

Social Sciences 2: Methodology of the Social Sciences

The final course in the Social Sciences sequence looks reflexively at the works and issues set forth in Social Sciences 1, 2, and 3. Or to put it somewhat differently; this course is *about* social science rather than *being* social science. In the previous courses we examined various theories of behavior, thought, and governance; now we look at the premises that made such systems possible. The goal of this course is deeper insight into the essential underpinnings of social and political thought and action.

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Texts

Required

The following texts are required:

Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*
Mannheim, *Ideology and Utopia*
Weber, *Essays on methodology*

At least three of the following four works/categories must also be included:

Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*
Foucault, any work, preferably either *Discipline and Punish* or *History of Sexuality*
Geertz, *Interpretation of Cultures* or *Local Knowledge*
Work(s) on feminist methodology

The following works are also recommended:

Laing and Esterson, *Sanity, Madness, and the Family*
Milgram, *Obedience to Authority*

Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*
Winch, *Idea of a Social Science and Its Relation to Philosophy*

Course Readings

A list of the books and articles used in this course follows in the order in which they are read. Additional assignments will be announced in class.

Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*
Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*
Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*
Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*
Harding, “Who Knows? Identities and Feminist Epistemology” (photocopy)
Keller and Longino, *Feminism and Science*
Mannheim, *Ideology and Utopia*
Milgram, *Obedience to Authority*
Rabinow, *The Foucault Reader*
Runciman, *Weber: Selections in Translation*
Weber, “‘Objectivity’ in Social Science and Social Policy” (photocopy)

Course Requirements

Discussion accounts for 60 percent of the grade in this course. Two papers (5–7 pages each) account for 40 percent of the grade

Discussion assumes conscientious preparation for, and prompt attendance at each class. Bring questions to class, and come ready to listen to others and share your ideas with one another in a respectful, attentive, and caring way.

Papers will be on topics of your choosing. You may wish to discuss your topics with me beforehand, though this is not a requirement. Papers are due on the dates indicated on the syllabus; each paper should treat at least one text from the previous segment of the course. I am available to review drafts if they are submitted in a timely fashion. In any case, papers that are submitted should be in the form of “polished writing.”

You may also write a research paper in this course. You would need to determine this by the end of the second weekend.

Syllabus

Weekend 1	Class 1	Durkheim, <i>Rules of Sociological Method</i> , pp. 31–59
	Class 2	Durkheim, <i>Rules of Sociological Method</i> , pp. 60–118
	Class 3	Durkheim, <i>Rules of Sociological Method</i> , pp. 119–163
Weekend 2	Class 1	Runciman, <i>Weber: Selections in Translation</i> , pp. 7–42
	Class 2	Runciman, <i>Weber: Selections in Translation</i> , pp. 69–98
	Class 3	Weber, “Objectivity in Social Science and Social Policy,”

pp. 64–103 (photocopy)

Weekend 3	Class 1	Mannheim, <i>Ideology and Utopia</i> , ch. 1, pp. 1–54
	Class 2	Mannheim, <i>Ideology and Utopia</i> , ch. 2, pp. 55–108
	Class 3	Mannheim, <i>Ideology and Utopia</i> , ch. 3, pp. 117–153, 264–311
Weekend 4	Class 1	Milgram, <i>Obedience to Authority</i> , pp. 1–54
	Class 2	Milgram, <i>Obedience to Authority</i> , pp. 55–202
	Class 3	Freire, <i>Pedagogy of the Oppressed</i> , pp. 11–69 FIRST PAPER DUE
Weekend 5	Class 1	Freire, <i>Pedagogy of the Oppressed</i> , pp. 71–183
	Class 2	Geertz, <i>The Interpretation of Cultures</i> , ch. 1–3
	Class 3	Geertz, <i>The Interpretation of Cultures</i> , ch. 8, 15
Weekend 6	Class 1	Foucault, <i>The History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 1–73
	Class 2	Foucault, <i>The History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 75–159
	Class 3	Rabinow, <i>The Foucault Reader</i> , pp. 170–238
Weekend 7	Class 1	Keller and Longino, <i>Feminism and Science</i> , ch. 1–3
	Class 2	Keller and Longino, <i>Feminism and Science</i> , ch. 14, 16, 17
	Class 3	Keller and Longino, <i>Feminism and Science</i> , ch. 15; Harding, “Who Knows? Identities and Feminist Epistemology” (photocopy) SECOND PAPER DUE