical background will be provided by the origin/formation of capitalism in Europe (14th -18th century), the Reformation in Europe and the diffusion/dynamics of capitalism in the 19th century.

Please, take note: The prospectus of the written essay must be handed in this day.

Seminar Reading

Weber, Max (1904ff.): Extracts from “*The Protestant Ethic and the “Spirit” of Capitalism*” (1904/05) and “*Economy and Society*” (1920). In: McIntosh, Ian (Ed./1997): *Classical Sociological Theory. A Reader*. New York: NYUP: 113/114 (Biographical Sketch), 115-131, 142-153, 157-164.

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Blackwell: 64-80, 235-249.

Additional Reading

Chiot, Daniel (1986): *Social Change in the Modern Era*. Orlando: Harcourt: 14-28, 40-56, 57-95.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. The Protestantist Revolution in the 16th century: Historical background and Weber’s access
2. Weber’s protestantism thesis as counter suggestion towards Marx? Main line of argumentation

8. (11-29) Max Weber II: Spheres, Factors and Singularities of Change, and the Ambivalent Process of Rationalization

Following the problem of capitalism and its origin and dynamics this session will widen the perspective by discussing Weber’s general concept/theory of social change. Two central ideas will be focused on: (a) The relation between historical singularities/individualities and universal/world-historic tendencies (and the “tool” of “ideal-types”), (b) the overarching “rationalization process” and its ambivalences. Regarding the latter we concentrate on the aspect of “bureaucratization” of administrative as well as economic action and the problem of the “iron cage of obedience” - and chances to undermine/cope with it.

Historical material will be delivered by the late 19th and (first part of the) 20th century in Europe: “organized capitalism”, “over-bureaucratization”, counter-movements, and the rise of fascism and communism (and their “leaders”).

Seminar Reading

Like session 7 plus:

Weber, Max (1904ff.): *The Routinization of Charisma*. In: Etzioni, Amitia/Etzioni-Halevy (Eds./1973): *Social Change. Sources, Patterns, and Consequences*. New York: Basic Books: 43-53.

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 259-273.

Additional Reading

Chiot, Daniel (1986): *Social Change in the Modern Era*. Orlando: Harcourt: 96-163.

Preston, Paul (2001): *The Great Civil War: European Politics 1914-1945*. In: Blanning, T.C.W. (Ed.): *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*. Oxford: OUP: 148-181.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. What is sociology? Weber’s “Interpretive Sociology” (10 min.)
2. Weber’s bureaucratization (as rationalization) and the development of organized capitalism in Europe
3. Charismatic leadership as way out? (and the threat of fascism)

Part III: Current Phenomena and Theoretical Trends

9. (12-06) Modernizations after the WWII: Convergences and Divergences or: Between “Evolutionary Universals” and “Multiple Modernities”

A (seemingly) sharp cut will bring us from the beginning to the end of the 20th century. In the last part of the seminar, we will, firstly, examine whether the routes of social change predicted by the classics have been “really” taken place in Europe/North-America. Secondly, we shall look for modernizations and modernities formed and evolved after the Second World War. Obviously, we find a broad variety of “systems”, formations, and societal configurations of which the competition between capitalism and socialism represent only the most prominent. Is it possible and if, under what concrete theoretical-methodological precautions, to deal with these divergences and possible convergences under the umbrella of theories of modernity/modernization? Central categories (discussed in the context of approaches of Rostow, Parsons and others) will be: societal system; evolution and evolutionary necessities/universals; formations, forms, and regimes; path-dependency; (multiple) modernities. Historical-empirical background will be provided by European developments after WWII, in particular in Germany (GDR, FRG), Great Britain, Sweden, Polen/CZ, and Russia.

Seminar Reading

Parsons, Talcott (1961): *A Functional Theory of Change*. In: Etzioni, Amitia/Etzioni-Halevy (Eds./1973): *Social Change. Sources, Patterns, and Consequences*. New York: Basic Books: 72-86.

Parsons, Talcott (1964/1971): *Evolutionäre Universalien der Gesellschaft*. In: Zapf, Wolfgang (Hg.): *Theorien sozialen Wandels*. Köln/Berlin: Kiepenheuer & Witsch: 55-74.

Therborn, Göran (1995): *European Modernity and Beyond. The Trajectory of European Societies, 1945-2000*. London et al.: Sage: Part I, Part II.7.

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 118-125, 129-141.

Chiot, Daniel (1986): *Social Change in the Modern Era*. Orlando: Harcourt: 263-275.

Additional reading

Rostow, Walt W. (1956): *The Takeoff into Self-Sustained Growth*. In: Etzioni, Amitia/Etzioni-Halevy (Eds./1973): *Social Change. Sources, Patterns, and Consequences*. New York: Basic Books: 285-300.

Therborn, Göran (1995): *European Modernity and Beyond. The Trajectory of European Societies, 1945-2000*. London et al.: Sage: Part II.6.

Chiot, Daniel (1986): *Social Change in the Modern Era*. Orlando: Harcourt: 263-275.

Davis, Norman (1998): *Europe. A History*. New York: Harper: 1057-1109.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. Parson’s evolutionary universals of modernization (10 min.)
2. The model of democratic welfare capitalism - and its dynamics and pathways (10 min.)
3. The model of state-socialism - and its dynamics and pathways (10 min.)

10. (12-13) Modernities After Modernity?: Postmodernization, New Social Structures and Movements in the West

This session follows immediately the session before: Are there new substantial developments in the end of the 20th century? We shall concentrate on three phenomena closely interconnected: new social structures between layers, milieus, and life-style groups; the so-called New Social Movements like feminist movement, ecological movement or peace movement. We shall ask: What is the role of social movements in processes of social change? What is the novelty in the second half of the 20th century? What are new approaches to describe and to explain these movements? Finally and comprehendingly, we will discuss the postmodernization approach as attempt to find a new system of co-ordinates for our time. Key categories will be: Social Structures, Old and New Social Movements, Postmodernity.

Historical-empirical background will be provided by European developments in the late 20th century (Germany, Great Britain, France, partly in the US too).

Seminar Reading

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 81-85, 274-300.

Giddens, Anthony (1993): *Sociology*. Cambridge: Polity: 642-648, 662-670.

Harvey, David (1989): *Postmodernism*. In: Elliot, Anthony (Ed./1999): (The Blackwell Reader in) *Contemporary Social Theory*. Malden/Oxford: Blackwell: 303-316.

Additional Reading

Tilly, Charles (2004): *Social Movements 1768-2004*. Boulder/London: Paradigm: 1-15, 51-59, 68-90, 95-108, 113-122, 123-142.

Bauman, Zygmunt (1991): *Postmodernity, or Living with Ambivalence*. In: Elliot, Anthony (ed./1999): (The Blackwell Reader in) *Contemporary Social Theory*. Malden/Oxford: Blackwell: 363-376.

Giddens, Anthony (1990): *Post-Modernity or Radicalized Modernity?* In: Lemert (1999): *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings*. Boulder: Westview: 487-494.

Beck, Ulrich/Beck-Gernsheim, Elisabeth (1999): *Individualization and „Precarious Freedoms“: Perspectives and Controversies of a Subject-orientated Sociology*. In: Elliot, Anthony (ed./1999): (The Blackwell Reader in) *Contemporary Social Theory*. Malden/Oxford: Blackwell: 156-168.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. What are New Social Movements - and what is their role in social change?
2. What is postmodernization/postmodernity (in difference to modernity before)?

11. (12-20) Post-Socialist Transformations in the East: Revolution, Transition, and “Catching-up Modernizations”

From the West to the East: Some researchers thought that radical social change will be impossible in the late 20th century. Obviously, they failed. The (“velvet”, “peaceful”, etc.) revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe have shown the opposite. This session serves the investigation of these revolutions and transformations. Three problems will be crucial: (a) New or old revolutions in the East? (b) What are distinguishing features of “post-socialist transformations” - what are differences of these societal reconstructions (“holistic reforms”)

comparing with Western reforms? Is there a new type of social change by rising of “transformations”? (c) How far is it possible to regard the post-socialist transformations as catching-up modernizations? Key categories will be: Revolution, transition/transformation, holistic reform and catching-up modernization.

Historical-empirical background will be provided by the post-socialist transformations in Central Eastern Europe (Poland, Czechoslovakia, GDR, and partly Russia).

Seminar Reading

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 259-273, 301-321.

Giddens, Anthony (1993): *Sociology*. Cambridge: Polity: 618-648.

Additional Reading

Kollmorgen, Raj (2006): *Gesellschaftstransformation als sozialer Wandlungstyp. Eine komparative Analyse*. In: soFid „Politische Soziologie“, 2006/1: 10-30 (www.gesis.org/Information/soFid/pdf/polSoziologie_2006-11.pdf)

Offe, Claus (1996): *Varieties of Transition*. Cambridge: Polity: 29-49.

Tilly, Charles (2004): *Social Movements 1768-2004*. Boulder/London: Paradigm: 68-90, 95-108, 113-122, 123-142.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. Revolution and transformation in Central Eastern Europe: Background, courses, results
2. Transformation as precipitated social change facing global modernity: Conceptual basics

12. (01-10) Europeanization: Levels and Processes, Actors and Consequences

Europeanization is one of the buzzwords of European Studies. This session should reveal main phenomena, trends, and problems of this stream. What could we understand by Europeanization (fields, forms, etc.)? What are spaces and in which contexts it took and is taking place? In particular, we shall deal with the problem of Europeanization in the West vs. Europeanization in the East and the new “common European house” after 1989. Is there any kind of European identity? The EU and its architecture regarding actors and institutions will represent a second emphasize. Key categories will be: European space, interconnectedness, and networks; empire, center and periphery, European identity, EU institutions and bureaucratization, EU-enlargement.

Historical-empirical background will be provided by processes of Europeanization in the 19th and 20th century.

Seminar Reading

Delanty, Gerard/Rumford, Chris (2005): *Rethinking Europe. Social Theory and the Implications of Europeanization*. London/N.Y.: Routledge: 28-49, 50-68, 137-141, 142-146.

Reynolds, David (2001): *Europe Divided and Reunited, 1945-1995*. In: Blanning, T.C.W. (Ed.): *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*. Oxford: OUP: 279-304.

Additional reading

Therborn, Göran (1995): *European Modernity and Beyond. The Trajectory of European Societies, 1945-2000*. London et al.: Sage: Part III.10-11, Part IV.12.

Davis, Norman (1998): *Europe. A History*. New York: Harper: 759-1136.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. Ideas of Europeanization after the Great War and WWII - and the real course in West and East
2. EU - the new bureaucratic monster? Actors and institutions
3. European identity - what is it? What could it be?

13. (01-17) Globalization and World-System: (Trans-)Formations of Centers and Peripheries

This session widens the perspective again. Besides postmodernization and Europeanization globalization appears as the third “global trend” of the late 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. What is globalization and how far is it necessary to grasp it as a new type of social change (or not)? We shall explore main fields, forms, and actors as well as mechanisms of globalization to gain a first insight and understanding of the complex matter. And we will ask whether there is a new approach to deal with phenomena like: world-system(s), center and periphery, the end of nation-state, supranational organizations and forms of sovereignty, global trade and global capitalism. Key categories (see above).

Historical-empirical background will be provided by processes of globalization in the 19th and 20th century and recent trends.

Seminar reading

Sztompka, Piotr (1993): *The Sociology of Social Change*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell: 86-96.

Giddens, Anthony (1993): *Sociology*. Cambridge: Polity: 527-563.

Additional reading

Chase-Dunn, Christopher (2006): *Globalization: A World-Systems Perspective*. In: Chase-Dunn, Ch./Babones, S.J (Eds.): *Global Social Change*. N.Y.: Johns Hopkins UP: 79-108.

Beck, Ulrich (1999): *What is Globalization?* Oxford: Polity.

Topics of Oral Presentations

1. Globalization: Category and history (patterns of social change) (10 min.)
2. The World-System Approach: Main ideas (10 min.)
2. How can we tame the monster? The future of globalization (10 min.)

14. (01-24) Social Change Reconsidered: Evolution, Revolution, and Reform

The last session is to look back to the starting point of our seminar and to reconsider phenomena and theories of social change. What are important forms, forces and mechanism of social change? What is the relationship between structure and action? How far are we, hence, able to steer, to control social change? What can we do in view of changes of and within our lives? How can we cope with social change around us? And, what are proper theoretical-methodological approaches to investigate current social change - are the classics outmoded? The last part serves the critical review of the seminar itself: achievements, problems, open questions are supposed to be subject of an open discussion in the last 30 min - including open problems in preparing/writing the **final essay (due February 25)**.

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