SOC 212 (A1): Classical Social Theory  
Fall 2018  
TR 11:00-12:20  
T1 93

Instructor: Zohréh BayatRizi  
Office: Tory 6-11  
Office Hours: T 1-2pm  
Email: Bayatrizi@ualberta.ca  
TA: Dave Selsky (Selsky@ualberta.ca)

COURSE PREREQUISITE:  
SOC 100 or consent of instructor.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
While emphasizing that social thought cannot be definitively traced back to any given period of time or any given geographical region, we will mainly focus on traditions originating in modern Western Europe. We will closely read nineteenth and early twentieth century thinkers and consider the way they perceived and responded to the challenges of the Industrial Revolution and modern culture. We will mainly focus on four major figures of social thought (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Freud) while at the same time considering alternative genealogies of social theory through the works of Charlotte P. Gilman, W. E. B. DuBois, and Marcel Mauss.

COURSE GOAL:  
In one sense, learning is to think differently; that is, to develop new ideas or to gain a new perspective on old ideas. Our goal in this course is to gain foundational knowledge about sociology’s classical heritage and to enable students to develop reading and writing skills in the area of social theory.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

• To develop skills to identify main claims and supportive arguments in each text (analyze and evaluate)  
• To acquire the necessary skills for writing an analytical term paper (create, compose)  
• To develop real life applications of theoretical concepts (apply)
COURSE OUTCOMES AND TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

By the end of this class, students should be able to

• read, interpret, and evaluate relevant social theories independently
• write well-structured theoretical essays, making clear arguments supported by textual evidence
• draw on their knowledge to reflect on their own life circumstances, evaluate and apply abstract concepts and theoretical perspectives to particular cases
• synthesize text materials with personal observations and experiences
• organize and summarize information and textual material

COURSE MATERIALS:

McIntosh, Ian, ed., *Classical Sociological Theory: A Reader*. eCourse package (on eClass)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Section 1
Two seminar worksheets: (2x5%=10% of final grade)
In-class test: October 2 (25% of final grade)

Section 2
Two seminar worksheets: (2x5%=10% of final grade)
In-class test: November 1 (25% of final grade)

Section 3
Two seminar worksheets: (2x5%=10% of final grade)
In-class test: TBA (20% of final grade)

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Seminar Worksheets: Seminar worksheets are designed to help you identify the author’s key argument, key evidence; and discuss key passages in the text. There are 6 designated seminar days throughout the term. On seminar days, you will have to read the assigned reading in advance and fill out your worksheet before coming to class. While in class, you will use your worksheet to guide your discussions with your classmates. You will find the seminar worksheets in the Assignments section of eClass. Download, fill out and upload eClass again BEFORE coming to class. Evaluation of seminar worksheet will take into account effort and accuracy.

Missed seminars: Students CANNOT miss the seminar in which the worksheet is submitted. Well-documented extraordinary circumstances (such as a traffic accident) will be taken into account and an alternative assignment will be created. Student must get in touch with me within 2 days of the missed seminar to provide documentation and arrange for an alternative assignment. Otherwise, the student will receive a zero.
In-class tests: These tests are NOT cumulative. They will include short answer and essay questions. Sample questions will be provided in class on designated exam prep. days.

Missed in-class tests: Student must get in touch with me within 2 days of the missed exam to provide documentation and arrange for a make up exam. You will have to write a make up test at the earliest possible date as set by the instructor. For documentation, refer to the section on ‘Course Policies and Procedure’ below. The tests are mandatory. Students who fail to take any of the exams will receive a remark of 1 next to their grade (e.g., B1) to indicate missed term work.

GRADING:

Marks for graded course requirements are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below. The percentage mark resulting from all graded components produces the final letter grade for the course. Marks for grades are not curved or scaled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Pts</th>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>0-49</td>
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ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, AND MISSED GRADE COMPONENTS:
Since presence at lectures, participation in classroom discussions and projects, and the completion of assignments are important components of most courses, students will serve their interests best by regular attendance. Those who choose not to attend must assume whatever risks are involved.

Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult the Attendance section of the University Calendar.

**Policy for Missed Term Exams:** See above.

**Policy for Late Assignments:** See above.

**Absence from Final Exam**

A student who has missed a final exam because of incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction or for circumstances as described in the University's Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy (including religious belief) may apply for a deferred exam. Where the cause is incapacitating mental and/or physical illness and most other cases including severe domestic affliction, a student must present supporting documentation pertaining to the absence to their Faculty office within two working days following the scheduled date of the exam missed, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence.

I cannot approve or deny requests for deferred final exams. Refer to the Absence from Final Exams information provided in the Attendance section of the University Calendar for full details.

**Date of Deferred Final Exam:** Students approved for a deferred final exam will write on Saturday, January 12, 2019, at 9am, in BUS 1-10.

**ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES:**

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Accessibility Resources, contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; phone 780-492-3381).

**CLASSROOM POLICIES/ATMOSPHERE:**

All views are welcome as long as they are presented respectfully and the speaker is open to criticism. As in any other class, we might occasionally discuss topics that are uncomfortable for some students.

**LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT:**
The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

• Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or

• If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the Office of the Student Ombuds. Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL.

REQUIRED NOTES:

Academic Integrity
“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at https://www.ualberta.ca/governance/) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence

Audio or Video Recording
“Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the Instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or Instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).”

Course Outline Policy
"Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar."

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

See next pages.
Tentative Outline of Readings
(Actual reading schedule might change depend on the needs of the class)

Part I: Karl Marx: The History of Human Doing

Sept. 4-6: Introduction + Marx on the materialist conception of history
Marx: The Preface to A Critique of Political Economy (McIntosh, 1.6)
- The Communist Manifesto (McIntosh, 1.4)

Sept. 11-13 Marx on exploitation
- The So-called Primitive Accumulation (McIntosh, 1.8, esp. pages 72-4, 90-96)
- Wage labour and Capital (McIntosh, 1.5)

Sept. 18 Marx on exploitation and revolution
- [Seminar] Alienated Labour (McIntosh, 1.1)
- The Fetishism of Commodities (McIntosh, 1.6)

Sept. 20-25 “Contemporary” Voices
[Seminar] Charlotte Perkins Gilman “The Man-made World” and “The Yellow Wallpaper” (on eClass)
Mike Savage: Guest speaker ‘Social Class in the 21st Century’

Sept. 27 Discussion, test prep.
Oct. 2 In-class test #1

Part II: Emile Durkheim: The Social Bond

The Social Bond
Oct. 4, 9, 11 Durkheim, on society & social facts
- The Division of Labour in Society (McIntosh, 3.1-3.3)
- The Rules of the Sociological Method (McIntosh, 3.4)
- Suicide: A study in Sociology (McIntosh, 3.5)

Oct. 16-18 Durkheim on individuality and society
- [Seminar] Religion and Society (McIntosh, 3.6)
- The Duality of Human Nature (eClass)

Oct. 23-25 “Contemporary” Voices
- BayatRizi ‘Nature, Culture, Ruin’
- Baudrillard ‘Symbolic Exchange and Death’
- [Seminar] Marcel Mauss Selections from The Gift (Introduction and Conclusion, pp. 1-9; 83-107)

Oct. 30 Discussion, test prep.
Nov. 1 In-class test #2

Part III: Max Weber: Knowledge and Power
Nov 6-8
Weber on the interpretation of social action
- Definitions of Sociology and Social Action (McIntosh, 2.5)
- Legitimacy and Authority (McIntosh, 2.6)
- [Seminar] Bureaucracy (McIntosh, 2.3)

Nov. 13-15 FALL BREAK

Nov. 20-22: On the fate of our time
- Science as a Vocation
- The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (McIntosh, 2.1)

Nov. 27: Weber in dialogue with the ghost of Marx
- Class, Status and Party

Nov. 29, Dec. 4 Contemporary voices
 [Seminar] Georg Simmel “The Metropolis and Mental Life”
 Kimberly Crenshaw “Ted Talk on Intersectionality”
(https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle_crenshaw_the_urgency_of_intersectionality)

Dec. 6:
Sigmund Freud ‘Civilization and Its Discontents’ (e-Class)

Test prep.