

SOC 203H1S
HISTORY OF SOCIAL THEORY II
Inequality & Authority
Summer 2012

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Session: Summer 2012 (Code: SOC 203H1S)
TIME: Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8pm
LOCATION: SS 2117 (Sidney Smith Hall), 100 St. George Street

Course Website: <http://portal.utoronto.ca>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sociological theory provides a toolkit of ideas that will allow you to apply and expand your own ‘sociological imagination’. Sociological theories render the world understandable. In this course we will explore the internal logic of a theory and examine how it applies to real social processes and historical context. We focus on the perspectives of Karl Marx, Antonio Gramsci, Max Weber, Georges Simmel, and Emile Durkheim – exploring two central themes ‘inequality’ and ‘authority’. Along with the careful reading of primary texts and the critical analysis of the assumptions (concepts, logic and arguments) of the classical thinkers students will have the opportunity to engage critically with course material to further their sociological insight and understanding.

***NOTE PRE-REQUISITES:** To be able to enroll in this course you have to have completed **SOC101Y** OR BOTH **SOC102H** AND **SOC103H**, students without this pre-requisite can be renounced at any time.

EVALUATION:

The evaluation is made up of 1) a weekly reading responses 2) two position papers and 3) a final test. Requirements for the reading responses and the position paper are on page 3-4 of the course syllabus.

	DUE DATE/TEST	% OF FINAL GRADE
READING RESPONSE	One Response Each Week	10%
POSITION PAPER #1	Wed. July 23, 2012	25%
POSITION PAPER #2	Wed. Aug. 1st, 2012	25%
FINAL TEST	Mon. Aug 13, 2012	40%

A) CONTACT

E-MAIL AND OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours are held in room 225 in the sociology department (725 Spadina Ave).

The instructor and both teaching assistants are available for contact through e-mail and office hours. Since your TA will be marking your paper, please direct all related questions to him/her.

	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>
AGATA PIĘKOSZ	a.piekosz@utoronto.ca	Mondays 3:30-5:30pm
TA #1 (For students with last names from A-L)		
TA #2 (For students with last names from M-Z)		

B) READING

1. REQUIRED READING:

You will be required to read passages / excerpts from the work of classical theorists in sociology. Reading the text might be difficult at first, but the lecture will supplement your understanding of the theorist's position and logic. Primary reading of sociological text often seems outdated, but you will be required to explore / understand the themes of the reading more so than know / understand every word that is written. To make things easier, the length of the readings has been limited to 10 – 15 pages each. Please read the text before each lecture so that we may explore / understand the themes more closely in class.

2. COURSE READER:

The course package includes all of the necessary readings for the class. The course pack is available at the Canadian Scholars' Press (180 Bloor Street West, Suite 801). I realize that because most of the 'old' thinkers in sociological theory are long gone (dead), and their copyrights are expired you might find some of the readings online. But, I have carefully selected excerpts from their work and put them into your reading package. It is advisable, therefore, that you purchase the reading package and use it as your study guide, as well as for the purpose of your reading responses and position papers.

C) TO DO

1. READING RESPONSES (ONE RESPONSE ONCE A WEEK):

One reading response is required each week at the start of lecture, handed in either on Monday or Wednesday with YOUR NAME and DATE at the TOP of the PAGE. The reading responses should focus on an idea, a theme, or a topic, covered in the readings or in class lecture. The reading response is to be handed in at the start of class, and should be no longer than ONE PAGE (maximum) (double spaced, no bibliography required). The reading responses will be a very useful study tool for students to review in preparation for the final test.

2. POSITION PAPERS (TWO POSITION PAPERS):

Position papers are an opportunity for you to become the theorist. You will write a position paper for both themes –‘inequality’ and ‘authority’. The papers involve taking a position on one of the many issues / theorists discussed in class and the readings. Suggested themes for the position papers will be provided during lectures (this is why it is important to come to class). Papers should be no more than 3 pages, double-spaced (not including the bibliography).

There are specific grading criteria for the position papers. The main task of the position paper is to state a clear, concise, and creative argument. Your ‘position’ should read like a ‘red thread’ through the length of your paper, guiding the reader through your interpretation of the topic and question. Your paper must be structured as follows...

- A. INTRODUCTION: That states the question you are addressing, why it is significant, and your answer to this question.
- B. EXPOSITION: In a brief and concise way you will put forth your ideas with examples and insights.
- C. ANALYSIS: In a logical manner you will analyze your position, your views, and the examples, on the question(s) you are addressing.
- D. CONCLUSION: You will re-state your main argument and summarize the points you have made.

3. FINAL TEST (ONE FINAL TEST):

The final test is designed to test your overall grasp of all of the theories discussed throughout the course. It will be cumulative. It will cover all of the lecture and reading material and will involve a combination of multiple choice and true and false questions. The final lecture will serve partially as a review session to help students prepare for the test.

D) POLICIES / LATE PAPERS / MISSED TEST

1. HANDING IN PAPERS:

Please bring a **HARDCOPY** of your paper to lecture **ON THE DUE DATE**. As well, you should submit your paper electronically to www.turnitin.com. More information on turnitin.com will be provided at a later time.

2. MISSED TEST/LATE PAPERS:

Any student who misses the test or fails to hand in a paper on time must contact their TA **WITHIN THREE (3) DAYS**. Students must also have either a U of T student medical certificate (available on your college registrar's website), or a note directly from your college registrar. The make-up test will be written roughly a week after the missed test. Late papers without documentation will not be accepted after the due date.

3. RE-GRADING POLICY:

There are a series of steps to consider before you contact your TA or your professor for a re-grade...

- 1) Take 24 hours to think it over. Read over the comments and think of any reasons why the grade doesn't reflect the quality of the work.
- 2) After 24 hours, contact your TA to arrange a meeting. When you meet, ask your TA for further explanation of your grade and how you could improve on the next paper.
- 3) If you are still not satisfied with your grade after meeting with your TA, you have the option of requesting a full re-grade. To do this, bring a fresh copy of your paper into lecture and it will be given to another TA for re-grading. The second TA will not see your original grade, and the new grade you receive will be final (whether it is higher or lower than your original grade).

4. PLAGIARISM:

Cheating and misrepresentation will, not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices accepted by teachers in high school may prove unacceptable at university. Know where you stand by reading the "Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

LECTURE SCHEDULE & READING LIST

UNIT 1: INEQUALITY

Lecture 1: WED. JULY 4: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Topics:

- a. *Course Expectations and Deadlines*
- b. *Introduction (re-introduction) to classical theory, exploring the reasons behind why we study classical thinkers and how inequality and authority can be found in ideas, individuals, communities, societies, and social processes.*

Lecture 2: MON. JULY 9: WHAT IS INEQUALITY?

***Reading Karl Marx: ‘The Communist Manifesto’**

Lecture Topics:

- a. *The prevalence of inequality in society.*
- b. *Inequality and class struggle: Socialism and Capitalism*
- c. *Inequality and the search for emancipation: social class, class structure, and change.*

Lecture 3: WED. JULY 11: THE DIVISION OF LABOUR

***Reading Emile Durkheim: ‘The Division of Labour in Society’**

Lecture Topics:

- a. *Merits and rewards: explaining ‘natural inequality’*
- b. *The division of labour and happiness.*
- c. *The forced division of labour and anomie.*

Lecture 4: MON. JULY 16: THE VALUE OF INEQUALITY

***Reading Max Weber: ‘Class, Status, and Party’**

Lecture Topics:

- a. *Inequality and the possession of power, the role of ideology.*
- b. *The dimension of: class (class power), status (social power), ‘party’ (political power)*
- c. *How ‘values’ are connected to power, and the maintenance of power.*

Lecture 5: WED. JULY 18: THE PHILOSOPHY OF MONEY

***Reading Georg Simmel: ‘The Philosophy of Money’**

Lecture Topics:

- a. *Economic exchange and social interaction.*
- b. *The manipulation of money between social actors.*
- c. *Voluntary association, rational, and social differentiation.*

UNIT 2: AUTHORITY

Lecture 6: MON. JULY 23: WHAT IS HEGEMONY?

POSITION PAPER #1 DUE

***Reading Antonio Gramsci: Selections from ‘Problems of History and Culture’ ‘State and Social Civility’ and ‘Notes on Politics’**

Lecture Topics:

- a. *Insights on the topic of dominance and power.*
- b. *Social class and the manipulation of values and the worldview.*
- c. *Politics and the dominant class, examples of hegemony in the 20th century.*

Lecture 7: WED. JULY 25: WEBER ON TYPES OF LEGITIMATE RULE

***Reading Max Weber: ‘The Three Types of Legitimate Rule’**

Lecture Topics:

- a. *Traditional authority.*
- b. *Charismatic authority.*
- c. *Legal-rational authority.*

LECTURE 8: MON. JULY 30: DURKHEIM ON MORAL AUTHORITY

***Reading Emile Durkheim: ‘Elementary Forms of Religious Life’**

Lecture Topics:

- a. *The role of religion in society in relation to moral authority/religious hegemony.*
- b. *Religious authority and charismatic, traditional, and rationalized systems.*
- c. *The power of emotion, collective effervescence, and social control.*

LECTURE 9: WED. AUG. 1: SIMMEL ON AGENCY AND AUTONOMY

***Reading George Simmel: ‘The Stranger’**

Lecture Topics:

- a. *Social distance and the role of the stranger.*
- b. *Agency and autonomy: the outsider’s perspective.*
- c. *Freedom from ‘inequality’ and ‘authority’?*

LECTURE 10: MON. AUG. 6: HOLIDAY

(NO CLASS/NO READINGS: WORKING ON POSITION PAPERS FOR NEXT CLASS)

Lecture 11: WED. AUG. 8: PAPER #2 DUE: TEST REVIEW

POSITION PAPER #2 DUE

Lecture Topics:

- a. *Review of course material and theoretical concepts.*
- b. *Preparation for the final test, detailed review of expectations.*

LECTURE 12: MON. AUG 13: FINAL TEST (IN-CLASS)