



SOCI 371 - 202 (3)
Classical Traditions in Theory
Winter 2019

WOOD – 4
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:50 PM

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🕒 Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM or by appointment

Academic Calendar Entry:

An examination of selected traditions, conceptual problems and topics in the foundational theories of sociology.

Pre-reqs: One of [SOC 100](#), [SOC 101](#), [SOC 102](#).

Course Overview:

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with some key texts in the “classical” period of sociological theory, spanning roughly from the middle of the nineteenth century to the early 1960s. Major schools of inquiry include functionalism, anti-positivism, conflict theory, and social interactionism, and canonical thinkers (Marx, Durkheim, Weber) of the discipline are at the centre of the course. We will then expand the repertoire of the course text, which is restricted to white males (with one reading from the African-American writer W.E.B. DuBois) to include a number of women and writers of color who both participate in key debates and write from key positions outside Europe. A fundamental interest of the course is the establishment of order-based discourses and the role of (re)design and institutions in shaping social life and the self, and the attendant conflicts that arise from order-based discourses. Given recent shifts in political cultures across the globe, we will also assess the transformations in class identities and politics that enabled the rise of totalitarianism and fascist ideologies.

Course Objectives:

Students will:

1. Be able to identify different theoretical approaches and identify their use in both academic works and everyday conversation.
2. Be able to read and comprehend the writing styles of theoretical works.
3. Be able to extend theoretical critiques to contemporary events.
4. Develop theoretical writing skills by synthesizing materials to develop complex arguments and to draw out nuances in critical thought.

Evaluation Criteria and Grading:

Description	Weight	Due Date
Final Exam	20	Exam Period
Classical Theory Essays (2)	10/15	February 7 th & April 2 nd
Reading Discussion Questions Write-Up Assignment	5	Weekly sign up
Participation	15	
Reading Responses (6 @ 5 marks per response)	30	Any 7 of 11 weeks with readings.

Late Submissions:

No extensions are allowed and there are deductions of 5% per day late. Accommodations are made for students registered with the Centre for Accessibility and those who have university recognized absences with supporting documentation.

Participation: Active engagement with course materials, peers, and the course director are essential to a successful seminar. To this end, the following factors will be taken into consideration when calculating your grade:

- *Attendance:* It is not possible to participate if not in attendance. Please contact the course director in advance if you are unable to attend class due to health or family issues. Note the penalty on the rubric for missed classes increases exponentially and a zero for attendance will result in zeroes for the remaining categories.
- *Verbal Contributions:* Direct contributions that are related to course materials that engage peers or the course director.
- *Active Listening:* Allowing space for the contributions of other students and paying attention to/engaging with their comments. Domination of the class, refusal to allow others to speak, active disrespect shown to peers or the course director, or a pattern of refusal to stick to course materials will all negatively impact your grade.
- *Group participation:* Much of your participation will come from small group discussions and will be calculated from peer and self-evaluations. Groups will discuss readings and films, and submit summaries of their discussions. A copy of the form and expectations for group discussions is attached to the end of the syllabus.

Reading Discussion Questions: Questions are due on the sign-up date (submitted by email), with a completed hard copy to follow one week after the class discusses that reading. You will sign up to provide one set of discussion questions covering the readings assigned for one day of that week. Week 2 discussion questions included below as examples to guide your work.

You must write 3 questions that can do any of the following:

- Ask for definition and clarification of a difficult concept or a difficult passage that you are struggling to understand.

- For example, “What is the difference between organic and mechanical solidarity for Durkheim”?
- A second type of question asks about the significance of a particular part of the discussion/analysis in the reading.
 - For example, “What does it mean for Durkheim to resituate crime from a violation of the individual to a violation of the common consciousness?” or “Why is it so important to him to maintain a system of shared values amongst a population?” or “Do you see any problems achieving or implementing that kind of homogeneity in a population?”.
- A third type of question can ask a question that compares/contrasts two readings from your day or compares/contrasts your reading with another reading from a previous week.
 - For example, “What are the points of similarity and difference between Durkheim’s idea of social order through the division of labour and Weber’s idea concerning the rational structure of bureaucracy”?
- Your paper submission one week after the class should include a brief reflection on how your group approached the questions compared to what your thoughts were in advance. What directions did the group take and how did they help you to better understand the text? Be sure to take notes on their comments during the group discussion, and have some point form notes of what you think the answers are before you discuss it to base your comparison on. Your response should be no more than one, double spaced page that includes the questions and your reflection.

Reading Responses: 350-500 word responses to one assigned reading for the week for six of the eleven weeks with readings. Responses *should not be summaries* of the reading. Be sure to develop relevant details from the text to support your response and at least one of the following in your response:

- The significance of the text. What is the importance of the argument that the author presents? Cite and develop one key supporting element of this argument.
- Describe the social structures in the text and their impacts or interrelationships (institutions, culture, beliefs, values, as well as rules, laws, or resources that reproduce, restrict or otherwise affect social life).
- Develop a distinction between this text and another in the course.

Responses are due at the beginning of the first class for each week. Responses should be written in formal language, cite the text using consistent citation methods (do not include a works cited), and use *double* spacing. Include your name, student#, the date and a title on the upper left corner of the first page, and print on both sides if possible. Submissions can be made by email prior to the start of class if you unable to attend, but a hard copy must follow.

Note: You cannot write a response for a the one you wrote questions for. Please try to use the supplied discussion questions to guide your responses, but feel free to develop your own point.

Classical Theory Essays (10 & 15 Marks): Detailed descriptions will follow. These short essays of 3-4 pages and 5-7 pages will examine classical theory in relation to contemporary events taken from popular culture and media (including news sources) or everyday life.

Final Exam: a definition and essay-based exam with, possibly, a small selection of multiple-choice questions. Essay questions will be posted in week 12 and discussed in the final class of the semester.

At the end of the course, *STANDING DEFERRED* standing will be granted where necessary (such as serious illness or bereavement) – at which time documentation will be required.

Grading System:

This course will be graded as follows:

Percentage Grade	Letter Grade	Grade Point Score	Descriptive Term
A+	90 and above	4.33	Excellent
A	85-89	3.95-4.30	Excellent
A-	80-84	3.70-3.90	Very Good
B+	76-79	3.30-3.60	Very Good
B	72-75	2.95-3.20	Good
B-	68-71	2.65-2.90	Good
C+	64-67	2.40-2.60	Satisfactory
C	60-63	2.00-2.30	Satisfactory
C-	55-59	1.50-1.90	Satisfactory
D	50-54	1.00-1.40	Marginal
F(Fail)	49 and below		Unsatisfactory

Course Policies:

Computer (and Wireless Device) Usage

The objective of this section is to ensure that the course code of conduct, accessibility, and high standards of academic integrity and professionalism are maintained. This course does not require the use of internet or email while you are in class, and creating a non-distracting environment is of the utmost concern. As such, the following outlines the laptop policy for this class:

The **only** legitimate use of a laptop computer in SOCI 371 is note taking, unless otherwise noted by the instructor:

1. Computer use in this class is only permitted to students who have an expressed need.
2. Permission is granted through meeting with the professor.
3. Students who receive permission to use a laptop in class must sit in the designated area.

Note: You may use your phone to record lectures, so long as they are for personal use only.

Cell Phone Bonus Grade:

In order to facilitate an environment that is conducive to learning, students will earn a bonus of up to 5% on their final grade for turning in their cell phones at the front of the class *before the beginning of class*. Late arrival means no bonus. The bonus grade is calculated at a rate of 0.25% for each non-film class in which you turn in your phone. This is a voluntary program and the student assumes all risk associated with participation.

Required Materials:

Most readings are in the course pack available in the bookstore. Recommended and missing readings are posted to Canvas.

Course Schedule:

Note: The course director reserves the right to change the weekly schedule. Students will be advised in advance, and a new outline will be issued.

Week 1: Introduction

3 January

Week 2: The Sociology of Order: Rationality & Rationalism

8 January

- Émile Durkheim. 1893. "The Division of Labor in Society." In Calhoun, 220-231.

10 January

- Max Weber. 1914. "The Types of Legitimate Domination." In Calhoun, 320-27.
- Max Weber. 1922. "Bureaucracy." In Calhoun, 328-338.

Week 3: The Sociology of Order II: Religion as Institutional Form and as Value

15 January

- Émile Durkheim. 1912. "The Elementary Forms of Religious Life." In Calhoun, 243-253.

17 January

- Max Weber. 1905. "The Spirit of Capitalism." In Calhoun, 291-309.

Week 4: The Sociology of Order III: The Normative Self/Sublimation of Self

22 January

- Georg Simmel. "The Metropolis and Mental Life." Posted to Canvas.
- Georg Simmel. "The Stranger." In Calhoun, 361-365.

24 January

- George Herbert Mead. "The Self." In Calhoun, 347-60.
- Sigmund Freud. 1929. "Civilization and its Discontents." In Calhoun, 398-403.

Week 5: The Sociology of Order III: Deviant and Pathological Forms of the Self/Anti-Essentialism and the Self

29 January

- Erving Goffman. 1963. "The Self and its Other." *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Pgs. 126-139. (Course Pack)
- Durkheim. 1897. "Suicide." In Calhoun, 255-264.

31 January

- Friedrich Nietzsche. 1887. "First Treatise" Aphorism 13 & "Second Treatise: 'Guilt', 'Bad Conscience', and Related Matters." Aphorisms 1-8.

- Recommended: Frantz Fanon. 1952. "The Lived Experience of the Black Man." *Black Skin, White Masks*. Richard Philcox, trans. New York: Grove Press. Pgs. 89-119. (Available on Canvas).

Week 6: The Sociology of Order IV: Race, Gender, & Being a Problem

5 February

- W.E.B. DuBois. 1903. "Of Our Spiritual Strivings." *The Souls of Black Folk*. In Calhoun, 404-409.
- W.E.B. DuBois. 1903. "Of Booker T. Washington and Others." *The Souls of Black Folk*. Pgs. Tbd. (Course Pack)

7 February

- Betty Friedan. 1963. "The Problem that Has No Name." *The Feminine Mystique*. Pgs. 1-22. (Course Pack)
- Ida B. Wells. "The Northern Negro Woman's Social and Moral Condition." (1910). *The Light of Truth: Writings of an Anti-Lynching Crusader*. Pgs. 432-437. (Course Pack)

Week 7: Marx I: Alienation, Ideology, & Capitalist Governance

12 February

- Marx. 1845. "The German Ideology." In Calhoun, 142-145.
- Marx. 1844. "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844." In Calhoun, 146-155.

14 February

- Marx. 1848. "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte." In Calhoun, 172-81.

Week 8: Marx II: Capital

26 February

- Marx. 1867. Chapter 26: "The Secret of Primitive Accumulation" and Chapter 27: "The Expropriation of the Agricultural Population from the Land." *Capital Vol. 1*. Pgs. 873-895. (Course Pack)

28 February

- Marx. 1867. "Wage Labour and Capital." In Calhoun, 182-189.
- Marx. 1867. "Classes." In Calhoun, 190-1.

Week 9: Hegemony

5 March

- Antonio Gramsci. "Hegemony, Relations of Force, Historical Bloc." *The Antonio Gramsci Reader*. Pgs. 189-221. (Course Pack)

7 March

- Rosa Luxemburg. 1918. "Malthus." *The Accumulation of Capital*. Pgs. 194-200. (Course Pack)

Week 10: Exporting Capitalism, Dissolving Liberalism: Imperialism

12/17 March

- Hannah Arendt. 1948. "The Political Emancipation of the Bourgeoisie." *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York: Harcourt. Pgs. 123-157. (Course Pack)
- Recommended: Hannah Arendt. 1948. "A Classless Society." *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Pgs. 305-340. (Available on Canvas)

Week 11: What is to be Done? The Colonized Speak Back

19 March

- Ida B. Wells. 1893. "The Reign of Mob Law" & "Lynch Law and the Color Line." In Ida B. Wells. *The Light of Truth: Writings of an Anti-Lynching Crusader*. Pgs. 118-122. (Course Pack)
- Claude McKay. 1919. "If We Must Die." (Available on Canvas).
- Martin Luther King, Jr. 1963. "Letter from Birmingham Jail." (Available on Canvas)
- Mao Tse Tong. 1964. "Classes and Class Struggle." *Little Red Book: Sayings of Chairman Mao*. Pgs 23-32. (Course Pack)

21 March

- Mahatma Gandhi. 1960. *My Non-Violence*. Pgs. 5-7, 18-21, & 54-55. (Course Pack)
- Frantz Fanon. 1963. "On Violence." *The Wretched of the Earth*. Pgs. 1-15, 52-62. (Course Pack)

Week 12: Critical Theory (aka "Cultural Marxism"): The Frankfurt School

26 March

- Walter Benjamin. 1936. "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction." In Calhoun, 441-458.

28 March

- Max Horkheimer & Theodor W. Adorno. 1944. "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception." In Calhoun, 465-477.

Week 13: Summary/Review

2/4 April

SOCI 371 Group Participation Evaluation Form

Name _____

Student Name	Attendance 10 marks	Contributions 10 marks	Active Listening 10 marks	Total 30 marks	Comments

Note: The average for the total column for all students combined cannot be higher than 25. Exceptions must be approved by the course instructor.

Evaluation Rubric

Attendance (Note: Poor attendance will affect other categories).

- Missed 0-1 discussions 10
- Attended all but two discussions 8
- Missed 3-4 discussions 6-7
- Missed 5 or more discussions 0

Contributions

- Excellent: Always contributes with references to text and course materials, stays on topic 9
- Very Good: Regular contributions with readings done most of the time, stays on topic 8
- Good: Contributes sometimes, makes occasional reference to readings, might stray 7
- Satisfactory: Occasional contributions, some reference to readings, might stray 6
- Poor: Rarely contributes, never references readings, strays from topic 0-5

Active Listening

- Excellent: Listens and responds to peers, integrates ideas, does not dominate group 8-9
- Good: Might get distracted on occasion, might dominate at times, but generally good 7
- Fair: Disregards ideas from others, might be distracted or uninterested, might dominate 5-6
- Poor: Does not allow space for others to talk or very uninterested, too cool for school 0-5