

University of Toronto | Department of Sociology
Summer 2020
SOC201H1F- Classical Sociological Theory

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:10 p.m. – 9:00pm
Location: Quercus – BB Collaborate

Instructor: Cinthya Guzman

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Online Office Hours: Fridays 10:00 a.m.-11:00a.m. & 2:00p.m. -3:00 p.m. via BB Collaborate

Teaching Assistant: Sébastien Parker

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Online Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-11:00a.m. & 2:00p.m. -3:00 p.m. via BB Collaborate

Course Description

This course provides students with a foundation of classical theories in sociology. There are three objectives. The first is to demonstrate what theory is, and how it is important to sociology. The second is to help you read, make sense of, and use theory. The third is to explore ways in which modern sociology is shaped by the theoretical assumptions and preoccupations of its founders, and how historical circumstances set sociological agendas.

As you will come to learn, the classical sociological theorists tried to understand the impact of two great crises of modernity, the Industrial Revolution and the Democratic Revolution. In doing so, the theorists we will cover aimed to answer diverse questions like: what holds society together? What is the relationship between individuals and the communities? How does the physical and social world shape who we are? How do people and ideas shape society? What are the implications of increasing individualism and a division of labor on social relations, morality and governance? How does power shape social relations and action? These questions, and the theories offered by the classical sociological theorists to answer them, are still of great relevance today.

The course will be organized around three key themes that are raised in the classical works covered. The three themes will be: 1) Freedom, Community and the Public Good; 2) Power and Domination; 3) the Self and Society.

Course Objectives

The course is organized in a way that encourages students to build and develop skills focused around collaborative learning, critical reading, writing, and the formation of arguments. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate and discuss a number of approaches central to classical sociological theory.
- Identify and assess key classical theoretical concepts and arguments.
- Write analytically and critically about classical sociological theory.
- Make and support an academic argument through use of evidence.

Prerequisite:

The prerequisite for this course SOC101Y1, or a combination of SOC102H1+ SOC103H1, SOC102H1+ SOC150H1, SOC103H1+ SOC150H1, or SOC100H1+ SOC150H1. Students without one of these combinations will be removed from the class at any time discovered and without notice.

Accessibility needs:

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit: <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

Description of Evaluation Components

Evaluation Component	Grade Weight	Due Date
In 100 words	10%	Ongoing
Test 1	20%	May 19
Position Paper	20%	June 2
Applying Theory	25%	June 11
Final Exam	25%	June 18

Grading Descriptions and Late and Missed Test Policies

In 100 words (5 x through the term)

Worth 10% (2% each)

Students have to write a short piece (max. 100 words) on a key concept. The pieces need to be posted on the Discussion Board for 5 designated dates and for 5 designated theorists: May 7 (Durkheim), May 14 (Tocqueville), May 21 (Marx), May 28 (Weber), June 4 (Simmel).

The discussion board posts are meant to favor collaborative learning. In writing them, we will form a bank of key concepts that can help you better understand the material and extract key ideas. Please note, however, that copying another student's post and submitting it as your own will result in a 0 for this evaluative component.

Take home Test

Worth 20%

There will be a take-home test over the term that will cover content from lecture slides and readings from the first half of the course. Students will receive the questions 48 hours in advance.

Position Paper

Worth 20%

2-3 pages, (excluding references) in 12-point font, double-spaced.

Your task is to make an argument -- not to summarize. Your paper should focus on providing evidence to persuade the reader of the validity of a distinctive interpretation advanced by you.

Applying Theory

Worth 25%

2-3 pages, (excluding references) in 12-point font, double-spaced.

Students will write a position paper but, this time, they will be asked to advance an argument in relation to a contemporary issue.

Online Final Exam

Worth 25%

Students will have 2 hours and 50 minutes to complete this exam online. The exam will be cumulative. It will be a combination of short and long answer questions.

Handing in assignments: All assignments must be handed to the instructor electronically via Quercus. *The instructor and TA will NOT accept electronic copies of assignments via email.*

Deadlines: The assignments are due by class time (6:10 p.m.). Please refer to the Due Date stated on page 2 of the Syllabus. Late work will not be accepted without proper documentation (the Declaration of Absence on ACORN).

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

If you miss a test or a paper deadline, do not contact the instructor or a TA unless you have followed the steps described here.

In case of illness, you must supply a completed the Declaration of Absence on ACORN.

If you are registered with Accessibility Services, your counselor will need to send an email message on your behalf (a one-week extension being the norm).

Student Responsibilities and Expectations

This class is completely online. All lectures will be provided to students via Quercus' BB Collaborate function asynchronously, so you can download lectures at your convenience. They will be made available by the date listed in the syllabus. Office hours for the TA and myself will also be held online, also using BB collaborate.

Participation: Students are expected to participate actively by 1) completing assigned readings, 2) writing the assigned discussion posts, and 3) keeping up to date on course information posted on Quercus. In all activities, students are to be respectful of fellow classmates and teaching staff.

Email Policy: I will respond to your email within two business days (48 hours, except weekends and holidays). Emails that do not follow these guidelines will not receive a response: Your use of an official U of T address is required. Please include the course code (e.g. SOC201) in the subject line and your full name and student number in your message. Please do not send a repeat email (e.g., "did you get my email?").

In general, please treat emails as you would any other professional communication. You should be respectful in the way you address the instructor and the TA. Email is most suitable for questions that are clear, concise, and easily answerable; if you are confused about the course material or need to discuss a concept, I strongly encourage you to instead attend office hours or

make an appointment. Please read the syllabus carefully before asking a general question about the course.

HELP from your T.A.: Your T.A. will hold scheduled online office hours and respond to your emails within 48 hours. Please be judicious in your use of email. Use it only for questions that are brief and specific. Before sending a question by email, be sure to check the course outline to see if an answer is already available. Emails should not be seen as an alternative to doing the assigned reading or attending lectures.

Required Readings & Course Schedule

Required readings: All course readings are accessible electronically. Unless otherwise stated, course readings will be uploaded on Quercus under the Modules tab.

Course Schedule: Students are expected to complete all required readings prior to each online lecture.

Note: every attempt will be made to follow this schedule, but it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Introduction to Sociological Theory

The first lecture will be held live during class time at 6:10pm on May 5 via BB Collaborate. The rest of the lectures will be available for download on the day they are listed here. These will not be live, but rather available at your convenience to view. Three tutorials (see schedule) will be held live during class time at 6:10 p.m. to 7:00pm via BB Collaborate.

May 5. Live Lecture via BB Collaborate. Introduction to Classical Sociological Thought: What, Why, Who, and How?

Readings:

- Sica, A. (2020). Classical Sociological Theory. In The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Sociology (eds G. Ritzer and W.W. Murphy)

i) Freedom, Community and the Public Good

May 7. Durkheim I

Discussion Board Post 1 due

Excerpt Readings:

- The Rules of the Sociological Method
- The Division of Labor in Society

Live Tutorial at 6:10p.m: Reading theory

May 12. Durkheim II

Excerpt Readings:

- Suicide

- The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life

May 14. Tocqueville

Discussion Board Post 2 due

Excerpt Readings:

- Democracy in America

May 19. Take-home Test 1 due

Questions posted on Quercus on May 17 at 6:10 p.m.

ii) Power and Domination

May 21. Marx I

Discussion Board Post 3 due

Excerpt Readings:

- The German Ideology
- Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844

Live Tutorial at 6:10p.m: Writing Strong Position Papers

May 26. Marx II + Weber I

Excerpt Readings:

- Wage-Labor and Capital
- The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

May 28. Weber II

Discussion Board Post 4 due

Excerpt Readings:

- Types of Legitimate Domination
- Bureaucracy

iii) The Self and Society

June 2. Mead; W.E.B. Du Bois

Position Paper Due

Excerpt Readings:

- The Self (Mead)
- The Souls of Black Folks (Du Bois)

Live Tutorial at 6:10p.m: Theory Application Assignment

June 4. Simmel

Discussion Board Post 5 due

Excerpt Readings:

- The Stranger

- Group Expansion and the Development of Individuality

June 9. Gilman; Cooper

Readings:

- Women and Economics (Gilman)
- A Voice from the South (Cooper)

June 11. Applying Theory Assignment Due

June 18 Final Online Exam