

**MAPS 30000, Perspectives in Social Science Analysis  
Autumn Quarter 2016**

**Instructors:** Dain Borges, Theresa Anasti, Gordon Arlen, Amanda Blair, Marcus Board, Samantha Peishan Fan, John Halloran, Darcy Hughes Heuring, Laura Horton, Taeju Kim, Muh-Chung Lin, John McCallum, Francis Mckay, Jay Schutte, Xiao-bo Yuan.

**Lecture:** Monday, 4:30-6:30, in Kent Hall 107

**Optional discussion:** Wednesday, 4:30-5:30, Kent Hall 107

**Discussion sections:**

	TIME	PLACE
Theresa Anasti	Th, 1:00-2:50 p.m.	Saieh 247
Gordon Arlen	Fri, 1:00.-2:50 p.m.	Cobb 402
Amanda Blair	Th, 5:00-6:50 p.m.	Cobb 402
Marcus Board	Fri, 9:00-10:50 a.m.	Saieh 242
Samantha Fan	Fri, 11:00 a.m.-12:50 p.m.	Saieh 242
John Halloran	Th, 2:00-3:50 p.m.	Cochrane-Woods 157
Darcy Heuring	Th, 11:00 a.m.-12:50 p.m.	Pick 506
Laura Horton	Th, 5:00-6:50 p.m.	Saieh 242
Taeju Kim	Th, 3:-4:50 p.m.	Saieh 242
Muh-Chung Lin	Fri, 3:00-4:50 p.m.	Cobb 402
John McCallum	Fri, 9:00-10:50 a.m.	Saieh 247
Francis Mckay	Th, 1:00-2:50 p.m.	Saieh 242
Jay Schutte	Fri, 1:00-2:50 p.m.	Saieh 242
Xiao-bo Yuan	Fri, 1:00-2:50 p.m.	Saieh 247

Preceptors will post their office hours availability. Dain Borges will hold office hours Thursday, 2-4, in Saieh Hall 245. <dborges@uchicago.edu> 773-702-8317.

**Aims of the course:**

This course presents a set of perspectives that may be appreciated in their own right and that can be used as coordinates to map the modern social sciences. Each week we will explore a different “perspective” in social sciences research, taking it on its own terms and also confronting it with the others. By the end of the course, we will have assembled a matrix of diverse directions in research. One specific skill that we will exercise is the ability to read a new research paper in any discipline and locate it in relation to familiar perspectives in the social sciences. The course is also meant to bring the students and preceptors in the MAPSS program together around a shared reading list

of foundational works and exemplary research; we will develop a shared vocabulary for how to discuss differences among various types of research.

As we will define them, perspectives are stances from which social thinkers see the world and explain the world; they are not just ways of “looking” but also starting points for “acting,” for doing research. Each perspective is made up of theories, ideal models and counter-models; over time each has established habits of how to pick an interesting question, what methods to use, and what data is most relevant. Perspectives also bump up against each another: they may complement one another, or they may contradict one another frontally. As we will define them, perspectives are not theories, methods, or disciplines --and they are certainly not university departments. Perhaps they are most like what Thomas Kuhn called a “scientific paradigm:” an agenda of interesting problems that is defined partly by shared theories and partly by shared, habitual ways of conducting productive research. Each week of this course, then, will be an exercise in empathy, in walking in the shoes of others’ ways of doing social science research. Conversely, it should defamiliarize perspectives and texts we thought were familiar. By the end of it, we will understand where our own stance on research fits into the social sciences because we will be acquainted with what we *are not* doing, as well as what we *are* doing.

### **Structure and organization of the course:**

Everyone will meet Mondays for a lecture in Kent Hall 107. On Wednesdays there will be an informal, optional discussion for the entire class, following up on Monday’s lecture, usually an hour. The third weekly meeting (either Thursday or Friday) is divided into sections, each led by a preceptor.

Grades will be based on two written, take-home examinations: a mid-term and a final. Each exam will offer a new social science reading and ask students to identify and critically analyze its relation to the perspectives studied in the course.

### **Readings for the course:**

All required readings for the course, with the exception of Weber, *Protestant Ethic*, are available on our CHALK website and on Regenstein Library reserve. In addition, there are some texts available at the Seminary Coop Bookstore for those who wish to purchase them:

Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*.

*The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Robert C. Tucker, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Emile Durkheim, *The Division Of Labor In Society*, ed. Steven Lukes.

Erving Goffman, *Interaction Ritual*.

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Rise of Capitalism*, trans. Peter Baehr.

Wayne Booth, et al., *The Craft of Research*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

**Schedule:**

**September 26, week 1. Historical Perspective**

Leopold von Ranke, "Preface to the First Edition of *Histories of the Latin and Germanic Peoples*," [1824]. in *The Theory and Practice of History*, ed. Georg Iggers (New York: Routledge, 2011) pp. 85-87

--Ranke, [1854]. "On Progress in History," in *The Theory and Practice of History*, pp. 20-23.

--Ranke, [1836]. "On the Relation of and Distinction between History and Politics," in *The Theory and Practice of History*, pp. 75-82.

G.R. [Geoffrey Rudolph] Elton, "Research" from *The Practice of History* (London: Fontana Press, 1967), pp. 70-113.

Emmanuel LeRoy Ladurie, *Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error*, trans. Barbara Bray (New York: George Braziller, 2008), Introduction, chaps. 2 and 8 (pp. vii-xvii, 24-52, 139-152).

**October 3, week 2. Rational Choice**

Adam Smith, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996), vol. I, bk. I, pp. 7-20, 72-79, 132-138; vol. II, bk. IV, pp. 208-209; bk. V, pp. 301-303.

Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971), chap. 1, sec. C (pp. 16-22), "Nontechnical summary of Section D," (pp. 33-36), pp. 48-52.

A. O. Hirschman, *Exit, Voice and Loyalty: Responses to Decline in Firms, Organizations, and States* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1970), pp. 1-20, p. 21, pp. 44-46, pp. 55-61, p. 106, pp. 120-24.

Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990), chaps. 1, 3, 6 [part] (pp. 1-28, 58-102, 182-185).

**Oct. 10, week 3. Marxism**

**[n.b.: Class will start late, and run from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. in Kent 107]**

*The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Robert Tucker [2<sup>nd</sup> ed.] (New York: W.W. Norton, 1978), pp. 3-6, 70-105, 143-145, 148-167, 172-175, 189-193, 203-217, 302-308, 319-329. Skim 473-491, 499-500.

Jon Elster, "Classes," in *Making Sense of Marx* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985), secs. 6.1.2 and 6.1.3 (pp. 331-342).

Nancy Fraser, "Social Justice in the Age of Identity Politics," in Nancy Fraser and Axel Honneth, *Redistribution or Recognition?*, trans. Joel Golb, James Ingram, and Christiane Wilke (New York: Verso, 2003), secs. I, III (pp. 7-26, 48-69).

G.A. Cohen, "Fetishism," in *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence*, expanded ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), chap. 5 (pp. 115-133).

Michael Taussig, "History as Commodity: In Some Recent American (Anthropological) Literature," *Critique of Anthropology* 9, 1 (1989): 7-23, and Sidney Mintz and Eric Wolf, "Reply to Michael Taussig," *Critique of Anthropology* 9, 1 (1989): 25-31.

**Oct. 17, week 4. Positivism and Structural-Functionalisms**

Émile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society* [1893], trans. W.D. Halls, ed. Steven Lukes (New York: Free Press, 2014), Introduction, chap. I:1, chap. I:2, chap. I:3, chap. III:1 (pp. 33-104, 277-292).

Émile Durkheim, *Suicide: A Study in Society* [1897], trans. John A. Spaulding and George Simpson (New York: Free Press, 1951), Part II, chaps. 2, 4, and 5, pp. 253-170, 217-240, 241-276.

Arthur Radcliffe-Brown, *Structure and Function in Primitive Society* (New York: Free Press, 1952) pp. 1-14.

Talcott Parsons, "The Kinship System of the Contemporary United States" in *Essays in Sociological Theory* (New York: Macmillan, 1954), pp. 177-196.

**Oct. 24, week 5. Interactions, especially Microinteractions**

Erving Goffman, "On Face-Work," *Interaction Ritual: Essays in Face-to-Face Behavior* (Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction, 1967), pp. 5-46.

Michel Foucault, "Lecture Two: 14 January 1976," *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977*, ed. Colin Gordon (New York: Pantheon, 1980), pp. 92-108.

Michel Foucault, "The Subject and Power," *Critical Inquiry* 8, 4 (summer 1982): 777-795.

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color," *Stanford Law Review* 43, 6 (July 1991): 1241-1299.

**Oct. 26: Wednesday, materials for midterm exam handed out after class.**

**Oct. 31, Week 6. No lecture; midterm writing. The exam is due on Wednesday, November 2, in 5730 South Woodlawn.**

**Nov. 7, week 7. Modernization(s) Theory, Comparative Perspective**

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* [1905], trans. Peter Baehr (New York: Penguin Books, ), pp. 1-202.

Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi, "Modernization: Theories and Facts," *World Politics* 49, 2 (January 1997): 155-183.

Ronald Inglehart and Wayne Baker, "Modernization, Cultural Change, and the Persistence of Traditional Values," *American Sociological Review* 65, 1 (Feb. 2000): 19-51.

**Nov. 14, week 8. Linguistic Structuralisms**

Ferdinand de Saussure, selections from the *Course in General Linguistics* (Scranton: Harper Collins, 1959), pp. 6-17, 21-23, 71-83, 98-100, 114-134.

Claude Lévi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth," in *Structural Anthropology* (NY: Basic Books, 1963), pp. 206-231.

Claude Lévi-Strauss, "Structural Analysis in Linguistics and in Anthropology," from *Structural Anthropology* (New York: Basic Books, 1963), pp. 31-54.

Charles Kemp and Joshua Tenenbaum, "The Discovery of Structural Form," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 105, 31 (August 2008): 10687-10692.

William H. Sewell, "Historical Events as Transformations of Structures: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille," *Theory and Society* 25, 6 (December 1996): 841-881.

**Nov. 21, week 9. Experimental Positivism**

John Platt, "Strong Inference," *Science* 146, 3642 (October 1964): 347-353.

T. C. Chamberlin, "The Method of Multiple Working Hypotheses," [1897] *Science* 148 (May 1965): 754-759.

Muzafer Sherif, O.J. Harvey, B. Jack White, William Hood, and Carolyn Sherif, *The Robber's Cave Experiment: Intergroup Conflict and Cooperation* (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 1988), chaps. 3, 4, 5 (pp. 50-119).

**\*\*Discussion sections will meet Tuesday, Nov. 22, at times and locations to be announced. [No Wednesday meeting; Thanksgiving holiday, Thursday, Nov. 24.]**

**Nov. 28, week 10. Hermeneutics of Culture**

Clifford Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight," *Daedalus* 101, 1 (Winter 1972): 1-37.

Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward An Interpretive Theory of Culture," in *The Interpretation of Cultures*. (New York: Basic Books, 1973) pp. 3-30

Natalie Zemon Davis, "The Rites of Violence: Religious Riot in Sixteenth-Century France," *Past & Present* 59 (May 1973): 51-91.

**Wednesday, Nov. 30, exam handed out. Due Wednesday, Dec. 7, in 5730 S. Woodlawn.**

**WINTER BREAK ASSIGNMENT:** In preparation for the M.A. Proposal Workshop in January, please read: Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), especially chapters 3, 4, 7, and 9.

<p>If you need any special accommodations, please provide your instructor with a copy of your Accommodation Determination Letter (provided to you by the Student Disability Services office) as soon as possible so that we may discuss how your accommodations may be implemented in this course.</p>
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