Elite Theory
PhD seminar (4 credits)
Fall 2007.

András Bozóki
Professor of Political Science, CEU
Office hours: Faculty Tower, 907. TBA.
bozokia@ceu.hu

This is a doctoral seminar building on courses in political and social theory, comparative politics and political sociology. It offers a comprehensive overview in classic and recent theories on elites with special emphasis 1. on the similarities and contradictions of class, new class and elite research approaches, 2. on positional and non-positional elite groups (politicians, intellectuals, cultural elites), 3. on the relationship between political transformation and elite change, and finally, 4. it also discusses issues in elite political culture and cultural politics.

Each student has to write a 12-15 pages long (1.5-spaced) paper on one of the topics discussed during the semester. The topic must be chosen and submitted for the lecturer’s approval by October 31. The final paper must be turned in the December 5 meeting and they are to be presented to other students in classes of last week.

Students will be asked to give shorter presentations on selected readings in order to introduce the topic for further discussion. Presenters are required to write a short, 1-2 page(s), handout for others by the beginning of the class. The seminars are based on close reading of the texts and active participation of students. Participants are required to follow the readings to ensure a lively group discussion on each topic. Occasionally, short position papers will also be required. The seminar is designed to be highly inter-active and to give students a chance to develop their oral and written ability to marshal analytical arguments concerning issues in elite theory and research.

The final evaluation is based on the participation and the quality of oral presentations in seminar discussions (40 per cent), on short written presentations, e.g. handouts, position papers (20 per cent), and on the quality of the final paper (40 per cent).

TOPICS AND READINGS

WEEK 1. (September 24, 26.) Introduction: Forms of Capital \ Sources of Power

Mandatory readings:


Optional readings:

Daniel Bell (1976), The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism. New York: Basic Books
Michel Foucault (1980), Power / Knowledge. New York: Pantheon Books

WEEK 2. (October 1, 3.) Classes and Elites: Classic Approaches

Mandatory readings:


Optional readings:

York: Praeger

WEEK 3. (October 8, 10) Early New Class Theories and Elitism

Mandatory readings:


Optional readings:


American Library, 307-332.
Libraries Press
Harold D. Lasswell, Daniel Lerner & C. Easton Rothwell (1971), „The Elite Concept” in Peter
117-130.

**WEEK 4.** (October 15, 17.) **Intelligentsia and Intellectuals: Their Origins and Functions**

* Mandatory readings:

Robert Michels (1937), „Intellectuals” *Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*, 118-125.

Antonio Gramsci (1971), „The Intellectuals” in A.Gramsci: *Selections from Prison Notebooks.*
(Ed. by Q. Hoare & G. N. Smith) London: Lawrence and Wishart, 5-23.


Edward Shils (1972), „The Intellectuals and the Powers: Some Perspectives for Comparative
Analysis” in E. Shils: *The Intellectuals and the Powers and Other Essays*. Chicago: University of
Chicago Press, 3-22.


* Optional readings:

97-171.

Karl Mannheim (1956), „The Problem of Intelligentsia: An Enquiry into Its Past and Present
Role” in K. Mannheim: *Essays on the Sociology of Culture*. London: Routledge and
Kegan Paul, 91-170.

Norman: University of Oklahoma Press

**WEEKS 5-6.** (October 22, 24, 29, 31) **New Class and the Representations of Intellectuals**

**Mandatory readings:**


**Optional readings:**

Alvin Gouldner (1975-76), „Prologue to the Theory of Revolutionary Intellectuals” *Telos*, Winter, 3-36.
WEEK 7. (November 5, 7.) Reformism, Dissidence and Anti-Politics: Intellectuals under Communism

Mandatory readings:


Optional readings:

George Konrád & Iván Szelényi (1979), The Intellectuals on the Road to Class Power. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich


**WEEK 8.** (November 12, 14.) **Elite Change and the Role of Intellectuals in the Transition**

*Mandatory readings:*


*Optional readings:*


WEEK 9. (November 19, 21.) Elites and Elite Research in the New Democracies

Mandatory readings:


András Bozóki (2003), „Theoretical Interpretations of Elite Change in East Central Europe” in Mattei Dogan (ed.), Elite Configurations at the Apex of Power. Leiden - Boston: Brill, 215-248


Optional readings:


**WEEK 10.** (November 26, 28) Classes, Elites, Networks: New Approaches in Elite Research

*Mandatory readings:*


*Optional readings:*


WEEK 11. (December 3, 5)   Elite Culture and Cultural Politics

Mandatory readings:


Optional readings:

András Bozóki (2005), The Culture of Freedom. Budapest: Ministry of Cultural Heritage
Thomas Medvetz (2007), „Hybrid Intellectuals” mimeo. (forthcoming)

WEEK 12. (December 10, 12)   Students’ Presentations and Concluding Discussion