

University of Toronto
Department of Sociology
SOC6001F - CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (Fall 2020)
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Instead of trying to provide a general overview of classical sociological theory, this course will focus on some of the so-called "founding fathers" of the discipline. Among our main goals are ensuring familiarity with some of these thinkers' better-known writings; examining the interplay between history and sociological theory; and identifying some of the more important problems these thinkers were grappling with, whom they were arguing against, and what answers they proposed. Both individually and collectively, the success of this seminar will depend on adequate preparation and active participation.

COURSE READINGS

Durkheim, Emile

The Division of Labor in Society (1893)

The Rules of Sociological Method (1895)

Suicide (1897)

Gerth, H.H. and Mills, C. Wright (eds.)

From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology (New York: Oxford University Press, 1946 [ca. 1906-1918]).

Simmel, Georg

"The Metropolis and Mental Life" (1903)

"The Stranger" (1908)

"The Web of Group Affiliations" (1908)

Tocqueville, Alexis de

Democracy in America (1835-40).

Tucker, Robert C. (ed.)

The Marx-Engels Reader (second edition), (New York: Norton, 1978 [ca. 1844-1884]).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Six position papers
- A scheduled presentation
- A summary of another student's presentation
- A term paper

EVALUATION

Doing all of the following will result in a final grade of A- for this course:

- submitting 6 position papers
- giving a scheduled presentation
- giving a summary
- submitting a competent term paper

Doing any one of the following will result in a final grade below A- for this course:

- submitting fewer than 6 position papers
- never giving a presentation
- never giving a summary
- not submitting a term paper that is competent

Beyond the basic requirements, the following will raise a final grade for this course:

- excellent term paper → final grade of A
- outstanding (i.e., publishable) term paper → final grade of A+

REQUIREMENTS: DETAILS AND GUIDELINES

1. Six position papers

To ensure breadth and to avoid omission, Tocqueville, Marx/Engels, Durkheim and Weber must each be the subject of at least one of the six position papers submitted.

Position papers are not supposed to summarize the week's readings. Instead, in 1½ to 2 typed, single-spaced pages, a position paper should make an argument. In a concise and creative fashion, a position paper should draw connections with other issues or theoretical approaches; and raise problems that should be part of the seminar discussion.

Position papers will be returned with comments from the instructor, but will not be individually graded.

They are due at the beginning of the class that deals with the corresponding reading. Late position papers will not be accepted, so assignments for other courses should be taken into account when planning work for this seminar. Make two copies of each position paper, one to submit and the other to refer to during the seminar. Be prepared to present the main points of your position paper during the discussion.

Further guidelines for position papers:

- avoid summarizing: assume your reader is familiar with the work in question
- cut to the chase: state your main argument by the end of the first paragraph (also, consider stating your main question at the beginning)
- strive for originality, even in a small way: avoid repeating arguments made by others
- do not disdain “mere” comparison or adjudication between thinkers, theories or arguments for this is a proven path to new insight
- try to introduce a theme not emphasized or made explicit by the thinker(s) in question but potentially worth pursuing in the context of a given problem
- engage: no matter the approach taken, a position paper should provide evidence of close scrutiny of the texts

2. One presentation

Present the main argument contained in your position paper. Please refer to point-form notes, not a prepared text; and please do not read from a computer screen. A sign-up sheet will be distributed at the first class.

3. One on-the-spot summary of another student’s presentation

Without embellishment, correction or commentary, repeat in succinct fashion the main points of the presentation given by another student. The purposes of this exercise are: (1) letting a presenter know whether they have communicated effectively; and (2) ensuring a shared understanding of the presentation prior to discussion.

4. Term paper

The final requirement is a term paper (length 20-25 pages, topic to be cleared first with the instructor). The due date is Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Please submit a hard copy AS WELL AS BY TURNITIN by 4 p.m. on the due date. No extensions will be given except for legitimate, documented reasons beyond a student’s control.

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Course materials prepared by the instructor are considered by the University to be an instructor’s intellectual property covered by the Copyright Act, RSC 1985, c C-42. These materials are made available to you for your own study purposes, and cannot be shared outside of the class or “published” in any way. Lectures, whether in person or online, cannot be recorded without the instructor’s permission. Posting course materials or any recordings you may make to other websites without the express permission of the instructor will constitute copyright infringement.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Copying, plagiarizing, falsifying medical certificates, or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be referred to the Dean's office for adjudication. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties. Students are expected to cite sources in all written work and presentations. See this link for tips for how to use sources well:

(<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>).

According to Section B.I.1.(e) of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters it is an offence "*to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.*"

By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the university's rules regarding academic conduct, as outlined in the Calendar. You are expected to be familiar with the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/code/the-code-of-behaviour-on-academic-matters>) and *Code of Student Conduct*

(<http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/codeofstudentconduct.htm>)

which spell out your rights, your duties and provide all the details on grading regulations and academic offences at the University of Toronto.

Note as well that under Section B.I.1.(e) of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters it is an offence "to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere."

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

It is the University of Toronto's goal to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. In creating such a community, the University aims to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Please see the University of Toronto Governing Council "Statement of Commitment Regarding Persons with Disabilities" at

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppnov012004.pdf>.

In working toward this goal, the University will strive to provide support for, and facilitate the accommodation of individuals with disabilities so that all may share the same level of access to opportunities, participate in the full range of activities that the University offers, and achieve their full potential as members of the University community. We take seriously our obligation to make this course as welcoming and accessible as feasible for students with diverse needs. We also understand that disabilities can change over time and will do our best to accommodate you.

Students seeking support must have an intake interview with a disability advisor to discuss their individual needs. In many instances it is easier to arrange certain accommodations with more advance notice, so we strongly encourage you to act as quickly as possible. To schedule a registration appointment with a disability advisor, please visit Accessibility Services at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>, call at 416-978-8060, or email at: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca. The office is located at 455 Spadina Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 400.

Additional student resources for distressed or emergency situations can be located at distressedstudent.utoronto.ca; Health & Wellness Centre, 416-978-8030, <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc>, or Student Crisis Response, 416-946-7111.

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated.

Additional information and reports on Equity and Diversity at the University of Toronto is available at <http://equity.hrandequity.utoronto.ca>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. September 16: Introduction

The relevance of classical sociological theory; course format and requirements; guidelines for reading, presenting and summarizing; advice on writing the position papers and the term paper.

2. September 23: Tocqueville

Skim *Democracy in America*, but study the following closely:

Volume 1. "Author's Introduction"; Part 1, chap. 3; Part 2, chaps. 4, 7, 9 & 10

Volume 2. Part 1, chaps. 1 to 7; Part 2, chaps. 1 to 8; Part 3, chaps. 19-26; Part 4, chap. 6.

3. September 30: Marx and Engels I

"Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" (pp. 66-81 only)

"Theses on Feuerbach" (pp. 143-145)

"The German Ideology," (pp. 146-200)

4. October 7: Marx and Engels II

"Wage Labour and Capital" (pp. 203-217)

Manifesto of the Communist Party (pp. 469-500)

"Critique of the Gotha Program" (pp. 525-541)

"On Imperialism in India" (pp. 653-664)

5. October 14: Marx and Engels III

The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte (pp. 594-617)

"The Civil War in France" (pp. 618-652)

The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State (pp. 734-59)

6. October 21: Durkheim I

Suicide

7. October 28: Durkheim II

The Rules of Sociological Method

8. November 4: Durkheim III

The Division of Labour in Society

9. November 18: Weber I

"Politics as a Vocation" (pp. 77-128)

"Science as a Vocation" (pp. 129-156)

"Class, Status, Party" (pp. 180-195)

10. November 25: Weber II

“Bureaucracy” (pp. 196-244)

“The Sociology of Charismatic Authority” (pp. 245-252)

“The Meaning of Discipline” (pp. 253-264)

11. December 2: Weber III

“The Protestant Sects and the Spirit of Capitalism” (pp. 302-322)

“Capitalism and Rural Society in Germany” (pp. 363-385)

“India: The Brahman and the Castes” (pp. 396-415)

12. December 9. Simmel

RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

Antoni, Carlo. *From History to Sociology: The Transition in German Historical Thinking* (London: Merlin, 1959).

Ashley, David, and David Michael Orenstein. *Sociological Theory: Classical Statements*. Boston: Pearson, 2005).

Bendix, Reinhard. *Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1962).

Giddens, Anthony. *Capitalism and modern social theory: An analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1971).

Go, Julian. "For a postcolonial sociology." *Theory & Society* 42 (2013): 25-55.

Hughes, H. Stuart. *Consciousness and Society: The Reorientation of European Social Thought 1890-1930* (New York: Vintage, 1977).

Lichtheim, George. *Marxism: An Historical and Critical Study* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1961).

Lukes, Stephen M. *Emile Durkheim: His Life and Work* (New York: Harper & Row, 1972).

Sydie, R.A. *Natural Women, Cultured Men: A Feminist Perspective on Sociological Theory* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1994).

Welch, Cheryl B. *The Cambridge Companion to Tocqueville* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006).

Zeitlin, Irving M. *Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory*, Seventh edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001).

Also: *Journal of Classical Sociology*.