

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES AS APPLIED TO AN ANALYSIS
OF NURSING PRACTICE.

Specific reading material and related questions:

The plan for the session will be as follows: As each student is expected to have done the reading, she will be asked for comments on the material and will be expected to answer the questions on the basis of notes brought to the seminar.

January 31st

Read: Max Weber's Protestant Ethic.

- Q: To what extent, if any, is Weber's concept of use in analysing the value system of nursing?
(What is the value system of nursing?)

February 28th

Read: Fontana book on Durkheim, by K. Thompson.

Explain the concepts of mechanical and organic solidarity.

- Q: Discuss the applicability of both these concepts to work in hospitals.

March 14th

Read: Carpenter, M. The New Managerialism and Professionalism in Nursing, in: Health and the Division of Labour, Stacey M. et al (eds.). Croom Helm. (1977).

and: Carpenter, M., Asylum Nursing before 1914: A Chapter in the History of Labour, in: Rewriting Nursing History, Davies, C. (ed.), Croom Helm. (1980).

- Q: To what extent does a Marxist perspective illuminate the situation of the nurse?

General Reading:

1st year sociology

The following books are general texts for the course and students are recommended to select at least one for purchase:

- R. Fletcher : The Making of Sociology, Vols. 1 and 2.
A. Inkeles : What is Sociology.
R. Nisbat : The Sociological Tradition.
H. Timasheff : Sociological Theory.
K. Thompson and
J. Tunstall : Sociological Perspectives.

Seminar Arrangements:

For each seminar two students will be allocated the class topic and will be expected to talk to the group about this. All students should read at least one of the pieces of material listed and be prepared to contribute to discussion.

One essay, on one of the following topics, is required from students each term. The essay may be handed in at any time during the term, but not later than the first day of the last week of term.

Seminar Topics:

1. a) How do you account for the emergence of sociology as a discipline?
b) What is meant by the sociological tradition?

- R. Fletcher : The Making of Sociology. Vol. I, pp. 111-159.
H. Timasheff : Sociological Theory. Ch. 1.
R.A. Nisbat : The Sociological Tradition. Pt. 1.
Peter Worsley : Modern Sociology Introductory Readings. Pt. 1, pp. 13-24.
Alex Inkeles : What is Sociology. Ch. 1.

2. a) Discuss the relationship between sociology and the other social sciences.
b) In what sense, if at all, is sociology a science?

- M. Ginsberg : Sociology. Ch. 1 and Ch. 2
S. Giner : Sociology. Ch. 1.
R. Fletcher : The Making of Sociology. Vol. I, pp. 35-75.
K. Popper : The Logic of Scientific Discovery. Ch. 1.
A. Inkeles : What is Sociology. Ch. 1.
Duncan Mitchell : Sociology. Ch. 1.

3. a) Discuss E. Durkheim's theory of suicide.
b) Examine the view that Durkheim explained 'only one cause of suicide'.

- E. Durkheim : Suicide. Author's Introduction, Book I; Book Ch. 1.
K. Thompson and
J. Tunstall : Sociological Perspectives. Ch. 7(b).
J. Douglas : The Social Meanings of Suicide. Chs. 2 and 1
B. Johnson : 'Durkheim's One Cause of Suicide', American Sociological Review, 1965.
P. Sainsbury and
B. Barraclough : 'Differences between suicide rates', Nature (2) 1968.
R. Bierstadt : E. Durkheim. Ch. III.

- a) Discuss K. Marx's theory of historical change.
 b) 'The alienation of the worker means that the product of his labour stands opposed to him as an autonomous power'. Discuss.

K. Marx : Prefaces to Capital Vol. I.
 K. Thompson and J. Tunstall : Sociological Perspectives. Ch. 4.
 E. Fischer : Marx in his own words. Chs. 1-6.
 T.S. Bottomore and M. Rubel : Karl Marx Selected Writings. Pt. I.
 D. McLellan : Marx's Grundrisse. Chs. 3, 7-9, 15.
 J. Plamenatz : Man and Society. Vol. 2, pp. 269-408.
 R. Fletcher : The Making of Sociology. Vol. I, Ch. 5.

5. a) Discuss M. Weber's account of the rise of modern capitalism.
 b) Consider M. Weber's analysis of bureaucracy and charisma.

M. Weber : The Protestant Ethic and The Spirit of Capitalism. Author's Introduction and Chs. II, IV(a) and V.
 K. Thompson and J. Tunstall : Sociological Perspectives. Chs. 5, 29(a) and 30.
 R. Aron : Main Currents of Sociological Thought. Vol. 2, Section on M. Weber.
 N. Birnbaum : 'Conflicting Interpretations of the rise of capitalism'. British Journal of Sociology, June 19
 H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills : From Max Weber. Chs. VIII, 1-3, and Ch. IX.
 D. Beetham : Max Weber and the theory of Modern Politics. Ch. 3.

6. a) Discuss Durkheim's Rules of Sociological Method.
 b) Examine the distinction between mechanical and organic solidarity.

E. Durkheim : The Rules of Sociological Method. Chs. I, II, IV and V.
 E. Durkheim : The Division of Labour in Society. Table of Contents and Book I.
 K. Thompson and J. Tunstall : Sociological Perspectives. Ch. 7(b).
 E. Durkheim : Socialism. Introduction by A. Gouldner.
 A. Giddens : E. Durkheim, Selected Writings. Introduction and Chs. 5 and 6.
 R. Aron : Main Currents in Sociological Thought. Vol. 2, Ch. on Durkheim, section I.

7. a) Discuss the merits and demerits of functionalism as a method of sociological analysis.
 b) Consider R.K. Merton's critique of functionalism with particular reference to his distinction between manifest and latent functions.

R. Fletcher : 'Functionalism as a Social Theory'. Sociological Review, July 1956.
 R. Fletcher : The Making of Sociology. Vol. I, Ch. 7, pp. 614
 R.K. Merton : Social Theory and Social Structure. Ch. I.
 A. Inkeles : What is Sociology. Ch. 3, pp. 34-37
 A. R. Radcliffe-Brown : Structure and Function in Primitive Society, Chs. IX and X.
 H. Timasheff : Sociological Theory. Ch. 17.
 P.S. Cohen : Modern Social Theory. Ch. 3.

8. a) In what sense, if at all, do societies evolve?
 b) Discuss the notion of stages in social evolution.

R. Fletcher : The Making of Sociology. Vol. I, Ch. 7, pp. 63
 R. Fletcher : Evolutionary and Developmental Sociology, in J. Rex, ed. Approaches to Sociology.

B. Reading continued.

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| M. Ginsberg | : | On the Diversity of Morals. Ch. XII. |
| T.B. Bottomore | : | Sociology. Pt. V. |
| J.H. Goldthorpe | : | Herbert Spencer in T. Raison ed. The Founding Fathers of Social Science. |

R.R.

StW