

Syllabus – SOCI 350B 001

Sociological Theories : Classical and Contemporary Approaches

Fall 2014

Class: Tuesday, Thursday, 3:30-5:00 PM
Frederic Lasserre Building, Room 102 (Tuesday)
Leonard S. Klinck, Room 460 (Thursday)

Instructor: Erica McCollum

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Office: ANSO 3126

Office hour: Thursday 10-11am, OR by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Jing Zhao

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Office: ANSO 2318

Office hour: Wednesday 10-11, OR by appointment

Course Description

This course provides students with a foundation of classical theorists in sociology, as well as a brief introduction to contemporary theoretical work that engages with some of the key ideas and questions raised by the classical works. The classical sociological theorists try to understand the changing nature of social organization in a time marked by increased individualization and division of labor, as well as the advancement of capitalism and the increasing rationalization of society. In the midst of these social processes these theorists raise and try to answer questions such as: What holds society together? What is the relationship between individuals and the communities they are a part of? How does the physical and social world shape who we are? How do people and ideas shape society? What are the implications of increasing individualism and a division of labor on social relations, morality and governance? How does power shape social relations and action? These questions, and the theories offered by the classical sociological theorists, are still relevant today, influencing current social theory, research and popular culture. This class will engage with these theorists to provide both a foundation of key works in sociology and also provide critical discussion and dialogue around some of their core concepts and how they relate to our modern society. The course will be organized around three key themes that are raised in these classical works. These three themes will be: 1) Freedom, Community and the Public Good; 2) Power and Domination; 3) and the Self and Society.

Textbook

Calhoun, Craig et al. Classical Sociological Theory (3rd ed.). 2012 Classical Sociological Theory. Wiley-Blackwell.

Course Policies and Evaluation

Students are expected to come to class, having read the assigned articles and prepared to participate in discussions. The class will be organized so that along with lectures, students are given ample opportunity to discuss the material with each other. The Tuesday class will be focused on a lecture component while the Thursday class is focused on discussion and engagement in small groups with the material from the readings and lecture. Students will stay in the same groups over the course and will be asked to hand in brief overviews of their discussion. You will be expected to bring your own question for discussion as well as answer a number of questions provided by the instructor. Part of your grade in this course will be based on your contribution to these group discussions.

Academic integrity: Plagiarism and cheating are serious matters in the university and can result in a failing grade or suspension. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class and will be reported to the department. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism please refer to the UBC website: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoiding-plagiarism/>

Evaluation:

Class and Group participation 15%

This mark will be based on evidence that you are contributing to the class discussions and more importantly your group. This includes attendance, providing group questions, engaging in discussion and taking on some of the group roles, such as reporting back or taking notes.

Midterm 20%

In class on **October 7th**

Final Exam 40%

To be scheduled during the exam period.

Paper 25%

Due November 18th

For this paper you will be asked to focus on one of the first two themes we covered in the course: Freedom, Community and the Public Good; or Power and Domination. You will be asked to discuss this topic in relation to a modern day trend or issue using the theorists we have covered from the class. 6-8 page paper.

Papers are due in class in hardcopy form on the date indicated on the syllabus. Late assignments will be docked one mark per day and should be date stamped and handed into the sociology office. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments. If you would like to request an extension or makeup exam please provide a note from a doctor or Arts Advising.

Course Schedule

Freedom, Community and the Public Good

Week 1 (September 2nd and 4th) Introduction.

Week 2 (Sept 9th and 11th) Durkheim

The Rules of the Sociological Method - Text pp. 201-218.

The Division of Labor in Society - Text pp. 220-242.

Week 3 (Sept 16th and 18th) Durkheim

Suicide - Text pp. 255-264

The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life - Text pp. 243-253

Week 4 (Sept 23rd and Sept 25th) De Tocqueville

Democracy in America – Text pp. 103-121

Week 5 (Sept 30th and Oct 2nd) Modern applications

Putnam, R., Leonardi, R. & Nanetti, R. 1993. Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press – Course reserve in Connect, Pp.83; 86-99.

Bellah, et. al. 2008. Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life. Berkeley, California: University of California Press - Course reserve in Connect Preface to the 1996 edition. Pp. Xiii-xxvii; 55-56;62-74

Power and Domination

Week 6 (Oct 7th and Oct 9th) Midterm/ Intro to Marx

Midterm October 7th

The German Ideology – Text pp.142-145

Week 7 (Oct 14th and Oct 16th) Marx

Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844 – Text pp. 146-155

Manifesto of the Communist Party – Text pp. 156-171

Wage-Labor and Capital - Text pp.182-189

Week 8 (Oct 21st and Oct 23rd) Weber

‘Objectivity’ in Social Science - Text pp. 273-279

The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism - Text pp. 291-309

Week 9 (Oct 28th and Oct 30th) Weber

Types of Legitimate Domination – Text pp. 320-327

Bureaucracy - Text pp. 328- 338

Week 10 (Nov 4th and Nov 6th)

The Culture Industry - Text pp. 465-477 (Horkheimer and Adorno)

Lukes, S. 2005. Power: A Radical View (2nd ed). New York: New York: Palgrave Macmillan. – Pp. 14-29 – Course reserve in Connect

Week 11 (Nov 11th and Nov 13th) - Paper peer-editing

The Self and Society

Week 12 (Nov 18th and Nov 20th) Mead; W.E.B. Du Bois

November 18th Papers due

The Self – Text pp. 347-360 (Mead)

The Souls of Black Folks - Text pp. 404-409 (Du Bois)

Week 13 (Nov 25th and Nov 27th) Simmel

The Stranger – Text pp. 362-365

Group Expansion and the Development of Individuality – Text pp. 366-381

Simmel, G. 1971. On Individuality and social forms; selected writings. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. The metropolis and mental life - 324-339- Course reserve in Connect