Self, Culture and Society

Winter 2023

Part One:

Self and Society, Two Views

Week One Durkheim and the elementary forms of sociology

* 1. Launch of course
  2. Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life* (1912)

Introduction and Book One, chapter one, esp. sections 3 & 4:

Swain, trans. pp.13-33, 51-63 Fields, trans., pp.1-18, 33-44

Week Two Totemism

2.1 Durkheim, cont’d. Book Two, chapters one, two, and three through 3.2

Swain, pp.121-73 Fields, pp.99-149

2.2 Mana and the experience of ritual effervescence

Durkheim, cont’d. Book Two, chapters six and seven

Swain, pp.216-272 Fields, pp.190-241

Week Three When in the course of human events? Religion, science, and society

3.1 Durkheim, “Conclusion”

Swain, pp.462-496; Fields, pp.418-448

3.2 Social forces and bodily inscription

Marcel Mauss, “The Notion of Body Techniques”

Week Four Psychoanalysis

4.1 The unconscious, and two insults to the entire world

Sigmund Freud, *Introductory Lectures to Psycho-Analysis* (1917):

Part I, esp., lectures 1-4 especially 1. (65 pp.)

4.2 Dreams guardians of sleep, censor guardian of self

Freud, *Introductory Lectures,* continued. lectures 6, 7, 9, 11, &14. (67 pp.)

Week Five Psychopathology, sexual life, and civilization as “well-organized tyranny”

5.1 The sense of symptoms, fixation, pleasure and reality principles

Freud, lectures 17-22. (102 pp.)

5.2 “The riddle of the nature of femininity”

Freud, “Femininity”

---and/ or----

Freud, from Josef Breuer and Freud, *Studies on Hysteria*

case studies of “Anna O” and “Elisabeth von R”

Part Two:

Gender and Race

Individual and Society

Social Sciences and Social Change

Week Six: Gender, freedom, and transcendence: not a situation, a condition

6.1 Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*,

Introduction, and chapters II, III, and XI

6.2 Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, chapters XXI, XXV, and Conclusion

Weeks Seven and Eight: Frantz Fanon, and Colonialism, its traumas and its doctors

7.1 Social Science as a vocation: what is to be done, then?

Max Weber, “Science as a Vocation”

Claude Levi-Strauss, “The Effectiveness of Symbols” and “The Sorcerer and His Magic”

7.2 Race and its discontents

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*, chapters 1-4

8.1 Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* chapters 5-8

8.2 Fanon’s psychoanalysis

Fanon, “case studies” from *Wretched of the Earth*

[in class: one-page excerpt from Taussig, *The Nervous System*]

Part Three

Self, Culture, Society and War:

The actual kamikaze pilots

Week Nine: The crooked timber of humanity

9.1 Life, death and cherry blossoms in Japan

Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, *Kamikaze, Cherry Blossoms, and Nationalisms*

Introduction, and Part II esp. chs. 3 & 4.

9.2 Pilots, students, rights and duties

Ohnuki-Tierney, contd: Part III, part IV and summary.