Social Science H1F/ Social Ecology H20B: Critical Issues in Social Sciences

Winter Quarter, 2016
Class Time: Tues. and Thurs., 12:30-1:50 p.m.
Class Location: SSPA 1100

Instructors:
Professor William R. Schonfeld (SSPA 4187)
Office Hours: 11:00-11:55 am, Wednesday
& by appointment. wrschonf@uci.edu

Professor Michael Scavio (SSPB 2229)
Office Hours: 11:00 am - 12:20 pm, Tuesday.
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Seminar Leaders:
Eric Baldwin (SST 733) eric.baldwin@uci.edu
Pernilla Johansson (SSPB 5290) pjoehanss@uci.edu

Required Readings:

There are two categories of required readings:

1. Books which are available for purchase at the bookstore:
   John Locke, Second Treatise of Government.
   Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Basic Political Writings.
   Sigmund Freud, An Outline of Psycho-Analysis.
   Jan T. Gross, Neighbors.
   Phillip Zimbardo, The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil.

2. Articles included in a Reader to be purchased at the bookstore:
   Konrath et al., “Changes in Dispositional Empathy in American College Students….”
   Fish, “Condemnation without Absolutes.”
   Dirie, “Becoming a Woman.
   Schweder, “What about Female Genital Mutilation?”
   Lukianoff & Haidt, “The Coddling of the American Mind.”
**Course Grade will be based on the following:**

10%  Active and informed participation in weekly discussion section meetings.
30%  Paper 1 addressing Topic 1.
30%  Paper 2 addressing Topic 2.

Each of your papers should start with a title page which includes your title for the paper, your name, your student ID number, and the name of your seminar instructor. Each paper must contain at least 10 pages of text that is double spaced with 12 inch font and one-inch margins framing your entire text. The text of each paper should also be divided into sections with headings for each section. The headings should reference respectively the parts of the topic question. Each paper must also include a complete bibliography which does not count as text.

30%  Final exam, which includes both specific terms to be identified and broad integrative questions.

**From the start of the course, please begin to read:** *Gross, Neighbors; and Zimbardo, The Lucifer Effect.*

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TOPIC: Gross provides a detailed picture of events in Jedwabne. How would Locke describe and explain what happened? How would Rousseau? Which explanation do you find most convincing? Why? And, might there be a still better explanation by combining the insights of Locke and Rousseau? If so, what would it be?

Please begin to read the remaining articles in the Course Reader. If you have not done so yet, finish Zimbardo, The Lucifer Effect.
Thursday, March 10, 2016, Paper 2 due at the beginning of class.

**TOPIC:** Locke and Rousseau wrote their social contracts before psychology became a formal discipline. Please define a principle based upon Freudian psychology and a principle based upon Fairbairn’s psychology that would improve the social contract offered by either Locke or Rousseau. Be sure to explain how your principles inform the Lockean or Rousseauian social contract. Freud emphasized that the drive for aggression poses a great danger for humanity. In contrast, Fairbairn postulated that humans are motivated to form benevolent attachments with other humans. Given that Freud’s and Fairbairn’s proposals are both valid, please provide an explanation how to reconcile the apparent contradiction between the need for aggression and the need for attachment. Finally, please present and explain one proposal to reverse the decline in empathy described in the Konrath article. Your proposal should be drawn from the works of Freud, Fairbairn, Bowlby, Zimbardo or the Postmodernists.

**Week 11**

**FINAL EXAM DATE:** Friday, March 18, 2016; 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

*The on-line course evaluation system will be available to students from Sunday, February 28th until Sunday, March 13th. Please submit evaluations for Professors Scavio and Schonfeld as well as for your section leader.*