

DOES NEW SCIENCE REQUIRE A NEW SOCIOLOGY?

BETSY MOEN

8D Ketchum (enter thru B or 8A)

x 2-8626

Home 444 3650

Office Hours

Mon 2-3:30

Wed 12-1:30

By appointment

READING AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE (APPROXIMATE),
ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF HONORS THESIS AND
IMPORTANT DUE DATES FOR GRADUATING WITH HONORS (DEFINITE)

Note: throughout the year, we should be having individual talks -- as many as you (or I) think we need.

9/5 Introduction

9/12 Review of Sociology via presentation of sociological persona.

9/19 Tentative topic/area of research; tell class about it

Choosing new age persona

Read Capra, Preface and Ch 1 Crisis and Transformation

9-26 Read Capra, Ch 1 The Newtonian World Machine and Ch 2 The New Physics. Be prepared to ask questions and have discussion with Kim Malville from Astrogeophysics who will provide an overview of new physics and mysticism, clarify technical terms, etc.

Week of 10-3 Hazel Henderson on campus but cannot meet with us on Fri. Aft. Let's try to find alternative time. Read Capra Ch. 7 The Impasse of Economics and plan to attend public lecture Wed pm 10/1

10-10 First bibliography (browsing and floundering, identification of key works)
what you read* and plan to read; comments on reading

Read Capra Ch 4 The Mechanistic View of Life and
Capra Ch 9 The Systems View of Life.

10-17 Be prepared to ask questions and have discussion with Kenneth Boulding about systems theory, evolution, and imaging (Capra Ch 4 and 9)

- 10/22 PROSPECTUS DUE IN HONORS OFFICE (Laura Cooper, Norlin M400C): what you plan to do (preliminary title and preliminary thesis statement (question, hypothesis, goal, purpose, etc.); bibliogrphahy
Laura says to be sure to include name and department!
- 10-24 Discuss prospectus with class
- 10-31 Form your committee (Moen is required, one other Soc faculty member, and one other member of Honors Council)

Introduce your new age persona to the class
- 11-7 Second bibliogrphahy (key works)
what you read* and plan to read; comments on reading

Read Capra Ch 5 The Biomedical Model and Ch 10 Wholeness and Health
- 11-14 More precise topic and thesis statement
Outline of approach (theory/theory building, synthesis, analysis, ethnogrphahic, statistical, etc.)
What you need to do, find out
Discuss with class
- 11-21 Happy Thanksgiving
- 11-28 Looking for guest to discuss Capra Chs 5 and 10 with us
- 12-5 Third bibliogrphahy (fairly complete)
what you read* and plan to read; comments on reading
Key insights, ideas from work done so far
Questions, confusions, concerns (you should have some!)

Read Capra Ch 6 Newtonian Psychology and Ch 11 Journeys Beyond Space and Time
- 12-12 Be prepared to ask questions and discuss conventional and transpersonal psychology/sociology (Capra Ch 6 and 11) with Jim Downton
- Exam Day Preliminary Position Paper Due
Conference based on these papers
Read Capra Ch 12

To be continued spring semester in Soc 402

Merry Christmas

ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE PREPARATION OF HONORS THESIS
AND IMPORTANT DUE DATES FOR GRADUATING WITH HONORS

(Note: throughout the year, we should be having
individual talks -- as many as you (or I) think we need.)

9/19	Tentative topic/area of research Tell class about it
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11/14	More precise topic and thesis statement Outline of approach (theory/theory building, synthesis, analysis, ethnogrpahtic, statistical, etc.) What you need to do, find out Discuss with class
12/5	Third bibliogrpahty (fairly complete) what you read* and plan to read; comments on reading Key insights, ideas from work done so far Questions, confusions, concerns (you should have some!)
End of Jan	Final title and thesis statement Justification (how you hook your readers) First outline of paper Tentative conclusions What is left to do besides thinking and writing? Discuss with class
Feb 9	LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR GRADUATION WITH HONORS IN THE HONORS OFFICE
Mid Feb	First draft
Feb 23	FINAL OUTLINE DUE IN HONORS OFFICE
Early March	Second draft
Mid March	Presentation to class (rehearsal for committee and last discussion before final draft)
March 30	FINAL DRAFT TO HONORS DEPARTMENT
April	Meet with committee; Honors Council meets
May 12	Honors awarded---CONGRATULATIONS!!

SOCIOLOGY 401/402

DOES NEW SCIENCE REQUIRE A NEW SOCIOLOGY?

Overview and due dates. Readings and guest discussants are on the more detailed syllabus

FALL

Brief presentation of your sociological persona 9/12

Collective decisions re 'new age' personas 9/19

Brief introduction of new age persona 10/31

Preliminary position paper from your new age persona Exam day
(see below) and conference

SPRING

panel discussions: sociological and new age persona, guest speakers and spending of enrichment funds: to be decided by us

Paper from new age and sociological persona and real self May
(see below)

PRELIMINARY POSITION PAPER from your 'new age' persona: introduce your new-age self (brief relevant professional and personal bio, ideas regarding human beings, humans behavior, human society, evolution etc.; critique (+ and -) of sociology-- the state of sociology-- from your perspective; how contemporary and classical sociological perspectives reflect, complement, or contradict 'new age' perspectives; recommendations for future course of sociology; how you might contribute.

FINAL PAPER: revisions of preliminary position paper; comments, critique from your sociological persona and real self. Here we are not only concerned with an evaluation of sociology regarding 'old age' errors and how it may or may not be improved by 'new age' perspectives, but also in making a sociological critique of 'new age' thought and how it might benefit from contemporary or classical sociology. Recommendations for the future course of sociology.

A VARIETY OF RECENT AND EARLY 'NEW AGE' PERSPECTIVES

Jean Huston

Gregory Bateson

Jung (Plato, Leibniz, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

Carl Priam

David Bohm

Erich Jantsh

The Greens (Petra Kelly et al.)

Sri Aurobindo

M. Ghandi

Barbara Marx Hubbard/ Jose Argules

Ken Wilbur

Hazel Henderson/ E F Schumacher/ Herman Daly

Joanna Rogers Macy (Buddhist Philosophy)

COMMON THEMES IN 'NEW AGE' PERSPECTIVES

REALITY

There is more to reality than the material world we detect through our five senses

CONSCIOUSNESS

There are many levels of consciousness ranging from the material, to mental, to psychic, to spiritual, to final cosmic unity.

EVOLUTION

Evolution is far from complete; the human potential is much greater than the mid-mental level we have reached

Evolution is teleological; there is a purpose, a goal, and humans have reached the stage of evolution that we are now co-creators

UNITY

We are part of a global/cosmic system of complete interconnectedness and interdependence

KNOWLEDGE

In addition to empirical knowledge (gained from the five senses), there are valid forms of non-empirical knowledge (direct experience, extrasensory, intuitive)

CAUSATION

Behavior, development, events are not only the result of cause and effect (purposeful and chance), but also teleology, and acausal effects

CONSEQUENTLY, 'NEW AGE' CONCERNS AND IDEAS FREQUENTLY INCLUDE:

Holistic thinking, human potential, environmentalism, social justice, peace, mysticism, transcendence (self, and either/or thinking and politics), visualization/future orientation, personal empowerment, non hierarchical relationships, mind-body connections *and the belief that value-free, totally objective science (or anything else) is not possible*

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

Functionalism/neofunctionalism

Conflict

Symbolic Interaction

Role Theory emphasis on Peter Berger

Exchange

Phenomenology

Marxism

Human Ecology

Veblen