Morality and Public Sphere

Course description	This course offers an introduction into sociological theories of morality and the public sphere. Main interest will be the conjunction of both: public morality. We will read texts that offer insights into the emergence of public opinions on moral topics as well as on the autonomy and rationality of moral discourses. At the end of the course students should be able to analyze public discourses with regard to their moral implications and cultural structure.
I	**Introduction: Durkheim and Durkheimian Sociology**
Required Readings	Durkheim, Émile (1965/1893): "Mechanical Solidarity". In: *The Division of Labor in Society*. New York: Free Press, pp. 70-85, 102-103. Durkheim, Émile and Steven Lukes (1969/1898): "Durkheim 'Individualism and the Intellectuals'." *Political Studies* 17 (1): 14-30. Durkheim, Émile (1995/1912): *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*. New York: Free Press, 33-44. 429-430. Alexander, Jeffrey C. (1988): "Culture and Political Crisis. 'Watergate' and Durkheimian Sociology". In: Alexander, Jeffrey C. (ed.), *Durkheimian Sociology. Cultural Studies.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 187-224.
II	**Habermas: The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere and Civil Society**
Required Readings	Habermas, Jürgen (1989): *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere. An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society*. Cambridge: MIT Press. pp. 1-26. Habermas, Jürgen (1996): „Civil Society, Public Opinion and Communicative Power". In: *Between Facts and Norms. Contributions to a Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity Press, pp. 359-387. Taylor, Charles (2002): "Modern Social Imaginaries". In: *Public Culture* 14(1), 91–124.
Presentations	Habermas, Jürgen (1989): *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere. An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society*. Cambridge: MIT Press. pp. 27-140. Habermas, Jürgen (1989): *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere. An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society*. Cambridge: MIT Press. pp. 141-250.
III	**Alexander: Civil Sphere and the Societalization of Social Problems**
Required Readings	Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2006): *The Civil Sphere.* Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 3-9, 23-67. Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2019): *What Makes a Social Crisis? The Societalization of Social Problems*. Cambridge; Medford: Polity, 1-38, 73-117.
Presentations	Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2006): "Communicative Institutions: Public Opinion, Mass Media, Polls, Associations". In: *The Civil Sphere.* Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 69-105. Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2006): "Regulative Institutions (1): Parties, Voting, Office". In: *The Civil Sphere*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 107-150. Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2006): "Regulative Institutions (2): The Civil Force of Law". In: *The Civil Sphere.* Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 151-192.
	Reading Week

IV	Other Approaches: Adut, Boltanski & Thévenot
Required Readings	Adut, Ari (2005): "A Theory of Scandal. Victorians, Homosexuality, and the Fall of Oscar Wilde". In: *American Journal of Sociology* 111(1), 213-248. Adut, Ari (2012): "A Theory of the Public Sphere". In: *Sociological Theory* 30(4), pp. 238-262. Boltanski, Luc and Laurent Thévenot (1999): "The Sociology of Critical Capacity". In: *European Journal of Social Theory* 2(3), 359-377.
Presentations	Adut, Ari (2018): *Reign of Appearances. The Misery and Splendor of the Public Sphere*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press. Boltanski, Luc and Laurent Thévenot (2007): *On Justification. On Economies of Social Worth*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Boltanski, Luc (2004): *Distant Suffering. Morality, Media and Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
V	Narrative, Performance and Icons in the Public Sphere
Required Readings	Turner, Victor (1980): "Social Dramas and Stories about Them". In: *Critical Inquiry* 7(1), 141-168. Smith, Philip (2012): "Narrating Global Warming". In: Alexander, Jeffrey C., Ronald N. Jacobs & Philip Smith (eds.): *The Oxford Handbook of Cultural Sociology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 745-760. Alexander, Jeffrey (2011): "Performance and the Challenge of Power". In: *Performance and Power.* Cambridge: Polity, 82-91. Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2017): "Seizing the Stage. Social Performances from Mao Zedong to Martin Luther King Jr., and Black Lives Matter Today". In: *TDR/The Drama Review* 61(1), 14-42. Binder, Werner & Bernadette N. Jaworsky (2018): "Refugees as Icons: Culture and Iconic Representation". In: *Sociology Compass* 12(3).
Presentations	Smith, Philip (2005): *Why War? The Cultural Logic of Iraq, the Gulf War, and Suez*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Alexander, Jeffrey C. (2011): *The Performative Revolution in Egypt. An Essay in Cultural Power*. London; New York: Bloomsbury Academic. Alexander, Jeffrey C. & N. Bernadette Jaworsky (2014): *Obama Power*. Cambridge; Malden: Polity.
VI	Civil Religion and National Imaginaries
Required Readings	Bellah, Robert N. (1991): "Civil Religion in America". In: *Beyond Belief. Essays on Religion in a Post-Traditional World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 40-55. Holý, Ladislav (1996): *The Little Czech and the Great Czech Nation. National Identity and the Post-Communist Social Transformation*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-15, 72-113 Lakoff, George (2002): *Moral Politics. How Liberals and Conservatives Think*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp. 3-37; 143-176.
Presentations	Holý, Ladislav (1996): *The Little Czech and the Great Czech Nation. National Identity and the Post-Communist Social Transformation*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press. Lakoff, George (2002): *Moral Politics. How Liberals and Conservatives Think*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
Requirements for Passing the Course	1. Participation in lass – 20% 2. Presentation in class OR essay (6-8 pages) – 20 % 3. Final paper – 60%