



Правительство Российской Федерации

**Федеральное государственное автономное образовательное
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"Национальный исследовательский университет
"Высшая школа экономики"**

Факультет Социологии

Программа дисциплины

Historical sociology
(Историческая социология)

для направления 040100.68 «Социология» подготовки магистра
для магистерской программы «Сравнительные социальные исследования»

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Ученый секретарь _____

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*Настоящая программа не может быть использована другими подразделениями
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Historical Sociology

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Course description

It is not too crude to think of historical sociology as sociology with a long-temporal scope. In this sense, this disciplinary subfield examines sociological puzzles in conjunction with their historical antecedents. But this usually involves not only the supply of “big” answers to the puzzles, but also the conceptualization of “big” puzzles to begin with: What is the modern world system? How has the modern state developed? What explains the world variation in political systems? Apprehending and accounting for large-scale or pivotal social change is therefore the purview of historical sociology.

This course is not a survey of historical sociology but rather a course *in* historical sociology. It aims to cover not the “most important” works in the field – no two historical sociologists would agree on the list, anyway – but some important works, of the many available, on some important topics. Nevertheless, it does aim to cover a wide a range of topics: from nationalism to capitalism and from state-formation to globalization.

The course is organized around the reading of books that feature little thematic overlap. This means that the books put together here do not offer theses and antitheses to each other – and so no syntheses would transpire at the end of the course. What they collectively do is to offer an intellectual journey to many important questions, allowing that good answers to these questions are found also in other books. The vehicles to this intellectual journey are five books which are considered classics (weeks two through six) and two books which are newer and less celebrated (weeks seven and eight).

Assignments and Assessment

This is a seminar, not a lecture course. It is premised on the idea that all attendees must be able and willing to discuss the material at hand during the seminar sessions. The method of assessing the final grade aims to facilitate this idea. Thus the final grade will be based on “response papers” prepared ahead of the sessions. Specifically, it will be the average of the best five grades of a student’s response papers. I will not accept late response papers (save for truly extraordinary circumstances) nor arrange make-up assignments. There will be no final exam.

The response papers will be assessed according to the pertinence of the ideas they develop, the comprehension of the readings they demonstrate, and the clarity of the exposition. Each “response paper” shall be between one and two printed pages long (double-spaced, font size 12) and should be turned in twice: emailed to me (word document attached to the email) ahead of the first meeting of the week; and handed to me (in printed form) at the end of the same meeting. I need the hard copy to mark; I need the electronic copy to check for the deadly sin of plagiarism.



Schedule of class sessions

WEEK ONE

Demetriou, Chares and Victor Roudometof (2014): “The History of Historical-Comparative Methods in Sociology,” in *Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research*, edited by Patricia Leavy. Oxford University Press

WEEK TWO

Wallerstein, Emmanuel (1974): *The Modern World System, vol I: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century*. New York: Academic Press. Read: selections tba.

WEEK THREE

Tilly, Charles (1990): *Coercion and Capital in European States: AD 990-1990*. Wiley-Blackwell. Read: entire.

WEEK FOUR

Moore, Barrington (1966): *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Beacon Press. Read: selections tba.

WEEK FIVE

Foucault, Michel (1995 [1975]): *Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison*. Vintage Books. Read: selections tba.

WEEK SIX

Hobsbawm, Eric (1990): *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality*. Cambridge University Press. Read: entire.

WEEK SEVEN

Go, Julian (2011): *Patterns of Empire: the British and American Empires, 1688 to Present*. Cambridge University Press. Read: entire.

WEEK EIGHT

Silver, Beverly (2003): *Forces of Labor: Workers' Movements and Globalization Since 1870*. Cambridge University Press. Read: entire (except appendices)

WEEK NINE

Finals Week