

# Understanding Max Weber

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The course is devoted to close reading and discussing the key texts of German thinker Max Weber. He is, as you know, the most influential social thinker of the 20th century. His interpretation of modernity, controversial as it may be, is still at the center of many of the most important debates of our time. We should read Weber's texts as an inspiration for debate. I expect you to read his two lectures (we begin with Politics as a Vocation) in their entirety. Your presentation should encourage discussion by examining Weber's statements. As a rule, three or four of you will have to give your interpretation of the same Weberian statements. I hope this will stimulate discussion, since each of his theses can be interpreted from different positions. Please do not arrange in advance who will present, this will be decided in class. Pay attention to the order of the presentations.

The first number indicates the order of the presentations, the second number indicates the book, and the third number indicates the pages of the book.

1. Max Weber's Complete Writing on Academic ....
2. Weber/Selection in translation

## Sequence of presentations

1/1/155 – 158: Politics, State, Legitimacy

2/1/ 157 – 162: How do the politically ruling powers manage to assert their rule? Role of administration and material resources.

3/1/162 – 165: To live “for” politics or “from” politics.

4/1/165 – 169: Development of specialist officialdom in Europe.

5/1/169 – 172: Main types of professional politicians, lawyers in politics.

6/1/172 – 175: Politicians and official (civil servants). Role of journalists in the politics.

7/1/175 – 180: Leadership and followers.

8/1/180 – 183: Organization of Parties

9/1/184 – 188: Selection of Leaders: Spoil system.

10/1/ 188 – 191: German and American political system.

11/1/ 192 – 194: What qualities are the politicians expected to poses?

12/1/ 194 – 200: Ethical dimensions of politics

13/ Grand Inquisitor

14/1/ 200 – 2004: The experience of ethical irrationality of the world

15/1/ 204 – Expectations! What is coming on us?

16/1/ 27 – 30: Universities as “state capitalist” enterprises

17/1/ 30 – 34: Underestimation/overestimation of sciences. Intellectuall inspirations. Amateur/Expert

18/1/34 – 38: Meaning of science. Rationalization, disenchantment of the world.

19/1/39 – 4: Science today

20/1/41 – 43: Let us now focus our attention on ....

21/1/43 – 47: Meaning of the science for the practical point of view

22/1/47 – 52: Life as eternal struggle of gods

23/2/226 – 235: The essence of charisma

24/2/236 -250: The origin and transformation of charisma

25/2/331 – 340: The origin of industrial capitalism

The instructor assumes that you will read Weber's text carefully and relate his ideas to what you have learned in other courses. To be graded, you will submit four well-structured presentations by the end of the semester.