

SOC 0150

Notes for 2/28/06 Class Session

Recorded by Jamal Brown

Dr Brush distributed a participation checklist that students are to turn in at the end of class.

Dr Brush reminded students that our next reading due on 3/2/06 will be from the reader.

Weber discussion:

Dr Brush asks students why they obey their coaches.

- Trust their knowledge
- Authority—respect, listen to, look up to.
- Experience
- Scary

Dr Brush made reference to Weber's definition of domination (pg 215) and power (pg 206) and compared/contrasted the terms. Domination is about obedience while power is about 'getting one's way.'

- Obey = force
- Getting one's way = win

We noted that not all exercises of power are about obedience, but some of them can be.

What is scary about power?

- Can deny you your way
- Consequences
- Punishment
- Control (i.e. loss of control is bad for a player, but acceptable for coach)

Weber and Domination:

Types of legitimate domination:

- 1) Traditional Authority
- 2) Rational-Legal Authority
- 3) Charismatic Authority

What makes power legitimate?

Why do people obey laws (i.e. why do they recognize legitimacy)?

- Fear of consequences
- Tradition
- The laws are fair

Law-obeying falls under legal authority.

Weber believes that we are shifting from traditional and charismatic authority to legal-rational authority.

Dr Bush made reference to the five points of legal authority (pgs 216-217)

Charismatic authority (pg 219, II)

-Routinization of charisma (pgs 220-221)

Weber is theorizing and creating ideal types of authority as his method.

How is social order possible? Why do people obey authority?

-The source of social cohesion is that people will legitimize authority.

-Reference to pg 220, V.

George Ritzer on Weberian rationality:

Practical rationality in mundane, day-to-day activities; reflects worldly interests.

Theoretical rationality is a cognitive process involving theoretical mastery of reality by means of precise and abstract concepts.

Substantive rationality involves a choice of means to ends guided by some larger system of human values.

Formal rationality involves rational calculation of means to ends based on rules, regulations, and laws. Basic components = efficiency (choice of optimum means to and end), calculability (quantification, counting), predictability (across all settings and at all times), control through the substitution of nonhuman for human technology (replace people = sources of uncertainty and unpredictability with predictably, controllable machines), and the ultimate irrationality of formal rationality (deny the basic humanity, the human reason, of people).