

# Sociology 179: Social Change

Fall 2011, UC-San Diego

M-W-F, 11:00-11:50am

Prof. Tom Medvetz

Office hours: Wed & Fri, 2-3pm; and by appointment

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## REQUIRED TEXT

David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*

Copies of the book are on sale at the UCSD bookstore and Amazon.com. All additional readings will be made available electronically through WebCT (now known as TED).

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This class will consider the argument that economic, political, and technological changes have brought about a fundamental transformation in modern society over the last half century. More specifically, we will be looking at the sociological significance of various social changes, such as the fall of communism, the declining significance of class as a predictor of political behavior, and the growth of new digital and information technologies. As a historical baseline for the discussion, we will first consider what it means to be "modern" and then examine an important shift in the nature of modernity during the early twentieth century.

## GRADING

You must attend the lectures for this class, do all of the assigned reading, write a short midterm and a longer final paper, and take a small final exam. I will periodically take attendance by sending around a sign-in sheet. The grade breakdown goes as follows:

Midterm	25%
Attendance / participation	20%
Second paper	40%
Final exam	15%
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	100%

## OTHER POLICIES

### *Academic integrity*

I will refer any suspected cases of cheating, plagiarism, or failures of academic integrity (including taking part in another student's misconduct) to the Academic Integrity Office. In addition to whatever disciplinary measures the university takes, the standard penalty for violations of academic integrity is an F grade for the course. For the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, see: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>.

### *Classroom conduct*

It is important that we create an environment in which everyone is free to learn without disruption. Please refrain from behavior that is inconsiderate to your fellow students and your instructor. Disruptive behavior includes coming to class late, leaving early, text messaging, surfing the internet on your computer, and not silencing your cell phone before class.

### Writing

The ability to write clearly is very important, and not something that can be reliably distinguished from “good ideas” expressed poorly. In your papers, please pay special attention to grammar, mechanics, syntax, style, and organization. In the past, students have asked me for references on writing advice, and I often point them to these two:

William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*  
*The St. Martin's Handbook* (St. Martin's Press, 6<sup>th</sup> edition).

### Grievances

If you would like to contest a grade, you must first go to your reader and submit to him/her a one-page statement explaining why you think the grading is unfair. Only if you are still dissatisfied should you come to me. Please note that I will not change any grade without first discussing it with your reader. Also bear in mind that your grade may move upwards or downwards should I decide to change the grade.

Here is a schedule of readings and assignment due dates for the class.

Phase	Week	Date	Topic	Reading
Introduction	0.1	Fri, 9/23	<i>Plans, pleasantries, &amp; procedures</i>	No reading
Liberal modernity (1800s-1914)	1.1	Mon, 9/26	<i>Overview: three phases of modernity</i>	Harvey, p. 3-38
	1.2	Wed, 9/28	<i>What does it mean to be modern?</i>	Hobsbawm, p. 234-252
	1.3	Fri, 9/30	<i>What does it mean to be modern?, cont.</i>	
From liberal to organized modernity	2.1	Mon, 10/3	<i>The crises of capitalism</i>	Harvey, p. 121-172
	2.2	Wed, 10/5	<i>Responses to the crises</i>	
Organized modernity (1914-1968)	2.3	Fri, 10/7	<i>The "new class"</i>	Szelenyi & Martin, p. 645-667
	3.1	Mon, 10/10	<i>The "new class," cont.</i>	
	3.2	Wed, 10/12	<i>Corporatism and the welfare state</i>	Esping-Andersen, p. 9-34
From organized to late modernity	3.3	Fri, 10/14	<i>Crises within organized modernity</i>	Dandaneau, p. 151-182
	4.1	Mon, 10/17	<i>Crises within organized modernity, cont.</i>	
Late modernity (1968-)	4.2	Wed, 10/19	<i>Globalization</i>	Harvey, p. 173-197
	4.3	Fri, 10/21	<i>Globalization, cont.</i>	
	5.1	Mon, 10/24	<i>Globalization, cont.</i>	Castells, p. 29-52, 60-65, 201-221, 240-279, 327-375
	5.2	Wed, 10/26	<i>Globalization, cont.</i>	
	5.3	Fri, 10/28	<i>Globalization, cont.</i>	Reich, p. 69-135
	6.1	Mon, 10/31	<i>Post-materialism and the new social movements</i>	Inglehart & Rabier, p. 456-479

<b>Late modernity (1968-)</b>	6.2	Wed, 11/2	<i>Transnationalism</i>	Waldinger p. 592-596 Portes & Zhou, p. 597-608
	6.3	Fri, 11/4	<i>Transnationalism, cont.</i>	
	7.1	Mon, 11/7	<i>The fall of communism</i>	Verdery, p. 19-36
	7.2	Wed, 11/9	<i>The fall of communism, cont.</i>	
	7.3	Fri, 11/11	<b>NO CLASS--VETERANS DAY</b>	
	8.1	Mon, 11/14	<i>The dilemma of Left politics, cont.</i>	Giddens, p. 1-68
	8.2	Wed, 11/16	<i>The dilemma of Left politics, cont.</i>	
	8.3	Fri, 11/18	<b>NO CLASS MEETING</b>	
	9.1	Mon, 11/21	<i>From the welfare state to the carceral state?</i>	Freely & Simon, p. 449-474
	9.2	Wed, 11/23	<i>The new cultural intermediaries</i>	Kumar, p. 101-148
	9.3	Fri, 11/25	<b>NO CLASS--THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>	
	10.1	Mon, 11/28	<i>Postmodernism as a cultural style</i>	Harvey, p. 39-65
	10.2	Wed, 11/30	<i>Postmodernism as a cultural style, cont.</i>	
	10.3	Fri, 12/2	<i>Summary</i>	No reading

FINAL EXAM PERIOD: Tue, 12/6 (11:30am)