MAPS 30000
Perspectives in Social Science Analysis
Autumn Quarter 2018

Instructors

Mark Hansen, Michaela Appeltova, John Cropper, Samantha Fan, Alejandro Flores, Cate Fugazzola, Kristin Hickman, Britta Ingebretson, Tania Islas Weinstein, Matthew Knisley, Will Levine, Muh-Chung Lin, John McCallum, Francis Mckay, Ray Noll, Jeffrey Parker, Fahad Sajid.

Lecture

Monday 4:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday 4:30-5:30 p.m., Kent Hall 107, except as otherwise assigned.

Discussion sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preceptor</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michaela Appeltova</td>
<td>Thursday, 6:30–8:20</td>
<td>Pick 118</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Cropper</td>
<td>Friday, 10:30–12:20</td>
<td>Saieh 247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Fan</td>
<td>Friday, 10:30–12:20</td>
<td>Saieh 242</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alejandro Flores</td>
<td>Thursday, 6:30–8:20</td>
<td>Cobb 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cate Fugazzola</td>
<td>Friday, 2:30–4:20</td>
<td>Saieh 242</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin Hickman</td>
<td>Friday, 4:30–6:20</td>
<td>Saieh 247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Britta Ingebretson</td>
<td>Friday, 5:30–7:20</td>
<td>Pick 118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tania Islas Weinstein</td>
<td>Thursday, 6:30–8:20</td>
<td>Saieh 242</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francis Mckay</td>
<td>Thursday, 6:30–8:20</td>
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<td>Will Levine</td>
<td>Friday, 2:30–4:20</td>
<td>Saieh 247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muh-Chung Lin</td>
<td>Friday, 4:30–6:20</td>
<td>Saieh 242</td>
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<td>John McCallum</td>
<td>Friday, 8:30–10:20</td>
<td>Saieh 242</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Knisley</td>
<td>Friday, 3:30–5:20</td>
<td>Pick 118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Noll</td>
<td>Thursday, 6:30–8:20</td>
<td>Saieh 247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Parker</td>
<td>Friday, 12:30–2:20</td>
<td>Saieh 247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fahad Sajid</td>
<td>Friday, 8:30–10:20</td>
<td>Pick 118</td>
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You should attend the section led by the preceptor to whom you have been assigned. Your section will become your M.A. Thesis Workshop in the Winter Quarter. Preceptors will post their office hours availability. Mark Hansen
Objectives of the course

Perspectives has two primary objectives. First, Perspectives will familiarize you with some of the main traditions of theoretical argument in the social sciences today so that you can participate effectively in your courses. Second, together with your methods course, Perspectives will give you the tools to formulate and execute a successful master’s thesis.

Each week, one of our leading scholars will present an overview of a “perspective” on the nature of social life and individual behavior. They will draw upon readings deemed to be exemplary of the perspective as applied in empirical research. Each week, you should learn

- What is entailed in making an argument from the perspective;
- The main assumptions that undergird the perspective;
- The central concepts that analysts in the perspective deploy;
- The methodological affinities of researchers in the perspective;
- The points of advantage and points of critique; and
- Some of the ways the perspective has been applied to its usual subject matter – and also outside its usual subject matter.

In some cases, you may be able to attach disciplinary labels to a perspective: “psychological,” “economic,” “historical,” “anthropological.” In other cases, the labels may refer to key thinkers: Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Foucault. As you will soon see, however, any such labels will oversimplify – and overly limit – the research within the perspective.

Some of you will enter Perspectives to find the way (or ways) of thinking about social life and individual behavior that is most congenial to you. Others of you may know the perspective you already favor. Either way, we intend that the course will give you deeper insight into each perspective, that it will unsettle you in the encounter with the familiar, and that it will stimulate you in the encounter with the unfamiliar. As you will see, some of the most important work in the social sciences derives from scholars who were willing to think beyond the confines of a single perspective.

Evaluation

The evaluation of your performance in Perspectives will be based on two examinations, one at midterm (Week 6) and one at the end of the course (Finals Week). Both will
require you to reference particular passages in the readings to demonstrate a mastery of the key ideas and concepts for each perspectives. Both will also involve comparisons of perspectives. The exams are take-home, the midterm limited to 6 to 8 pages, the final to 8 to 10.

**Readings**

Most of the readings assigned in this course are articles and chapters drawn from journals, edited volumes, and monographs. They are intended to be read in order.

The readings are available on e-reserve on the Perspectives site on Canvas. In several instances, our selections do not conform to the “fair-use” provisions of the copyright law. Those readings are not available on e-reserve but are available in a physical copy on two-hour reserve at Regenstein Library. They are also available for purchase as “required texts” from the Seminary Co-op Bookstore, 5751 S Woodlawn Ave. They are:


Émile Durkheim, *Suicide: A Study in Sociology* (New York: Free Press, 1951 [1897])


The frequently-assigned texts like Booth, both Durkheim, and Tucker will be available new or used. Whether you decide to buy all, some, or none at all, you should plan to purchase *The Craft of Research*, which you will use extensively in your M.A. Thesis Seminar starting in the Winter Quarter.
Schedule

October 1, Week 1. Science, Explanation, and the Social
Mark Hansen, Political Science
chaps. 2, 4, 5 in Part II; chaps. 1, 2 in Part I; chap. 1 in Part III (pp. 152-70, 217-76, 57-103, 297-325).
pp. 3-9, 19-32, 33-45.

October 8, Week 2. Models of the Mind
Howard Nusbaum, Psychology
October 15, Week 3.  Incentives, Constraints, and Choice

Victor Lima, Economics


October 22, Week 4.  Materialism and Class

Jonathan Levy, History

Karl Marx, from the *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* (1844): pp. 70–105.

October 29, Week 5.  Recovering the Past

Johanna Ransmeier, History

  Introduction and chap. 5.
November 5. Midterm Exam

November 12, Week 7. Social Structure and Institutions
Elisabeth Clemens, Sociology

November 19, Week 8. Interaction and Social Embeddedness
Anna Mueller, Comparative Human Development
November 26, Week 9.  Power, Culture, and Performativity
Michele Friedner, Comparative Human Development

December 3, Week 10.  Hermeneutics of Culture
Jennifer Cole, Comparative Human Development