

Instructor: Joseph M. Bryant  
Office: Department of Sociology, 725 Spadina, Rm. 346

Email: joseph.bryant@utoronto.ca  
Phone: 946-5901 (I rarely access)

Class Location: Wilson Hall-New College WI 1017

Time: Tuesdays, 18.00 – 21:00

*The historical investigation of the development of a science is most needful, lest the principles treasured up in it become a system of half-understood precepts, or worse, a system of prejudices. Historical investigation not only promotes the understanding of that which now is, but also brings new possibilities before us by showing that what now exists is in great measure conventional and accidental.* Ernst Mach

\*\* The prerequisite to take SOC201H is completion of SOC101Y1, or SOC102H1 + SOC103H1, or SOC100H1 + SOC150H1

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Introduction to the history, nature, and role of sociological theory, through an examination of the works of key classical theorists such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, Georg Simmel, George Herbert Mead, Karl Mannheim, and others.

**COURSE SYNOPSIS:**

The main focus of this course will be directed towards exploring and understanding the development of Sociological Theories in the so-called “Classical” Phase, when the foundations of the emerging discipline of Sociology were initially established: in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Knowledge of those theoretical “points of departure” is essential for comprehending subsequent theoretical developments in Sociology, for the “classics” continue to provide not only many of the basic orienting assumptions for sociological research, but also much of conceptual terminology presently being utilized in explicating social worlds and their transformations over time. As we shall attempt to establish, all forms of theoretical knowledge are in varying degrees “conditioned” by the social and historical contexts in which they originated, as well as “informed” by the inherited thought-traditions to which they respond, constructively and critically. Sociological Theory, in short, has a History, ... and that history is also sociological.

**TEXTS:** Selected Readings to be placed on Blackboard

**REQUIREMENTS and GRADING:**

- one short Research Essay, approximately 12 to 1500 words in length (30%);
- two In-class Tests, to be pace scheduled (60%);
- one short Critical Reflection Commentary (10%)
- & Class Participation (for outstanding contributions, bonus maximum 3%)

**Academic Integrity** is fundamental to learning at UofT. Familiarize yourself with the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*, at (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) . It is the University rule book for academic behaviour, and you are expected to know the rules.

**Plagiarism Policy:** Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to *Turnitin.com*, for the detection of possible plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such papers. You are advised to consult the Rules and Regulations section of the UofT Annual Calendar regarding this matter. Assignments not submitted through *Turnitin* will receive a grade of zero (0 %) **unless a student instead provides, along with their position paper**, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via *Turnitin*) is in place because, strictly speaking, using *Turnitin* is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

**Email policy:** Owing to the large number of suspect/junk mailings I receive, I do not favor using this medium for class communication, other than for emergencies. My email address and home phone number are in the public domain, but my preference is for you to contact me in class for all course-related matters. *NOTE:* The TAs should be contacted first regarding all routine course matters.

**Missed Tests:** Owing to the large enrolment, no “make-up” tests will be offered. For students with officially legitimate reasons and documentable proof for absences on test days, the policy will be to apply the score on the following test for the one legitimately missed.

**Policy on Extension Requests:** Extensions for completing course assignments can only be given in accordance with university rules, which are limited to medical situations or family emergencies. Documentation will be required to establish compliance. *NOTE:* Late papers without such documentation will not be accepted, and scored as ‘0’ pts.

### **DOCUMENTATION FROM YOUR PHYSICIAN OR COLLEGE REGISTRAR**

If you miss a test or a paper deadline, **do not** contact the instructor or a TA prior to completing the steps described here. In case of **illness**, you must supply a duly completed **Verification of Student Illness or Injury** form (available at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). A doctor’s note is not acceptable. **The form must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted with your work** at class or to your TA during their office hours. If a **personal or family crisis** prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). **The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted with your work** at class or to your TA during their office hours.

**Accessibility Services:** If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

### **WRITING ASSISTANCE**

Students can find information about college writing centres at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. It is recommended that you **book appointments well in advance**, as the Writing Centres are commonly very busy. See also the website Writing at the University of Toronto at [www.writing.utoronto.ca](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca). For numerous practical advice files, see [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice).

Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>. There is also Reading eWriting, an online program that helps students engage course readings more effectively.

## **SPRING TERM**

### **1. Jan. 9      *Introduction: From Social Philosophy to Sociological Theory***

Readings: Vilfredo Pareto, “What is Sociology?,” from *The Mind and Society* (1 pg);  
J.M. Bryant, “Sociological Theory, Part One: Getting One’s Bearings” (10 pgs)

2. Jan 16      ***What is Theory?***

Reading: J.M. Bryant, "Sociological Theory, Part Two: Theories of Structure and Agency" (29 pgs)

3. Jan 23      ***Karl Marx and the Materialist Conception of History***

Readings: Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, *The German Ideology* (excerpts, 5 pgs); *The Communist Manifesto*, Chapter I (10 pgs)

4. Jan 30      ***Karl Marx and the Materialist Conception of History (cont.)***

Reading: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume One*: Part VIII: Primitive Accumulation (abridged)  
**Tutorial Session** (after lecture): Review in Preparation of Test # 1

5. Feb 6      ***Max Weber: Historical-Comparative Sociology: States and Economies***

Readings: Max Weber, Excerpts on Method, Power, Bureaucracy  
\*\*\* **Test # 1** \*\*\* [ covering readings and lectures from weeks 1-4 ]

6. Feb 13      ***Max Weber: Historical-Comparative Sociology: Religions***

Reading: Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (abridged and annotated, 35 pages)  
\*\* **Essay Assignment provided** \*\*

\*\*\* February 19-23                      READING WEEK

*"Theory is only one moment of elucidation, and always lacunary and fragmentary."*

Cornelius Castoriadis, *Crossroads in the Labyrinth*

7. Feb 27      ***Emile Durkheim: On Sociological Method, as illustrated by Suicide***

Readings: Emile Durkheim, Selected Excerpts

8. Mar 6      ***Emile Durkheim: Division of Labour & Sociology of Religion***

Readings: Emile Durkheim, Selected Excerpts

9. Mar 13     ***Georg Simmel: Formal Sociology***

Readings: Simmel, “The Stranger” (3 pgs); Selected Excerpts  
***Tutorial Session*** (after lecture): Review in Preparation of Test # 2

10. Mar 20     ***George Herbert Mead: Minds, Selves, and Societies***

Readings: Mead, Selected Excerpts  
\*\*\* ***Test # 2*** \*\*\* [ covering readings and lectures from weeks 5-10 ]

11. Mar 27     ***George Herbert Mead: Minds, Selves, and Societies (cont.)***

Readings: Mead, Selected Excerpts  
\*\*\* **ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE** \*\*\*

12. Apr 3     ***Karl Mannheim and the Sociology of Knowledge***

Reading: Mannheim, from *Ideology and Utopia*, Chapter V:  
“The Sociology of Knowledge”, pp.264-311 (23 pgs on Blackboard).  
\*\*\* ***Critical Reflection Commentary*** \*\*\* [Blackboard submission due in 48 hrs]

\*

*“But all science would be superfluous if the outward appearance and the essence of things directly coincided.”* Karl Marx, *Capital* Vol. III

*“Everything that can be thought at all can be thought clearly.  
Everything that can be said can be said clearly.”*  
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*