

Philosophy of Social Science
Hipps 190/191/195
Academic Year: 1994-1995
Time/Place: To be Arranged
Instructor: Kjell Hausken

Course Objectives

The purpose of the course is to expose you to a broad range of issues relevant for understanding and appraising the philosophy and conceptual foundations of the social sciences. Each introduced topic is presented from two or several different and often diametrically opposite viewpoints prevalent in contemporary research. While covering all the major bases within the philosophy of social science to provide an overview, the readings from each topic delve deeply into the core substantial dilemmas as analyzed by the major specialists in each professional field. The course will train you to make consciously intelligent and scientifically justifiable stands within each sub-field, and contribute to your ability to organize these stands into a coherent whole.

Course Requirements

Each student will write a 3 pages double-spaced (say 600 words) essay due in class every week, starting the second week. Write concisely. I do not want to read a superfluity of sesquipedalian obfuscatory prolixity. You can take stands on the issues, but you need to justify them. You will be evaluated on your command of the material, and on the comprehension you reveal of the major factors relevant for each week's topic. Every week 2-4 of you will present your essays in class. Assignments will be arranged on the first week of class ensuring that the major viewpoints of each topic get presented. These essays to be presented are to be provided to Mrs. Bitoy, Social Sciences Building 205, 1126 E. 59th st, before 11 a.m. the day before every class. They will be copied, and can be picked up by all other students two hours later, at 1 p.m. With less than 15 students, the course will be run as an informal lecture/discussion course. With more than 20 students, a larger auditorium will be assigned, and the course will be held in a more formal lecturing tone. Each student will write a final paper, due Thursday of exam week at 4 p.m. to Mrs. Bitoy or in my mailbox in SS205. The paper should be 12-15 pages, 25-30K, and on a topic relevant for the course. Please come and see me if you want to discuss your topic, or if you want me to suggest possible topics for you. You will be evaluated 50% on your essays, 30% on your final paper, and 20% on your oral presentation including how well you withstand critique from the other students and myself. The readings for the course are available as a packet from the Social Sciences Copy Center, at the first day of the quarter. Office hours will be in SS208 at a time to be announced first week of class. Outside class I can be contacted on tel. 752 6874, E-mail hau7@midway.uchicago.edu., or with a message in my mail box in SS205.

Course Schedule

- 1. week: Introduction:** A presentation of the course, including a 3-5 minute description of each of the course's topics. Assignment of students to topics to be presented in class.
- 2. week: World views for the physical, natural, and social sciences; Intentional vs nonintentional systems.**
D-Andrade, R. (1986), "Three Scientific World Views and the Covering Law Model," in Fiske, D.W. and Shweder (eds), *Metatheory in Social Science: Pluralisms and Subjectivities*, Univ. of Chicago Pr., 19-41.
Dennett, D.C. (1978), "Intentional Systems," in Dennett, D.C. (1978), *Brainstorms: Philosophical Essays on Mind and Psychology*, Bradford Books (MIT, 1981), 3-22.

3. week: Reductionism vs holism, inter-level vs intra- level (successional) reductionism.

Wimsatt, W.C. (1976a), "Reductionism, Levels of Organization and the Mind-Body Problem," in Globus, G., Savodnik, I., and Maxwell, G. (eds.), *Consciousness and the Brain*, N.Y.: Plenum, 199-267.

Wimsatt, W.C. (1976b), "Reductive Explanation: A Functional Account," in *Proceedings of the Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association, 1974*, Hooker, C.A. et al. (eds.), Dordrecht: D. Reidel, pp671-710.

Schaffner, K.F. (1967), "Approaches to Reduction," *Philosophy of Science*, 34, 137-147.

Nagel, E. (1961), "The Reduction of Theories," in *The Structure of Science*, New York, Harcourt, chapter 11, pp 336-397.

Richards, R.J. (1981), "Natural Selection and Other Models in the Historiography of Science," in Brewer, M.B. and Collins, B.E. (eds.), *Scientific Inquiry and the Social Sciences*, Jossey-Bass Publ., 37-76.

Recommended:

Wimsatt, W.C. (1974), "Complexity and Organization," in Schaffner and Cohen, R.S. (eds.), *PSA 1972*, Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, vol. 20), Dordrecht: Reidel, 67-86.

4. week: Sociobiology vs cultural determination.

Wilson, E.O. (1975), *Sociobiology*, Harv. univ. Pr., chapter 26, pp. 271-301.

Richards, R.J. (1987), "The Rise of Sociobiology," in *Darwin and the Emergence of Evolutionary Theories of Mind and Behavior*, Univ. of Chicago Pr., pp. 536-543.

Richards, R.J. (1986), "A Defense of Evolutionary Ethics," with responses from Cela-Conde, Gewirth, Hughes, Thomas, Trigg, *Biology and Philosophy* 1, 265-335.

Dawkins, R. (1976), *The Selfish Gene*, Oxf. Univ. Pr.

Lewontin, R.C. (1977), "Review of Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene*," *Nature*, 266, 283-284.

Gould, S.J. (1977), "Caring Groups and Selfish Genes," *Nat. Hist.* 86, 10, 20-24.

Gould, S.J. and Lewontin, R.C. (1978), "The Spandrels of San Marco and the Panglossian Paradigm: A Critique of the Adaptationist Programme," in Sober, E. (ed., 1984), *Conceptual Issues in Evolutionary Biology*, MIT Pr., 252-270.

Lewontin, R.C., Rose, S., and Kamin, L.J. (1984), *Not in Our Genes*, Pantheon Books, N.Y., chapter 10, pp. 265-290.

Recommended:

Sahlins, M. (1976b), *The Use and Abuse of Biology*, Univ. of Michigan Pr.

5. week: Actuating principles in human nature; Self- interest, sympathy, will-power, universal laws.

Hobbes, T. (1651), *Leviathan*, J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd., 1973.

Hume, D. (1751), *Enquiries Concerning Human Understanding and Concerning the Principles of Morals*, L.A. Selby-Bigge (ed.), Oxf. Univ. Pr., third ed., 1975, Appendix 2, pp. 295-302.

Nietzsche, F. (1886), *Beyond Good and Evil*, Vintage Books, 1966, part 9, pp. 201-237.

Kant, I. (1785), *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals*, Harper Row Publ. Inc., 1964, preface and chapter 1, pp. 55-73.

6. week: Intentional behavior; Optimizing vs satisficing, full vs bounded rationality.

Elster, J. (1982), *Explaining Technical Change*, Cambr. Univ. Pr., pp. 15-24, pp. 69-88.

Simon, H.A. (1955), "A Behavioral Model of Rational Choice," *Quart. J. Econ.* 69,99-118.

Kahneman, D. and Tversky, A. (1979), "Prospect Theory: An Analysis of Decision Under Risk," *Econometrica* 47,263-291.

Wimsatt, W.C. (1986b), "Heuristics and the Study of Human Behavior," in Fiske, D.W. and Shweder (eds), *Metatheory in Social Science: Pluralisms and Subjectivities*, Univ. of Chicago Pr., 293-314.

Recommended:

Simon, H.A. (1969), *The Sciences of the Artificial*, MIT Pr., Cambr.

7. week: Equilibrium theories.

Lotka, A.J. (1924), *Elements of Mathematical Biology*, Dover Books, 1956, chapter 11, pp. 143-151.

Elster, J. (1989), "Equilibrium," in *Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences*, Cambr. Univ. Pr., 101-112.

Gould, S.i. (1982), "The Meaning of Punctuated Equilibrium and its Role in validating a Hierarchical Approach to Macroevolution," in Milkman, R. (ed.), *Perspectives on Evolution*, Sunderland, Mass.: Sinauer Associates.

Nash, J.F. (1951), "Non-Cooperative Games," *Annals of Mathematics* 54,286-295.

Rubinstein, A. (1982), "Perfect Equilibrium in a Bargaining Model," *Econometrica* 50,1,97-109.

Harsanyi, i.C. (1967/68), "Games with Incomplete Information Played by 'Bayesian' Players, I-III," *Management Science* 14,159-183,320-334,486-501.

Kreps, D.M. and Wilson, R. (1982a), "Sequential Equilibria," *Econometrica* 50,863-894.

Margolis, H. (1990), "Equilibrium Norms," *Ethics*, 100, 4, 821-837.

Recommended:

Lotka, A.J. (1924), *Elements of Mathematical Biology*, Dover Books, 1956, chapters 21 and 22, pp. 259-299.

8. week: Theories of war; Deterrence vs spiraling, balancing vs bandwagoning.

Clausewitz, C.V. (1832), *On War*, Princeton univ. Pr., 1984, book 1, chapter 1, pp75-89.

Sun Tzu (-320), *The Art of War*, Transl. by Griffith, S.B., Oxf. Univ. Pr., 1963; (also by Clavell, J., Hodder & Stoughton, 1981), chapters 2 and 3, pp. 72-84.

Jervis, R. (1991). "Deterrence, the Spiral Model, and Intentions of the Adversary," Univ. of Chicago, pp. 58-113.

Walt, S. (1991), *The Origins of Alliances*, Cornell Univ. Pr., chapter 2, pp. 17-49.

Recommended:

Walzer, M. (1977), *Just and Unjust Wars*, Basic Books.

9. week: Conflict vs cooperation; Games of pure conflict, mixed motives, coordination.

Hardin, G. (1968), "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*, 162-.1243- 1248.

Schelling, T.C. (1960), *The Strategy of Conflict*, Cambr., MA: Harv. Univ. Pr., 1980, part 1, chapters 1, 2, and 3, pp. 3- 80.

Hardin, R. (1988), *Morality within the Limits of Reason*, Chicago Univ. Pr., chapter 2, pp. 31-37.

Axelrod, R. (1984), *The Evolution of Cooperation*, Basic Books, Inc., part 1, pp. 3-24.

Recommended:

Taylor, M. (1987), *The Possibility of Cooperation*, Cambr. Univ. Pr.

10. week: Organization theory; internally directed vs externally constrained behavior, levels of organization, resource-dependence theory, bases of power.

Astley, W. and Van de Ven, A.H. (1983), "Central Perspectives and Debates in organization Theory," *Administrative Science Quarterly* 28,245-273.

Pfeffer, J. and Salanzick, G. (1982), *Organizations and organizations Theory*, Pitman, chapter 1.

French, J.R.P. and Raven, B. (1959), "The Bases of Social Power," in Cartwright, D. (ed.), *Studies in Social Power*, Ann Arbor: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan.

Recommended:

Pfeffer, J. (1981), *Power in Organizations*, Marshfield, Mass.: Pitman.

Perrow, C. (1986), *Complex Organizations*, Random House.

11. week: Decision theory; Rational actor, organizational process, political bargaining; rationality, satisficing, bureaucracy, incrementalism, serial judgment, prospect theory, organized anarchy.

Allison, G.T. (1971), *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, Scott, Foresman and Co.

Grandori, A. (1984), "A Prescriptive Contingency View of Organizational Decision Making," *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 29, 192-209.

Padgett, J.F. (1980), "Bounded Rationality in Budgetary Research," *American Political Science Review*, 74, 354-372.

Lindblom, C.E. (1959), "The Science of 'Muddling Through'," *Public Administration Quarterly*, 19, 79-88.

Cohen, M.D., March, J.G., and Olsen, J.P. (1972), "A Garbage Can Model of Organizational Choice," *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 17, 1-25.

12. week: Negotiation theory; gametheoretic vs behavioral negotiation theory.

Binmore, K. and Dasgupta, P. (1987), "Nash Bargaining Theory: An Introduction," in Binmore, K. and Dasgupta, P. (ed.), *The Economics of Bargaining*, Basil Blackwell, 1-26.

Chatterjee, K. and Samuelson, W. (1983), "Bargaining under Incomplete Information," *Op. Res.* 31,835-851.

Cramton, P.C. (1985), "Sequential Bargaining Mechanisms," in Roth, A.E. (ed.), *Game-Theoretic Models of Bargaining*, Cambr. Univ. Pr. 149-179.

Holmstrom, B. (1979), "Moral Hazard and Observability," *Bell Journal of Economics*, 10, 74-91.

Myerson, R.B. (1979), "Incentive Compatibility and the Bargaining Problem," *Econometrica* 47,61-73.

Elster, J. (1989), *The Cement of Society*, Cambr. Univ. Pr., pp. 50- 96.

Neale, M.A. and Northcraft, G.B. (1991), "Behavioral Negotiation Theory: A Framework For Dyadic Bargaining," *Research in organizational Behavior* 13,147-190.

Thomas, K. (1976), "Conflict and Conflict Management," in Dunnette, M.D. (ed.), *Handbook of Industrial and Organizational Psychology*, Chicago: Rand McNally, 889-935.

Recommended:

Raiffa, H. (1982), *The Art and Science of Negotiation*, Harv. Univ. Pr.

13. week: Reputation, trust, ethics.

Kreps, D.M. and Wilson, R. (1982b), "Reputation and Imperfect Information," *Journal of Econometric Theory*, 27, 280-312.

Wilson, R. (1985), "Reputations in Games and Markets," in Roth, A.E. (ed.), *Game-Theoretic Models of Bargaining*, Cambr. Univ. Pr. 27-62.

Hardin, R. (1990), "Trusting Persons, Trusting Institutions," manuscript, Univ. of Chicago.

Hardin, R. (1988), *Morality within the Limits of Reason*, Chicago Univ. Pr.

Margolis, H. (1982), *Selfishness, Altruism and Rationality*, Cambr. Univ. Pr., repr. Univ. of Chicago Pr., 1984.

Frank, R.H. (1988), *Passions Within Reason*, W.W. Norton & Company. Sen, Amartya (1987), *On Ethics and Economics*, Basil Blackwell.. Gauthier, D.P. (1986), *Morals by Agreement*, Oxf. Univ. Pr.

Rawls, J. (1971), *A Theory of Justice*, Cambr., Harv. Univ. Pr.

Recommended:

Hardin, R. (1989), "Ethics and Stochastic Processes," *Social Philosophy & Policy* 7,1,69-80.