

DRAFT 9/15/10

SOCIOLOGY 476
Comparative and Historical Approaches to
Political Analysis

(Topics in Sociological Analysis: Political Sociology)
Fall 2010,), Tuesdays, 4:45 – 7:00 pm
Kresge 2-359 (Gender Studies seminar room)

Professor Ann Shola Orloff
1808 Chicago Avenue, Room 201 (Sociology)
2-321 Kresge (Gender Studies)
a-orloff@northwestern.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:00 pm (in 2-371 Kresge) and by
appointment

This seminar offers a broad overview of different theoretical and empirical approaches within historically and comparatively-oriented political sociology and political science. We begin by surveying some of the grand themes of historical political sociology and political science of the 1970s and 1980s – collective action, revolutions, state formation, war and policymaking, then investigate contemporary rethinking of these themes and the emergence of new perspectives and topics, including agency, power in its “productive” mode, identities, religion, “race” and nations, gender and sexualities, culture.

Course format and requirements: Sociology 476 is a seminar in which students are active participants in discussion. Students will take turns leading class discussions and will write two short essays and a longer paper. In the short essays, approximately 4-5 pages in length, you are asked to assess (some aspect of) the readings critically (**due before class – hard copy and in the digital dropbox -- on October 12 and November 9**). In the final paper, approximately 15-20 (double-spaced) pages in length and **due at noon on Wednesday, December 8 (again, in hard copy and in the digital dropbox)**, you are asked *either* to reflect on some aspect of theoretical developments in comparative and historical sociology and/or political science (e.g., how have power or agency been conceptualized? how do rational choice theories of state formation differ from culturalist accounts? what changes when gender or “race” are brought into accounts of state policy? etc.!!), **or** to discuss how an empirical project on which you are working speaks to a significant debate in comparative and historical sociology and/or political science.

Course readings: We will read four books, and a number of articles (available online at Blackboard [noted with *]). The following books are available at Beck's Bookstore on Clark St.:

Julia Adams, Elisabeth Clemens and Ann Shola Orloff (editors), *Remaking Modernity: Politics, History and Sociology* (Durham, NC and London: Duke University Press, 2005).

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979).

Gabrielle M. Spiegel, *Practicing History: New Directions in Historical Writing after the Linguistic Turn* (New York: Routledge, 2005).

George Steinmetz, *The Devil's Handwriting: Precoloniality and the German Colonial State in Qingdao, Samoa, and Southwest Africa* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

The schedule of readings is open to revision by seminar participants.

Seminar Schedule

September 21: Overview of Historical and Comparative Approaches to Politics and Introduction to the Seminar

Required reading:

Julia Adams, Elisabeth Clemens and Ann Shola Orloff, "Introduction: Social Theory, Modernity, and the Three Waves of Historical Sociology," and George Steinmetz, "The Epistemological Unconscious of U.S. Sociology and the Transition to Post-Fordism: The Case of Historical Sociology," pp.1-72 and pp.109-157 in *Remaking Modernity: Politics, History and Sociology*, edited by Adams, Clemens and Orloff (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005).

*James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, "Comparative Historical Analysis: Achievements and Agendas," pp. 3-38 in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Recommended reading:

Look over two great classics of the 1960s, which both inspired the practitioners of historicized and historical approaches to politics:

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1966).
Available in Northwestern Library, Main Core: 309 M821s

E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (London: Victor Gollancz or New York: Vintage, 1963; 2nd edition with new postscript, Harmondsworth, UK: Penguin, 1968).
Available at Northwestern Library, on reserve (for a different course):
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September 28: The Second Wave, part 1: Collective Action and Revolution

Required reading:

*Charles Tilly, "Does Modernization Breed Revolution?" *Comparative Politics* 5 (1973) (No.3, Special Issue on Revolution and Social Change): 425-447.

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979), Introduction, Part I, and Conclusion.

Recommended reading:

Charles Tilly, *From Mobilization to Revolution* (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1978).

October 5: The Second Wave, part 2: States, War and Welfare

Required Reading:

*Ann Shola Orloff and Theda Skocpol, " 'Why Not Equal Protection?': Explaining the Politics of Public Social Spending in Britain, 1900-1911 and the United States, 1880s-1920," *American Sociological Review* 49 (1984): 726-50.

*Jill Quadagno, "Welfare Capitalism and the Social Security Act of 1935," *American Sociological Review* 49 (1984): 632-47.

*Walter Korpi, "Power, Politics and State Autonomy in the Development of Social Citizenship," *American Sociological Review* 54 (1989): 309-28.

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979), Part II and Conclusion.

*Charles Tilly, "Warmaking and Statemaking as Organized Crime," pp.169-191 in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, editors, *Bringing the State Back In* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985).

*Perry Anderson, *Lineages of the Absolutist State* (London: Verso, 1974), pp.15-59.

Recommended reading:

Charles Tilly, editor, *The Formation of National States in Western Europe* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975).

Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, editors, *Bringing the State Back In* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985).

SHORT CRITICAL ESSAY #1 DUE BY NOON, OCTOBER 12, HARD COPY IN PROFESSOR ORLOFF'S MAILBOX, ALSO POST TO DIGITAL DROPBOX

October 12: Historicized Political Analysis after the Linguistic and Cultural Turns

Gabrielle M. Spiegel, *Practicing History: New Directions in Historical Writing after the Linguistic Turn* (New York: Routledge, 2005): Introduction and essays by Eley, Sewell ("The concept[s] of culture") and Part III

*George Steinmetz, "Introduction: Culture and The State," pp.1-49 in G. Steinmetz, editor, *State/Culture: State-Formation after the Cultural Turn* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999).

Recommended reading:

*George Steinmetz, "Bourdieu, Historicity and Historical Sociology," *Cultural Sociology* 10(2010), forthcoming.

Carolyn Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman* (London: Virago, 1986).

Geoff Eley, *A Crooked Line* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2005), and *Forum* on this book in *American Historical Review*, April 2008 (posted on the course Blackboard site).

Terrence J. McDonald, editor, *The Historic Turn in the Human Sciences* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996).

October 19: The Third Wave: Historical Institutionalism

Required Reading:

*James Mahoney and Kathleen Thelen, "A Theory of Gradual Institutional Change," pp.1-37 in Mahoney and Thelen, editors, *Explaining Institutional Change: Ambiguity, Agency, and Power* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

TBA

Recommended reading:

*Paul Pierson, *Politics in Time: History, Institutions, and Social Analysis* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004), especially Introduction and chapters four and five.

*Elisabeth S. Clemens and James M. Cook, "Politics and Institutionalism: Explaining Durability and Change," *Annual Review of Sociology* 25(1999):441-466

October 26: The Third Wave: Agency

Required Reading:

Remaking Modernity, essay by Biernacki

Gabrielle M. Spiegel, *Practicing History: New Directions in Historical Writing after the Linguistic Turn* (New York: Routledge, 2005): Part II, focus on Sewell and Giddens.

*Julia Adams, "Culture in Rational-Choice Theories of State-Formation," pp.98-122 in *State/Culture*, edited by George Steinmetz (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999).

November 2: The Third Wave: States, Politics, Gender

Required reading:

Remaking Modernity, essay by Orloff

TBA

Recommended reading:

Gosta Esping-Andersen, *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990) and *Social Foundations of Post-industrial Economies* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992).

Julia S. O'Connor, Ann Shola Orloff, Sheila Shaver, *States, Markets, Families: Gender, Liberalism and Social Policy in Australia, Canada, Great Britain and the United States* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

Julia Adams, *The Familial State: Ruling Families and Merchant Capitalism in Early Modern Europe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005).

November 9:

The Third Wave: Provincializing Europe, Engaging the (Post)Colonial Context, Globalizing Historical Social Science

Part 1:

Anibal Quijano and Michael Ennis, "Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism, and Latin America," *Nepantla: Views from South* 1 (2000): 533-580.

María Lugones, "Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender System," *Hypatia* 22 (2007):186-209.

Part 2:

Raewyn Connell, Kreeger-Wolf Distinguished Professor of Gender Studies, will visit the seminar.

Required Reading:

Remaking Modernity, essay by Magubane

*Raewyn Connell, *Southern Theory* (Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2007), excerpts.

*Walter D. Mignolo and Madina V. Tlostanova, "Theorizing from the Borders: Shifting to Geo- and Body-Politics of Knowledge," *European Journal of Social Theory* 9(2006): 205-221.

November 16:

The Third Wave: Collective Action, Revolutions, Identities, Group Formation

Required Reading:

Remaking Modernity, essays by Brubaker, Sohrabi, Kestnbaum, Gould, Spillman and Faeges

*Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), excerpts.

NOVEMBER 18-21: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE HISTORY ASSOCIATION (conference theme is “Power and Politics”) – an unparalleled opportunity to see historicized social science and theoretically-oriented history in action, at the Palmer House in Chicago; graduate students may register for \$10 at ssha.org

November 23: No class – Thanksgiving break

[Friday, 3:30 – 6:00 pm, and we’ll go to dinner afterwards]

December 3:

Part 1: The Third Wave: Re-examining Imperialism

Required reading:

George Steinmetz, *The Devil's Handwriting: Precoloniality and the German Colonial State in Qingdao, Samoa, and Southwest Africa* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Recommended reading:

Ann Laura Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1995).

George Steinmetz, “Return to Empire: The New U.S. Imperialism in Comparative Historical Perspective,” *Sociological Theory* 23 (2005): 339-367.

*Julia Adams and George Steinmetz, "Sovereignty and Sociology: From State Theory to Theories of Empire"

Part 2: The Future of Historical and Comparative Social Science

Required Reading:

Remaking Modernity, essay by Clemens

*Theda Skocpol, “Doubly Engaged Social Science: The Promise of Comparative Historical Analysis,” pp. 407-28 in James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, eds., *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

**International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 47/#5 (2006): special forum on *Remaking Modernity*, with essays by Abbott, Charrad, Goldstone, Mahoney, Riley, Roy, Sewell, Wingrove, and Zerilli, and response from Adams, Clemens and Orloff

*William Sewell, Jr., "Theory, History and Social Science," and "Refiguring the 'Social' in Social Science: An Interpretivist Manifesto," in *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005).

FINAL PAPER DUE AT NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8; HARD COPY IN PROFESSOR ORLOFF'S MAILBOX, ALSO POST TO DIGITAL DROPBOX.