

McMaster University
Department of Sociology
Sociology 3A03E Classical Social Theory
Sept 2018 – Dec 2018

Lecture: Tuesday 7:00- 10:00pm
Class Location: DSB/AB 102

Course Instructor: Dr. Lina Samuel

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Office: KTH-632

Office Phone Number: ext. 23617

Office Hours: Tuesdays 6:00pm – 6:40pm Please make appointment first

Course Description:

This course focuses on some of the key figures of the classical era of sociology. A grounding in social theory, particularly classical theory, sets the stage for the understanding of many contemporary topics in the field of sociology. The course and the supporting textbook provide a broad understanding of sociological theory. We begin with the writing of Karl Marx (1818-1883). Given the magnitude of his contribution to the social sciences, in this course, we focus on a number of key classical pieces: selection from *The German Ideology* 1845-1846, selections from the *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* 1844, and the *Introduction to the Communist Manifesto* 1848. We then move on Emile Durkheim (1858-1917), focusing on selections from: the *Division of Labour* 1893, *Rules of Sociological Method* 1895, and *Introduction to Suicide: A Study in Sociology* 1897. In the Max Weber (1864-1920) section we focus on selections from *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* 1904, a selection from *The Distribution of Power Within the Political Community: Class, Status and Party* 1925; and finally selections from *The Types of Legitimate Domination* 1925 and *Bureaucracy* 1925. Along with Marx, Weber and Durkheim, the course also examines the contributions of Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935) and her writings on *Women and Economics* 1898, Georg Simmel (1858-1918) and a selection from *The Metropolis and Mental Life* 1903 and *The Stranger* 1908. We end by looking at the work of W.E. B. DuBois (1868-1963) and in particular selections from *The Philadelphia Negro* 1899, *The Souls of Black Folk* 1903 and *The Souls of White Folk* 1920 . Through the course, students will gain an appreciation of classical social theory and its role in understanding the problems of the contemporary social world.

Course Objectives:

Through this course, students will:

- understand the relevance of classical theory;
- recognize *who* the core sociological theorists are in the discipline;
- appreciate their contribution to the discipline and their contribution to the understanding of contemporary social issues.

Course Format: 1-2 hour lecture Tuesdays plus 50 minute tutorials (selected tutorials with discussion questions posted prior to lecture).

Course Texts

- Desfor Edles, Laura and Scott Appelrouth. 2015. *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era* ^{3rd} edition. Sage Press: London.

This is a fast paced course! We cover a number of theorists important to the discipline of sociology. It is important you keep up with the readings. I encourage students to ask questions, and discuss work with other students. For the tests you will be responsible for both the required readings as well as lecture material. There is an attendance and tutorial participation grade of 5%. I will take attendance at the start of each lecture/tutorial.

Grading:

The grades are based on four in-class term tests, attendance and essay submission.

Evaluation:

Term Test 1: 20% (Chapter 1 and Marx Chapter 2)

Term Test 2: 20% (Durkheim)

Term Test 3: 20 % (Weber and Simmel)

Term Test 4: 20% (Gillman and Dubois)

Tutorial Participation: 5%

5 Short Essays: 15% (Each worth 3 marks)

Short essays questions will be posted prior to the lecture and due at the start of the test.

You will have an opportunity to discuss questions after the lecture in class during scheduled tutorials.

Each short essay should be no more than 4-5 pages double spaced plus bibliography.

Each short essay should be submitted in paper form in class (not emailed). Thank you.

Procedures and Rules

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments.

The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

1a. Missed tests

Students who miss a term test will be assigned a mark of zero for that test unless their absence is supported by university approved documentation, and the student has written an accommodated make-up test.

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days **and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work.** Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 lectures or exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you **MUST** visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

If your Request is **APPROVED** and a make-up test is required, you will write the make-up test on the **designated date selected by the instructor.** No student is automatically entitled to a second make up test. It is your responsibility to write the tests on the day in which they are scheduled. I do not reweight any tests. You must make sure you have written all the required tests to obtain a grade.

Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (eg. class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

It is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster

account. **If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.**

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

1b.Late assignments

- You are expected to complete assignments on time.

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class lecture on the due date. Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of **5%** per day. The Penalty period does include weekends and holidays. **Please make every effort to hand assignments in on the due date.**

Please come see the instructor if you are experiencing any difficulty with the assignment or the material presented in class. Only hard copies will be graded.

Please note that only McMaster emails will be considered official. Emails from other addresses may disappear into the black hole of spam filters.

- You are expected to keep a back-up, hard copy of your assignment in case it is lost.
- **Accommodation provision:**
Medical Certificate must state that you were ill on the due date of the assignment for a one day extension. For a longer extension you must prove that you were sick during a longer period or prove an exceptional, unforeseen circumstance.

2. Grade appeals. The instructor and teaching assistant(s) take(s) the marking of assignments very seriously, and will work diligently to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules:

- If it is a mathematical error simply alert the instructor of the error
- In the case of more substantive appeals, you must:
 1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
 2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader's comments.

If you wish to appeal your assignment grade:

- A. You must submit to the instructor a written explanation of why you think your mark should be altered. Please note statements such as "I need a higher grade to apply to X" are not compelling. Also, please note that upon re-grade your mark may go down, stay the same, or go up.

B. Attach to your written explanation your original assignment, including all of the original comments. Submit a hardcopy of the package to the instructor during office hours or after the lecture.

C. You will receive a response via email or in person about your re-grade.

3. Electronic communication and electronic learning technology: Email communication is rapid, convenient, and efficient—and you are encouraged to use it to enhance your learning and experience in the course. With that said, it is essential that you follow a few rules:

- Assignments will not be accepted via email. You must submit hard copies of your assignments
- All emails must include the course code (Soc 3A03) in the subject line.
- All emails should be signed with the student's full name and student number.
- Emails from students will generally be answered within 24 hours of receipt.
- Treat emails as you would any other professional communication.
- All general questions about the course that are NOT addressed on the syllabus and course website should be asked in class. If you cannot figure something out, chances are your inquiry will be useful for the entire class.

Emails that do not follow these guidelines will not receive a response.

4. Classroom etiquette

Students are expected to arrive at class on time. Laptops are allowed in class and should be used for taking notes. Other uses, emailing, web surfing will result in the student's being required to turn off the laptop and it may affect your final grade.

Coming to lectures late, leaving early, not attending tutorials will impact your final grade.

Videotaping and recording lectures is strictly forbidden without written permission from the instructor.

Lecture Schedule and Required Readings Tuesday 7-10pm Sept 4-Dec 4
(Subject to adjustments)

Tuesday Sept 4

Lecture 1: Introduction to the course, course assessments and evaluations

Chapter 1 Introduction to Social Theory pages 1-19

Tuesday Sept 11

Lecture 2: Chapter 2 Karl Marx 1818-1883 pages 20-71

Bibliographical Sketch page 20-23

Intellectual Influences and Core Ideas and Theoretical Orientation pages 23-36

Introduction to the *German Ideology* page 36-38

From *The German Ideology* page 39-47

Introduction to *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts 1844* pages 47-48

From *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts 1844* pages 48-57

Introduction to *The Communist Manifesto* pages 57-60

From *The Communist Manifesto* pages 60-71

Introduction to Friedrich Engel's *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* 87-89

From *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State (1884)* 89-100

Tuesday Sept 18

Lecture 3 Continuation with Marx

Tuesday Sept 25 Test 1 (on Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 Marx)

***Submit Short Essay 1 on Marx**

Tuesday Oct. 2

Lecture 4 Chapter 3 Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) pages 101-163

Biographical Sketch pages 95-97

Intellectual Influences and Core Ideas and Theoretical Orientation 101-110

Introduction to *The Division of Labour in Society* 1893 pages 110-112

From *The Division of Labour in Society* 1893 pages 112-119

Introduction to *The Rules of Sociological Method* Pages 119-120

From *The Rules of Sociological Method* 1895 pages 120-129

Introduction to *Suicide: A Study in Sociology* pages 129-132

From *Suicide: A Study in Sociology* 1897 pages 132-144

Introduction to the Elementary Forms of Religious Life 145-148

From *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* 1912 page 148-163

MID-TERM BREAK OCT 8 - 14

Tuesday Oct 16 Test 2 (on Durkheim)

***Submit Short Essay 2 on Durkheim**

Tuesday Oct 23

Lecture 5 Tuesday Chapter 4 Max Weber 1864-1920

Biographical Sketch pages 164-234
Intellectual Influences and Core Ideas and Theoretical Orientations pages 164-178
Introduction to *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* pages 178-181
From *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* pages 181-192
Introduction to *The Distribution of Power Within the Political Community: Class, Status and Party* pages 204-206
From *The Distribution of Power Within the Political Community: Class, Status, Party* 1925 pages 206-214
Introduction to *The Types of Legitimate Domination* pages 214-216
From *The Types of Legitimate Domination* 1925 pages 217-223
Introduction to *Bureaucracy* pages 223-225
From *Bureaucracy* pages 225-234

Tuesday October 30

Lecture 6 Chapter 6 Georg Simmel 1858-1918

Biographical Sketch pages 286-288
Intellectual Influences and Core Ideas and Theoretical Orientation pages 288-298
Introduction to *The Stranger* pages 321-322
From *The Stranger* 1908 pages 322-325
Introduction to *The Metropolis and Mental Life* 1903 pages 333-335
From *The Metropolis and Mental Life* 1903 pages 336-344

Tuesday Nov 6 Test 3 (on Weber and Simmel)

***Submit Short Essay 3 on Weber**

Tuesday Nov 13

Lecture 7 Lecture 9 Chapter 5 Charlotte Perkins Gilman 1860-1935

Biographical Sketch pages 235-241
Intellectual Influences and Core Ideas and Theoretical Orientations pages 241-247
Introduction to *Women and Economics* pages 258-262
From *Women and Economics* 1898 pages 262-285

Tuesday Nov 20

Lecture 8 Chapter 7 W.E.B. Du Bois 1868-1963

Biographical Sketch pages 345-353
Intellectual Influences and Core Ideas and Theoretical Orientations pages 353-359
Introduction to *The Philadelphia Negro* pages 358-359
From *The Philadelphia Negro* 1899 pages 359-365
Introduction to *The Souls of Black Folk* pages 365-371
From *The Souls of Black Folk* 1903 pages 371-385
Introduction to “The Souls of White Folk” pages 385-386
From *The Souls of White Folk* 1920 pages 387-391

Tuesday Nov 27 Test 4 (on Gillman and Dubois)

***Submit Short Essay 4 on Gillman**

Tuesday Dec 4 Review of main concepts and returning short essays (1-4).

***Submit Short Essay 5 on Du Bois**

The End! Have a restful holiday everyone!