

SOC 190.6
Self, People, Nation, State
University of California, Berkeley
Fall 2022

Seminar and Research in Sociology: W, 10:00 am - 11:59 am
Social Sciences Building 155

Instructor: Fatmir Haskaj, PhD

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Office hours: Wednesday 12-1 pm, Location: TBD

Course description

This course will explore the relationship between the “self” and various scales of “community” and how these ideas and practices constitute solidarities, groups, and social and political structures at multiple scales. The first half of the course focuses on the notion of self, identity, nation and ethnicity, and nationalism. We will ask questions such as what is a people? What is the nation? What is the self and how does it relate to a people? Also, we will engage the emergence of the nation-state as the dominant political form and Ideas and feelings about ethnicity. Communities can be supportive and inclusive but also compelling and demanding, even exclusionary, sometimes with violent, even murderous outcomes. Therefore, we will pay close attention to the tension between self and society, individuals, groups, and groups in conflict. The second half of the course will focus on contemporary debates and studies in an international context, poly-ethnic and multinational states, self-determination, secession, and conflict.

Policies:

Email: Please be sure to check your Berkeley email regularly as updates and changes in this course will be sent via email.

bCourses: Be sure to log into our class site as all the readings will be available on bCourses. It will also be where work can be submitted.

Attendance: Class attendance is important since our seminar meets once a week. You must make sure you mark yourself present at the beginning of class by signing in. You may miss one class no questions asked. If you must miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to make up missing materials and work. Exceptions are granted for illness or emergencies but will require proof.

Illness: Since Covid-19 seems to be with us still we will continue to mask in class. If you have any covid-19 symptoms or have recently tested positive for covid-19, stay home, and inform me of your absence. Covid-related absences will not impact your grade.

Writing: This is a sociology course, not a writing course. As an upper-level seminar, you are expected to have the basics of academic writing under your belt at this point. I am glad to provide substantive feedback on your analytical style, rhetoric, and argumentation. Please consider utilizing the writing

services offered at the Student Learning Center (slc.berkeley.edu) to ensure your writing is properly formatted, grammatically correct, and organized.

Readings: Course readings will be available electronically on bCourses.

Assignments and Grading:

Participation: As a relatively small seminar (by UC standards) we all must contribute to the exchange of ideas and production of knowledge and learning. Hence, discussion is required of each student each class.

Weekly Reading Responses/discussions: Each week I will ask two students to open our class discussion with a brief discussion of the topic and or readings assigned that week. Also, each week you are required to submit a brief one-page summary, response, or question about the readings on bCourses due before class.

Research Paper: Each student is expected to write a 15–17 page paper (inclusive) in 12-point times new roman font with 1" margins. The paper should be based on one of the topics or theorists covered in class. The paper is due on **December 14@12pm** and will be vetted by "Turnitin" to check for plagiarism. The paper will be broken down into the following stages.

1. Topic Proposal (5%): In 1-2 pages, you will briefly describe at least one proposed research topic and explain its importance and how it relates to the class.
2. Literature Review (10%): In 4-5 pages, you will summarize and synthesize relevant research on your topic. The literature review should include 5-10 sources outside of texts assigned in class. It should also make an argument about the state of existing research, and (depending on the format of your final paper) explain whether your empirical research will challenge, confirm, or complicate the existing literature.
3. Rough draft/peer edit (10%): Your rough draft can be at various stages but should be an overview of your paper's structure, argument, evidence, and (tentative) conclusions. Part of this assignment will be peer reviewing a fellow student's rough draft and offering feedback.
4. Final paper (55%): Due on December 14 at noon (no extensions granted just hand in what you've got). It should draw on the work you did in earlier assignments and incorporate the feedback you received throughout the semester

Grading Structure:

- Participation: 15%
- Weekly Reading Responses/discussions: 30%
- Research Paper: 55%
 - Topic proposal 5%
 - lit. review 10%
 - rough draft/peer edit 10%
 - final paper 25%

Academic honesty

Plagiarism will result in disciplinary proceedings. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism and what the consequences are read this: [Definitions & Examples of Academic Misconduct | UC Berkeley: Division of Student Affairs](#). The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be a grade of 0% on the assignment and reporting to Student Judicial Affairs which may result in a permanent mark on your record.

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by incorporating

it into your work without full acknowledgment. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed, or electronic form, is covered under this definition including your writing. DO NOT RESUBMIT YOUR PAPERS FROM OTHER CLASSES as it constitutes plagiarism. All writing must be original or cited properly, including citing yourself.

Mental Health and Wellness

All students — regardless of background or identity — may experience a range of issues that can become barriers to learning. These issues include, but are not limited to, strained relationships, anxiety, depression, alcohol and other drug problems, difficulties with concentration, sleep, eating, and/or lack of motivation. Such mental health concerns can diminish both academic performance and the capacity to participate in daily activities. If you need mental health support or are concerned about a friend, UC Berkeley offers many services, such as free short-term counseling at University Health Services. An excellent campus website having links to many resources is <http://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/>. Another campus website addressing mental health services in specific reference to this time of the coronavirus pandemic is <https://uhs.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/student-mental-health>. Remember that seeking help is a good and courageous thing to do — both for yourself and for those who care about you.

Class and reading schedule

Week 1 August 24

- Meet and Greet

Week 2 August 31

We will begin this course with an overview of the sociological understanding of the “self” and trace the emergence of the concept, its application, and the scholarly debates surrounding how the self is central to modernity and society.

- Lemert, C. 1994. “Dark Thoughts about the Self”. Pp. 100-129 in Calhoun, C. ed. *Social Theory and the Politics of Identity*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Abercrombie, N., & Hill, S. 1986. Turner. B., 1986. Sovereign Individuals of capitalism. Pp. 5-57.

Week 3 September 7

This week we will look at the Hegelian dialectical notion of the self and trace the ramifications of this idea of the self as dependent upon recognition and negation.

- Kojève, A. 1980. Introduction to the Reading of Hegel. Cornell University Press. Pp.59-69
- Marx, On the Jewish Question. February, 1844 in *Deutsch-Französische Jahrbücher*; ([On The Jewish Question by Karl Marx \(marxists.org\)](#))
- Breckman, W. 2001. *Marx, the Young Hegelians, and the Origins of Radical Social Theory: Dethroning the Self*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-19 (Marx), 34-41, 292-296.

Week 4 September 14

This week we look at two contrasting notions of the self that emerge in the early and late 20th century. Freud, the psychoanalytic self, and Foucault’s external/internalized “technologies” reconfigure the dialectic as not between two subjects but between a subject and “power”. This

shift repositions how we view ourselves but also what and how individuals interact with and become part of larger structures and struggles, as well as moving the site of struggle from a conflict between subjects to a conflict with the self and society.

- Hutton, Patrick N. 1988. "Freud and the technologies of the self." Pp. 121-140 in Martin, L. H., Gutman, H., & Hutton, P. H., eds. *Technologies of the self: A seminar with Michel Foucault*. Tavistock.
- Foucault, Michel. 1988. The Political Technology of Individuals. Pp. 143-162 in Martin, L. H., Gutman, H., & Hutton, P. H., eds. *Technologies of the self: A seminar with Michel Foucault*. Tavistock.
 - DUE: MEMO ON RESEARCH QUESTION

Week 5 September 21

Having built a sound foundation in the various and contending notions of the self we turn to the political, philosophical, and everyday implications. The guiding question of this week is how is the self constantly reified, contested, encumbered, and in flux? And what are the ramifications of these contending notions of the self?

- Calhoun, C. 1991. Morality, identity, and historical explanation: Charles Taylor on the sources of the self. *Sociological Theory*, 9(2):232-263.
- Taylor, C. 2021. The politics of recognition. In *Campus wars*. Routledge. Pp. 249-263 [link](#)

Week 6 September 28

Pressing forward, chronologically if not epistemologically, we hear from some critics of the self as a political category.

- Brooks, P. 2011. In *Enigmas of Identity*. Princeton University Press. Pp. 10-20, 26-32. 47-59.
- Coulthard, G. S. 2014. *Red skin, white masks: Rejecting the colonial politics of recognition*. U of Minnesota Press. chapter 1. Pp. 25-49.
- Fukuyama, Francis. 2018. Against Identity Politics: The New Tribalism and the Crisis of Democracy, *Foreign Affairs*, 97(5):90-115.

Week 7 October 5

Before we can probe the category of "people" a brief foray into the relatively recent idea of ethnicity is required and how the self can be linked to the larger if the not more abstract scale of the group. We will pay special attention to the romantic or affective dimension of belonging.

- Hutchinson, J., Smith, A. D., & Smith, A. D., eds. 1994. *Ethnicity Oxford readers*, Pp. 40-56, 63-75 (Gertz, Coughlin & Reed, Crosby, Fishman, Connor).
- Chodorow, N. J. 2002. Born into a world at war: Listening for affect and personal meaning. *American Imago*, 59(3):297-315.

Week 8 October 12

As a political as well as symbolic and affective concept the “people” are often invoked but rarely known or understood. This week we will attempt to disentangle what this term means.

- Badiou, A., Twenty-four notes on the uses of the word “people.” Pp. 21-31 in Badiou, A., et al. 2016. *What Is a People?*. Columbia University Press.
- Allcock, J. B. 1971. Populism': A brief biography. *Sociology*, 5(3):371-387.

Week 9 October 19

Having mapped out the self and the people we now turn to the nation.

- Smith, A. D. 1983. Nationalism and classical social theory. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 34(1):19-38.
- Hobsbawm, Eric. 1990. Nations and Nationalism since 1780. Cambridge University Press, Pp. 164-5, 167-70.
 - DUE: LITERATURE REVIEW

Week 10 October 26

Along with the nation, we find the state as the two are co-emergent but not always symbiotic. This week we will explore the tensions between the two.

- Horowitz, Donald. 1985. *Ethnic Groups and Conflict*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. Pp. 216-24.
- Wiberg, Hakan. 1983. “Self-determination as an international issue.” Pp. 46-51 in Ioann Lewis. ed. *Nationalism and Self-determination in the Horn of Africa*. London: Ithaca Press.
- Melucci, Alberto. 1989. “The postmodern revival of ethnicity” in *Nomads of the Present*. London: Hutchinson Radius. Pp. 89-92.

Week 11 November 2

In the last couple of weeks, we will be paying special attention to violence that is often attributed to the people, nation, and/or state.

- Mann, M. 2005. “The Argument” & “Ethnic Cleansing in Former Times.” Pp. 1-54 in *The dark side of democracy: Explaining ethnic cleansing*. Cambridge University Press.
- “Two Versions of “We, the People.” Pp. 55-69 in *ibid*
- “Communist Cleansing Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot.” Pp. 318-352 in *ibid*

Week 12 November 9

We spend the last couple of weeks on the most destructive aspects of self, people, nation, and states- genocide and ethnic cleansing across history and geography.

- Hutchinson, J. 2017. *Nationalism and war*. Oxford University Press, Pp. 1-49

- Kiernan, B. 2008. "Epilogue." Pp. 3, 12-42, 676-707 in *Blood and soil: A world history of genocide and extermination from Sparta to Darfur*. Yale University Press.

Week 13 November 16

For the next two weeks, we will look at Kosovo and Myanmar and focus on genocide and gender.

- Film: SHOK (2021), director: Jamie Donohue [link](#)
- Di Lellio, A., & Kraja, G. (2021). Sexual violence in the Kosovo conflict: a lesson for Myanmar and other ethnic cleansing campaigns. *International Politics*, 58(2): 148-167. [link](#)
- Rushdie, S. (1999, August 4). Kosovo's Cruel Realities - The Washington Post. [link](#)
 - DUE: ROUGH DRAFT

Week 14 November 23 NO CLASS

Week 15 November 30 Last class meeting

- Walzer, M. 2002. Passion and politics. *Philosophy & social criticism*, 28(6): 617-633.
- Film: Hive (2021), director: [Blerta Basholli](#)
 - Peer review (Due on bCourses. We will discuss in person on 11/30)

Week 16 December 7 RRR

Week 17 December 14

***** FINAL PAPER DUE Wednesday, December 14 AT NOON *****