

# Dynamics of Modernity

Fall 2009

James 3604 Brooklyn College  
Sociology 723X  
Wednesdays, 8:20-10:10

Prof George Cavalletto  
office hours after class  
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## Sept 2: Introduction and Overview

### Part I: Classical Theories of Modernization

#### Sept 9: Ferdinand Tönnies and Emile Durkheim—Polarities of Social Transformation

- Ferdinand Tönnies, *Community and Civil Society*
- Emile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor and Suicide*

#### Sept 16: Karl Marx—Capitalism and Modernity

- Marx and Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, and Marx, on alienation, “Wage Labor and Capital,” “Value and Surplus Value,” and *Capital*

#### Sept 23: Max Weber—The Rationalization Processes of Modernity

- Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, *General Economic History*, “Bureaucracy,” “Science as a Vocation”

### Part II: Contemporary Interpretations

#### Sept 30: Ernest Gellner—The European Miracle of Modernity

- Ernest Gellner, *Plough, Sword and Book: The Structure of Human History*

#### Oct 7: Marshall Berman—Modernism and Modernity

- Marshall Berman, *All That is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity*

#### Oct 14: <no class>

#### Oct 21: Peter Berger—The Modernization of Consciousness

- Peter Berger, Brigitte Berger, Hansfried Kellner, *The Homeless Mind: Modernization and Consciousness*

### Part III: Mid-Century American Modernization Theory

#### Oct 28: Modernization Theory and U.S. Foreign Policy

- Nils Gilman, *Mandarins of the Future: Modernization Theory in Cold War America*
- Talcott Parsons and Edward A. Shils, *Toward a General Theory of Action*

#### Nov 4: Lerner and Inkeles—Third-World Modernization

- Daniel Lerner, *The Passing of Traditional Society: Modernizing the Middle East* (42 pages)
- Alex Inkeles and David H. Smith, *Becoming Modern: Individual Change in Six Developing Countries*

### Part IV: Critiques of Modernity

#### Nov 11: Zygmunt Bauman—The Ambiguities of Modernity

- Zygmunt Bauman, *Modernity and the Holocaust*

#### Nov 18: Michel Foucault—Modern Disciplinary Society

- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punishment: The Birth of the Prison*

### Part V: Post-Modernity or New Modernity?

#### Nov 25: Ulrich Beck—Reflexive Modernity

- Ulrich Beck, *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*

#### Dec 2: David Harvey—Fordist Modernity and Flexible Postmodernity

- David Harvey, *The Conditions of Postmodernity*

#### Dec 9: Review for final

#### Dec 16: Final