FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
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SOC302 Sociology of Social Change - II
(Undergraduate)
Spring 2025,
Mondays, 09.25 – 12.00 am.
Venue: D102

Instructor   : Mehmet Nuri Gültekin (PhD Ege University)
Office   : Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Sociology, 2nd Floor, Room 201
Office Hours   : Monday & Friday 12:30 - 13:30 (By appointment)
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Course Description
First, this course is the second part of the Sociology of Social Change - II. But the first one was core, and this is elective. The second part of the course focuses on the intellectual and social foundations of social change through sociological theories and actual subjects. It also uses the tools of sociology to help explain how we got to where we are now and where we may be headed in the world and Turkey. The first part of the course explores the patterns of social movements, global development facts, social interactions at the time, technological and information levels, and individual and group levels of change through new social relations, time, and spaces. The second part will apply these theoretical lenses to historical and contemporary social change, such as the recent environmental problems, climate change, freedom of speech, human rights, technology, global networks, and the spread of information and communication technology. The third section of the course will look at processes of social change, from political reform to social revolution to technological innovation, and the impact of these changes on everyday life. The last unit will cover social change on a global scale in our increasingly interconnected world, looking at globalization processes, environmental change, its social implications, and diagnoses of the future of human society and the world in which we live.

Course/class format
The course always will welcome strange, bizarre, and outlandish thoughts that we've claimed together during the class. But at that point, reading a novel, especially literature books, is also crucial for the sociological theory. You must always be a curious and good novel reader. You can even prioritize reading novels and literature before the 'sociological' ones. And you must have a close relationship and keep ties with philosophy and actual intellectual aura.

The prospective outcomes of the course
The main goal of this course is to provide a vital infrastructure for undergraduate students. They want to construct a comprehensive sociological infrastructure of their perspective and prepare the participants to graduate academic careers. The classical theories are the base and main cornerstone of the field of social view. Therefore, the intellectual background and the explanations of the grand and small-scale theories on social change are crucial in sociology. This course wants to help you learn the main sociological theories and their ideas and perspectives on social change.

By the end of the semester, students will
• Develop an understanding of different sociological perspectives and theories of societal change
• Apply these theoretical perspectives to specific historical and contemporary phenomena
• Examine patterns across instances of historical change and connect them to the larger theoretical ideas
• Critically assess sociological explanations of social change

Evaluation components and grading
Your evaluation will consist of a few components.

1) Midterm exam (40%): You will receive four or five written questions. This exam will consist of your midterm grade.
2) Final exam (50%+10%=60%): The written exam will try to comprise the whole curriculum that we would learn and debate together, and a few other subjects such as participation in classes and discussions actively (10%). As you see, 10% of the final exam will consist of actively participating in the course, contributing, and dealing with your classmates and courses.

Required readings on
Calhoun, C., **Gerteis, J., Mody, J., Pfaff, S., Virk, Indermohan E,** (2007), Classical Sociological
      Theories, Oxford: Blackwell,
Ritzer, G. & Stepnisky, (2018), Classical Sociological Theory, 7th Ed. Sage.
Harper, C. L. & Leicht, T. K. (2019), Exploring Social Change – America and The World, New Jersey: Pearson (☛ The course's leading textbook)

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Rubric:

Numerical Scale of Marks	Letter Grade Scale	Coefficient
95-100	AA	4,00
90-94	BA+	3,75
85-89	BA	3,50
80-84	BB+	3,25
75-79	BB	3,00
70-74	CB+	2,75
65-69	CB	2,50
60-64	CC+	2,25
55-59	CC	2,00
50-54	DC	1,50
45-49	DD	1,00
40-44	FD	0,50
<40	FF	0,00
NA	NA	0,00

Schedule of readings and classes

Week 1: Process of Social Change; Social Movements
Week 2: What are Social Movements? Types of Social Movements
Week 3: Revolutions (What is a social revolution? & Theories of Revolution)
Week 4: The Outcomes of Revolution (Successful and Failed Revolutions)
Week 5: Technology, Innovation, and Networks
Week 6: Innovation as a Change Process & The Act of Innovation
Week 7: Sources of Innovation: Social and Cultural
Week 8: Diffusion: How Innovations Spread
Week 9: Adoption of Innovation: Social Systems and Individuals
Week 10: Institutional Change and the Spread of Innovations
Week 11: Back at the Information Technology Revolution
Week 12: What is Development? Developmentalist Thinking: Perspectives and Dimensions
Week 13: Dependency and World System Theories
Week 14: Globalization and World Future (Society, Environment and Change)

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The End of Semester & Final Exam