

SOC 212 (B2): Classical Social Theories
Winter 2017
Instructor: Dr. Zohréh Bayatrizi

Class meeting times: MW 11:00-12:20 SAB 336

Office hours: MW 1-2pm or by appointment

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Course description

This course will cover selected original readings from classical and contemporary social thinkers. 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, Georg Simmel, and Marcel Mauss.

Goals

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.

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)

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 texts

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

In class activities: A mixture of lectures and seminars will be used. On designated seminar days, students must bring a completed seminar worksheet (see attached) to class and be prepared to discuss the reading with their own group. Seminar worksheets are designed to help you identify the

author's key argument, the author's logic, methods, and key evidence; outline the logical structure of the reading; and discuss key passages in the text.

Use of electronic devices:

You are NOT allowed to record the lecture (video or sound) and you are NOT allowed to take pictures in class of my slides, myself, or your classmates. Playing or browsing on your phone is disrespectful.

Evaluation:

Section 1

Two seminar worksheets: (2x5%=10% of final grade)

In Class test: February 13 (25% of final grade)

Section 2

Two seminar worksheets: (2x5%=10% of final grade)

In class test: March 15 (25% of final grade)

Section 3

Two seminar worksheets: (2x5%=10% of final grade)

In class test: April 12 (20% of final grade)

Missed in class tests: 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.

Sample test questions will be provided in class on designated test prep days.

Seminar worksheets: MUST be submitted **IN CLASS**.

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. Otherwise, student will receive a zero.

Department of Sociology Grading Scale

Percentage	Letter grade	Grade point value
90-100	A+	4.0
86-89	A	4.0
82-85	A-	3.7
78-81	B+	3.3
74-77	B	3.0
70-73	B-	2.7
66-69	C+	2.3
62-65	C	2.0
58-61	C-	1.7
54-57	D+	1.3
50-53	D	1.0

Tentative Outline of Readings

(Actual reading schedule might change depend on the needs of the class)

Introduction: The Sociological Imagination

January 9

Introduction.

Formation of reading and writing groups.

The Gods Must be Crazy (Film)

January 11

C. Wright Mills: "The Promise."

Part I: Karl Marx Society, History and Revolution

January 16-18 Marx on the materialist conception of history

-The Preface to A Critique of Political Economy (McIntosh, 1.6)

-The German Ideology and Historical Materialism (McIntosh, 1.3)

January 23-25 Marx on Labour and Commodities

-[Seminar] Alienated Labour (McIntosh, 1.1)

- The Fetishism of Commodities (McIntosh, 1.6)

-Wage labour and Capital (McIntosh, 1.5)

January 30- Feb. 1 Marx on the rise and fall of capitalism

-The So-called Primitive Accumulation (McIntosh, 1.8, esp. pages 72-4, 90-96)

-The Communist Manifesto (McIntosh, 1.4)

February 6: Voices from the margins

[Seminar] Charlotte Perkins Gilman "The Man-made World" and "The Yellow Wallpaper"

February 8: Discussion, Exam 1 prep.

February 13

In-class test #1

Part II: Emile Durkheim The Social Bond

February 15 Durkheim, on social facts

- The Rules of the Sociological Method (McIntosh, 3.4)

February 20-22

Winter Break

February 27-March 1 Durkheim on social solidarity, regulation and integration

- The Division of Labour in Society (McIntosh, 3.1-3.3)
- Suicide: A study in Sociology (McIntosh, 3.5)

March 6 Durkheim, on ritual and representation

- [Seminar] Religion and Society (McIntosh, 3.6)

March 8: Voices from the margins

- [Seminar] Marcel Mauss Selections from *The Gift* (Introduction and Conclusion, pp. 1-9; 83-107)

March 13: Discussion and exam prep.

March 15: In-class test #2

Part III: Max Weber

Facts and Values

March 20-22 :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)

March 27-29: Weber on capitalism

- The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (McIntosh, 2.1)
- Science as a Vocation

April 3-5: Voices from the margins

Georg Simmel “The Metropolis and Mental Life”

[Seminar] W.E.B. DuBois: “Of Our Spritual Strivings” “Of the Coming of John”

April 10

Exam prep.

April 12

In-class test #3

Policies and Procedure

“**Policy about course outlines** can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#) of the University Calendar.”

Academic honesty: “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 <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

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 student ombudservice:

(<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, available at <http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/> .

Recording of Lectures:

“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).”

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult [Attendance](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result. Students with an excused absence from an exam will be given an opportunity to make up the exam.

In this course, attendance is not required. However, regular attendance has shown to dramatically improve a student’s learning and performance.

Policy for Missed or Late Assignments:

Students will be penalized one point per day for late submissions unless previously authorized by the instructor. Any student missing any assignments, the mid-term exam, or the take home exam will receive a remark of 1 next to their final grade, indicating missed term work.

You may bring a doctor's note if you miss an exam due to illness, however this cannot be required. If you do not have a doctor’s note, you can do one of the following:

- “[University of Alberta Medical Statement](#)” signed by a doctor (*this cannot be required, but must be accepted if provided in lieu of other documents*). http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Online-Services/~media/registrar/Forms/2010_Medical_Statement.pdf

- "[Medical Declaration Form for Students](#)" (*for Faculty of Arts students, can also be obtained in the Sociology Office*)
- "[Statutory Declaration](#)" (*for students in Faculties other than Arts, to be obtained from the Office of the Registrar*)

For other acceptable absences, such as domestic afflictions or religious convictions, the student should submit appropriate documentation. This could include the following:

- For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
- For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
- For a car accident – a copy of the accident report

Student Accessibility Services (SAS):

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 SAS, contact their office immediately (1-800 SUB; Email ssdsrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).