

<b>DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:</b>	
<b>SO 4126 SUFFERING AND EVIL IN SOCIETY</b> (Updated Spring 2015)	
– <b>UK LEVEL: 6</b>  <b>UK CREDITS: 15</b> <b>US CREDITS: 3/0/3</b>	
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	SO 1000 LE Introduction to Sociology <b>or</b> SO 1001 LE Sociology of Modern Life
<b>CATALOG DESCRIPTION:</b>	Suffering and evil in sociology's classical founders (Marx on alienation, Durkheim on anomie, Weber on theodicy). Contemporary perspectives on suffering (Bourdieu, Alexander, Bauman, Baudrillard). Sites of suffering: the factory, the prison, concentration camps. Causes of suffering: poverty and famine, racism, terrorism, war. Anthropological and social classifications of good and evil. Visual sociology on suffering and evil: paintings, photography, film, TV.
<b>RATIONALE:</b>	Modernity's problems (alienation, anomie, instrumental rationality) have led Marx, Durkheim and Weber to theorize suffering and evil in powerful ways. This course aligns with recent developments in the field and seeks to address social suffering, its impact on the person, the sites that sustain it and the media proliferation of images of suffering. It also examines suffering through the wider problematic of evil. Sociology students, as well as students from neighboring disciplines, will acquire an understanding of the multifaceted concept of suffering, developing simultaneously an understanding of viable policy tools and metrics which seek to curb suffering and to mitigate evil.
<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES:</b>	As a result of taking this course, student should be able to:  1.Demonstrate a critical understanding of sociological approaches on suffering and evil in conjunction with findings from other disciplines.  2. Apply a critical understanding of sociological analysis on suffering and evil to case-study materials.  3.Illustrate issues and debates informing different approaches to suffering and evil by utilizing a 'visual sociology' approach.
<b>METHOD OFTEACHING AND LEARNING:</b>	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: ➤ Classes consist of lectures, visual material (paintings, photographs, film extracts, TV clips) and

	<p>discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can address issues and ask questions pertinent to the course material.</li> <li>➤ Use of a blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.</li> </ul>								
<b>ASSESSMENT:</b>	<p>Summative:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Essay (4,000 words)- <b>summative</b></td><td><b>70</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Oral presentation (15 minutes) - <b>summative</b></td><td><b>30</b></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Formative:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Interpretive exercises with a visual component - <b>formative</b></td><td><b>0</b></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>The term paper tests Learning Outcomes 1 and 2  The oral presentation tests Learning Outcome 3  The formative assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3</p>	Essay (4,000 words)- <b>summative</b>	<b>70</b>	Oral presentation (15 minutes) - <b>summative</b>	<b>30</b>	Interpretive exercises with a visual component - <b>formative</b>	<b>0</b>		
Essay (4,000 words)- <b>summative</b>	<b>70</b>								
Oral presentation (15 minutes) - <b>summative</b>	<b>30</b>								
Interpretive exercises with a visual component - <b>formative</b>	<b>0</b>								
<b>INDICATIVE READING:</b>	<p><b>Required material:</b></p> <p>1.Wilkinson, I. (2005). <i>Suffering: A Sociological Introduction</i>. Cambridge: Polity.</p> <p><b>On Reserve Status in the JSB Library (required):</b></p> <p>1.Alexander, J. (2013). <i>The Dark Side of Modernity</i>. Cambridge: Polity.</p> <p>2.Alexander, J. (2001). ‘Toward a Sociology of Evil: Getting Beyond Modernist Common Sense about the Alternative to “the Good”.’ in Pía Lara (ed.) <i>Rethinking Evil: Contemporary Perspectives</i>.Berkeley: The University of California Press.</p> <p>3.Anderson, R. (2014). <i>Human Suffering and Quality of Life: Conceptualizing Stories and Statistics</i>. Dordrecht: Springer.</p> <p>4.Arendt, H. ([1969] 2006). <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil</i>. NY: Penguin.</p> <p>5.Bauman, Z. (1989), <i>Modernity and the Holocaust</i>. Cambridge: Polity.</p> <p>6.Bourdieu, P. et al. (1999), <i>The Weight of the World: Social Suffering in Contemporary Society</i>. Cambridge: Polity.</p> <p>7.Cladis, M.S. (2008). ‘Suffering to Become Human: A Durkheimian Perspective’, pp. 81-100 in <i>Suffering and Evil: The</i></p>								

*Durkheimian Legacy*. NY and Oxford: The Durkheim Press.

8.Cohen, S. (2013). *States of Denial: Knowing About Atrocities and Suffering*. Polity: Cambridge.

9.Collins, R. (2008). *Violence: A Micro-sociological Theory*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

10.Coser, L. (1969), 'The Visibility of Evil', *Journal of Social Issues* 25(1): 101-109.

11.Douglas, M. (1973), *Natural Symbols*. London: Penguin (Ch.7. 'The Problem of Evil').

12.Israel, J. (1979), *Alienation: From Marx to Modern Sociology*, New Jersey: Humanities Press.

13.Lyman, S.M. (1989). *The Seven Deadly Sins: Society and Evil*. NY: General Hall.

14.Parkin, R. (2008). 'Robert Hertz on Suffering and Evil: The Negative Processes of Social Life and Their Resolution', pp. 103-117 in *Suffering and Evil: The Durkheimian Legacy*. NY and Oxford: The Durkheim Press.

15.Paoletti, G. (2008). 'Some Concepts of 'Evil' in Durkheim's Thought', pp.63-80 in *Suffering and Evil: The Durkheimian Legacy*. NYand Oxford: The Durkheim Press.

16.Riley, A. (2010). "'A New Kind of Fear': Jean Baudrillard's neo-Durkheimian Theory of Mass-Mediated Suicide", pp. 159-168 in *Durkheim and Violence* (eds. S.R. Mukherjee). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

17.Smelser, N. (1971), 'Some Determinants of Destructive Behavior', pp. 15-24 in *Sanctions for Evil* (eds. N. Sanford and C. Comstock). San Franscisco: Jossey-Bas.

18.Sontag, S. (2003). *Regarding the Pain of Others*. London: Penguin.

19.Von Wiese, L. (1934). 'Sociology and Suffering', *International Journal of Ethics* 44(2): 222-235.

20.Weber, M. (1966). 'Theodicy, salvation and rebirth'. In *The Sociology of Religion*. London: Methueen.

21.Wilkinson, R. and Pickett, K. (2009), *The Spirit Level: How Equality is Better for Everyone*, London: Penguin.

22.Wolff, K. (1969). 'For a Sociology of Evil', *Journal of Social Issues* 25(1): 111-125.

23.Zimbardo, P. (2008). *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding how Good People turn Evil*. NY: Random House.

**Recommended Material:**

1. Adorno, T. and Horkheimer, M. (1944). *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. London: Verso.
2. Amato, J.A. (1990) *Victims and Values: A History and a Theory of Suffering*. NY: Greenwood Press.
3. Aron, R. (1968). *Progress and Disillusion: The Dialectics of Modern Society*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
4. Bataille, G. ([1957] 1973). *Literature and Evil*. London: Calder and Boyars.
5. Bataille, G. (1970). *Visions of Excess: Selected Writings, 1927-1939*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
6. Baudrillard, J. (1990). *The Transparency of Evil: Essays on Extreme Phenomena*. London: Verso.
7. Bauman, Z. and L. Donskis (2013). *Moral Blindness: The Loss of Sensitivity in Liquid Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity.
8. Bell, D. (1980). 'The Alphabet of Justice: On "Eichmann in Jerusalem"' in *The Winding Passage: Essays and Sociological Journeys 1960-1980*. Cambridge, Mass.: ABT Books.
9. Berger, P. (1974). *Pyramids of Sacrifice. Political Ethics and Social Change*. NY: Basic Books.
10. Bruckner, P. (2010). *The Tyranny of Guilt. An Essay on Western Masochism*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.
11. Cheliotis, L.K. (ed.) (2010). *Roots, Rites and Sites of Resistance: The Banality of Good*. Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
12. Eagleton, T. (2011). *On Evil*. Yale: Yale University Press.
13. Gabel, J. (1975), *False Consciousness: An Essay on Reification*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
14. Gane, M. (2010), 'Durkheim's Theory of Violence', pp. 41-50 in *Durkheim and Violence* (eds. S.R. Mukherjee). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
15. Goffman, E. ([1970] 1986) *Stigma. Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Touchstone.
16. Jünger, E. ([1934] 2008) *On Pain*. NY: Telos Press.
17. Meštrovič, S.G. (1993). *The Barbarian Temperament*. London: Routledge.

	<p>18.Meštrovič, S.G and R.Y. Caldwell (2010), ‘Durkheim’s concept of <i>dérèglement</i> retranslated, Parsons’s reading of Durkheim re-parsed: an examination of post-emotional displacement, scapegoating and responsibility at Abu Ghraib, pp. 139-157 in <i>Durkheim and Violence</i> (eds. S.R. Mukherjee). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.</p> <p>19.Moore, B. (1972) <i>Reflections on Human Misery and Upon Certain Proposals to Eliminate Them</i>. Boston: Beacon Press.</p> <p>20.Neiman, S. (2002). <i>Evil in Modern Thought. An Alternative History of Philosophy</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press.</p> <p>21.Nussbaum, M.C. (2003), ‘Compassion and Terror’, <i>Daedalus</i> 13 (1): 10-26.</p> <p>22.Sorokin, P. (1942). <i>Man and Society in Calamity</i>. NY: Dutton.</p> <p>23.Walsh, V. (1961). <i>Scarcity and Evil</i>. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.</p> <p>24.Wieviorka, Michel (2012). <i>Evil</i>. Cambridge: Polity.</p>
<b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> <i>(e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</i>	<b>REQUIRED MATERIAL:</b> N/A  <b>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:</b> N/A
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Verbal skills using academic / professional English.
<b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Word
<b>WWW RESOURCES:</b>	<a href="http://www.sociologypapers.com/categories/Karl_Marx.html">www.sociologypapers.com/categories/Karl_Marx.html</a>  <a href="http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html">www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html</a>
<b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b>	<p><b>1.THE PROBLEM OF ‘SUFFERING’ AND EVIL BEFORE SOCIOLOGY</b></p> <p>1.The Christian setting (Acquinas)  2. The Philosophical setting (Voltaire, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer). The impact for sociology  3. Evil in literature (Bataille on Baudelaire, De Sade, Kafka)</p> <p><b>2. SOCIOLOGY’S CLASSICAL FOUNDERS ON ‘SUFFERING’</b></p> <p>1. Hegelian roots  2. Marx on alienation and work</p>

3. Weber on theodicy, meaning and 'suffering'
4. Durkheim on anomie
5. Simmel on pessimism and evil. Tragic life.
6. Freud and civilization's discontents

### **3. DEEPER INTO THE DARK SIDE OF DURKHEIM**

1. 'Suffering' and the human condition (the dualism of human nature)
2. On suicide and the theory of emotions
3. Anomie: the evil of 'infinity sickness': Synthesizing Hegel, Marx and Durkheim.
4. Contemporary applications of Durkheim's vision of evil and social suffering: post-2007 recession and suicide, Abu Ghraib
5. Excursus on Durkheimian anthropology:
  - 5.1. Robert Hertz (the right hand, the left hand and evil)
  - 5.2. Mary Douglas on the problem of evil
  - 5.3. Georges Bataille: Excess and evil (economy, eroticism and religion).

### **4. SOCIOLOGY ENTERS EVIL AND 'SUFFERING'**

1. Some early attempts at a 'Sociology of Evil' (von Wiese, Coser)
2. Evil and emotions: *ressentiment* and shame
3. Michel Foucault: the impact of 'evil' on the body
4. The Seven Deadly Sins applied to sociology (Lyman and T.Parsons)
5. Pierre Bourdieu on social suffering
6. The recent call for a new Sociology of Evil (Jeffrey Alexander)

### **5. SITES OF 'SUFFERING' AND EVIL**

1. Revisiting Weber's 'iron cage' of modernity
2. The Holocaust, modernity and genocide (Arendt, Bauman M. Mann)
3. Auschwitz, Gulags and Abu Ghraib
4. The factory: assembly-line and sweatshop labor sites
5. Scarcity, poverty and evil.
6. The prison experiments (from Milgram to Zimbardo)
7. Evil and violence: Micro-sociological approaches (Randall Collins).

### **6. VISUAL SOCIOLOGY: REGARDING THE PAIN OF OTHERS**

1. Painting: Goya, Bosch, Grosz, Dix
2. Photography: Lewis Hine (kids at work), Ernst Friedrich, Ernst Jünger, Susan Sontag / Iconographies of the evil enemy (war and propaganda posters)
3. Film: Depictions of war horrors (excerpts from Lanzmann, Resnais, Klimov, Shepitko, Kobayashi, Kurosawa among others)
4. TV: Consuming suffering? (9/11, The Gulf War and the on 'Terror')
5. Cyber-suffering and the proliferation of evil

	<b>7.DEALING SOCIOLOGICALLY WITH SUFFERING AND EVIL</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Suffering metrics: UN, Amnesty International</li><li>2. Combating the denial of suffering (S. Cohen)</li><li>3. The role of ethical institutions</li><li>4. Toward a Sociology of the Good?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4.1. Values</li><li>4.2. Enlightened resistance</li><li>4.3. Social justice and capabilities</li><li>4.4. Forgiveness</li><li>4.5. Compassion and sympathy</li></ul></li></ul>