

Sociological Theory I

Christopher Muller

Sociology 101

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM – 10:59 AM

Office hours: <http://sociology.berkeley.edu/faculty-office-hours>

Course website: <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1507895>

Of the social sciences, sociology is the most open about the ways it lets you study the social world and the ideas it lets you use to think about it. Sociologists watch people, talk to them, count them, and sometimes even get them to do things without them knowing it. With so many ways of doing sociology, it can be hard to know what holds the field together. One of the few things that all sociologists are required to do is to read texts by the field's founders in a Sociological Theory course like this.

Who are the founders? Different sociologists will tell you differently. But almost every classical theory course in sociology will require you to read Karl Marx, W. E. B. Du Bois, Max Weber, and Émile Durkheim.

Students have told me that they see the world completely differently after reading these authors. I find that I do better research when I am teaching this class. At a minimum, Marx, Du Bois, Weber, and Durkheim are worth reading because they were extremely astute observers of the social world. If you're going to read sociology, you may as well read some of the best stuff it has to offer. These texts promise that.

That said, reading Marx, Du Bois, Weber, and Durkheim can be hard. This is not your fault. The texts we'll read were written a long time ago. The sort of language they use is very different from the sort of language we use. Try not to be intimidated, especially in the first few weeks. If you're confused, you are not alone. In class, we'll spend a lot of time translating the texts into plainer English together. If we're successful, you'll begin doing this for yourself as you read.

Although this class is formally a lecture, I would like us to interact as much as possible. I hope you will grow comfortable interrupting me if you are confused or have a question. When I have taught this class in the past, we have had active discussions, even in a large lecture hall. Teaching this course over Zoom will be a new experience for me, but I hope the lectures will be just as interactive as they have been in the past. Discussions make lecture more interesting and engaging for everyone. I encourage you to join in.

In the final three weeks of class, we will turn to authors who have extended, modified, or synthesized the texts we'll read in the earlier weeks.

Slides

I will post the lecture slides on the bcourses website the night before class. I suggest that you print the slides, with four (2×2) slides on a page, double-sided. That way, you won't waste time in class jotting down what is on the slides. Take notes on what is being said about a given slide in the margins of your printout. Many students have told me that they have kept their annotated lecture slides and used them when they wrote papers for other sociology courses. If you cannot print the slides, you can take notes directly on the texts, since my slides will include page numbers. I will also number each slide, so you could take notes in a notebook, numbering your notes to correspond to the number of each slide.

Required books

There are three required books, all available at the Cal Student Bookstore. All other readings can be found in the Files folder on the bcourses website.

- Durkheim, Émile. 1966. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. New York: Free Press.
- Giddens, Anthony. 1972. *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tucker, Robert C., ed. 1978. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. New York: Norton.

Sections

In addition to attending lecture, you must register for one of the following ten sections:

Days	Time	Location	GSI
Monday and Wednesday	8:00 AM – 8:59 AM	174 Social Sciences	Audrey Augenbraum
Monday and Wednesday	9:00 AM – 9:59 AM	50 Social Sciences	Audrey Augenbraum
Monday and Wednesday	9:00 AM – 9:59 AM	Online	Nikkolette Lee
Monday and Wednesday	10:00 AM – 10:59 AM	7 Evans	Cathy Hu
Monday and Wednesday	11:00 AM – 11:59 AM	Online	Nikkolette Lee
Monday and Wednesday	11:00 AM – 11:59 AM	54 Social Sciences	Cathy Hu
Tuesday and Thursday	11:00 AM – 11:59 AM	134 Dwinelle	Hero Ashman
Tuesday and Thursday	12:00 PM – 12:59 PM	250 Dwinelle	Justin Germain
Tuesday and Thursday	2:00 PM – 2:59 PM	187 Dwinelle	Hero Ashman
Tuesday and Thursday	3:00 PM – 3:59 PM	50 Social Sciences	Justin Germain

Sections begin on Tuesday, September 7th. Section is mandatory. Your GSIs will take attendance. If there is still a waitlist on the 7th, we will determine enrollment partly based on your attendance in section that day. We strongly advise you not to try to

switch your section. If you must, you will need to find a person in the section you want to join who wants to join your section and email Seng Saelee at ssaelee@berkeley.edu. GSIs will announce their office hours in section on the 7th.

Assignments and grading

Your grade will be based on two memos, two exams, your participation in section, quotes from the reading you will submit before each class, and submitting a paper example for the Theory Writing Initiative.

Assignment	Value	Date
Memo 1	10%	Part 1 due September 14 at the beginning of class; Part 2 due September 23 at the beginning of class
Midterm exam	20%	October 21
Memo 2	10%	November 16, due at the beginning of class
Final exam	25%	December 14
Quotes	9.5%	Due by 4 PM the day before class
Paper example	0.5%	August 29, due by midnight
Section attendance and participation	25%	Consult with GSI

- Each memo will consist of 1,000 words you write at home in response to a prompt.
- The exams will consist of essays and short-answer questions about the reading material and lectures.
- By 4 PM the day before each class, you will submit a quote from the reading to the bcourses website. This quote should consist of a passage you believe is especially important or a passage that confused you and that you would like to discuss. You should include the page number the quote came from in parentheses directly after it. Your GSIs will use the quotes you submit to help organize your discussion in section. You will get .5 of a point for each quote just for submitting it. The first quote is due at 4 PM on August 30th. You do not need to submit a quote when there is no reading assigned for the next day's class. You only need to submit one quote per class, even if there are several different readings assigned that day. Because each quote is worth .5 of a point, and because there are 20 weeks of reading, you can miss one quote and still get the full 9.5 points. However, 9.5 points is the maximum grade you can get for submitting quotes. (You will not get 10 points for submitting all quotes.)
- By midnight on August 29th you will upload your most recent sociology paper. Members of the Theory Writing Initiative will assess these papers and invite students to join the Initiative based on their assessments. You will receive .5 of a point just for submitting this paper.
- Your GSI will assign you a grade based on your attendance and participation in section.

Should you fail to submit an exam or a paper, we will record 0% for that assignment. Please put the course assignment and exam dates in your calendar right away so that you don't forget. If you have questions about submitting work, ask your GSI well before it is due. We will not grant an extensions on the due date of the memos.

Email

Hero Ashman is the head GSI for the course. Please send all course-related questions to her. Before emailing Hero or your GSI with a question about the course, please first make sure that your question is not already answered here in the syllabus. Almost everything you need to know about the course can be found here. If you have longer questions about the course material, sign up for office hours at the link on the first page of this syllabus. For section questions, please consult your GSIs (hero.ashman@berkeley.edu; audrey.augenbraum@berkeley.edu; justin.germain@berkeley.edu; cathy_hu@berkeley.edu; nikkolette_lee@berkeley.edu).

Academic honesty

You must in no way misrepresent your work or be party to another student's failure to maintain academic integrity. If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, you should consult Berkeley's code of academic integrity:

<http://sa.berkeley.edu/student-code-of-conduct>. It is much better to hand in a bad paper, or not to hand in a paper at all, than to hand in a paper that is plagiarized or that does not otherwise reflect your own work. Written assignments must include a bibliography and follow proper citation practices. If you have questions about proper citation, please consult your GSI. The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be a grade of 0% on the assignment and reporting to Student Judicial Affairs.

Grievances

If you wish to contest a grade, you must first submit to your GSI a one-page statement explaining why you believe the grade is unfair. Only if you are still dissatisfied should you come to me. Before I will listen to your case, I will consult your GSI. I will not change your grade without first consulting your GSI. Please bear in mind that your grade could move upwards or downwards should I decide to re-grade your paper.

Accommodation

If you have an accommodation letter from the Disabled Students Program (DSP), please contact Hero (hero.ashman@berkeley.edu) in the next two weeks so that we can make early arrangements for these accommodations.

Mental health and wellness

All students—regardless of background or identity—may experience a range of issues that can become barriers to learning. These issues include, but are not limited to, strained relationships, anxiety, depression, alcohol and other drug problems, difficulties with concentration, sleep, and eating, and/or lack of motivation. Such mental health concerns can diminish both academic performance and the capacity to participate in daily activities. In the event that you need mental health support, or are concerned about a friend, UC Berkeley offers many services, such as free short-term counseling at University Health Services. An excellent campus website having links to many resources is: <http://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/>. Another campus website addressing mental health services in specific reference to this time of the coronavirus pandemic is: <https://uhs.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/student-mental-health>. Remember that seeking help is a good and courageous thing to do—both for yourself and for those who care about you.

August 26

Course Overview

August 31

Smith, Adam. 1776. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. New York: Modern Library. Pp. 6–18; 66–71; 225; 445–446.

September 2

Engels, Friedrich. 1845. “Working-Class Manchester.” Pp. 579–585 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1864. “Inaugural Address of the Working Men’s International Association.” Pp. 512–519 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1856. “Speech at the Anniversary of the *People’s Paper*.” Pp. 577–578 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Engels, Friedrich. 1883. “Speech at the Graveside of Karl Marx.” Pp. 681–682 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

September 7

Marx, Karl. 1859. "Marx on the History of His Opinions." Pp. 3–6 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1844. "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844." Pp. 70–81 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1846. "The German Ideology: Part I." Pp. 149–163; 172–175; 186–188 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

September 9

Marx, Karl. 1845. "Theses on Feuerbach." Pp. 143–145 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1848. "Manifesto of the Communist Party." Pp. 469–500 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1852. "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte." Pp. 594–603; 608 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

September 14

Film: Baichwal, Jennifer. 2006. *Manufactured Landscapes*.

September 16

Marx, Karl. 1867. "Capital, Volume I." Pp. 294–336 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

September 21

Marx, Karl. 1867. "Capital, Volume I." Pp. 336–384; 419–438 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

September 23

Film: Smith, Llewellyn. 2004. *Reconstruction: The Second Civil War*

September 28

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1935. *Black Reconstruction in America*. New York: Russell & Russell. Pp. 3–39; 670–710.

September 30

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1920. *Darkwater: Voices From Within the Veil*. Mineola, NY: Dover. Pp. 47–59.

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1933. “Marxism and the Negro Problem.” *The Crisis* 40:103–104, 118.

October 5

Weber, Max 1922. “Class, Status, Party.” Pp. 180–195 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

Weber, Max. 1919. “Politics as a Vocation.” Pp. 77–79 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

October 7

Weber, Max. “Basic Sociological Terms.” Pp. 3–26; 43–46 in *Economy and Society*, edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. Berkeley: University of California Press.

October 12

Weber, Max. 1904. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: Routledge. Pp. 35–92.

October 14

Weber, Max. 1904. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: Routledge. Pp. 95–183.

October 19

Midterm review

October 21

Midterm exam

October 26

Durkheim, Émile. "The Field of Sociology." Pp. 51–68 in *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*, edited by Anthony Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Durkheim, Émile. "Methods of Explanation and Analysis." Pp. 69–88 in *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*, edited by Anthony Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Durkheim, Émile. "Religion and Ritual." Pp. 219–222 in *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*, edited by Anthony Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

October 28

Durkheim, Émile. 1912. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York: Free Press. Pp. 1–18; 33–44; 207–235.

November 2

Durkheim, Émile. 1912. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. New York: Free Press. Pp. 41–53; 145–151; 169–170; 208–214.

November 4

Durkheim, Émile. 1912. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. New York: Free Press. Pp. 217–228; 234–239; 246, 258, 271, 299, 307–320.

November 9

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1903. *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York: Modern Library. Pp. 7–15.

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1920. *Darkwater: Voices From Within the Veil*. Mineola, NY: Dover. Pp. 17–29.

November 16

Wright, Erik Olin. 2009. "Understanding Class." *New Left Review* 60:101–116.

November 18

Weeks, Kathi. 2011. *The Problem With Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Pp. 37–77.

November 30

Morris, Aldon. 2015. *The Scholar Denied: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Pp. 149–167.

Fields, Karen E. 2002. “Individuality and the Intellectuals: An Imaginary Conversation Between W. E. B. Du Bois and Emile Durkheim.” *Theory and Society* 31:435–462.

December 2

Final review