

Professor: Dylan Riley
Course: 101 Classical Social Theory
Venue: Dwinelle 145
Semester: Fall 2016
E-mail: riley@berkeley.edu
Office Phone: 510-642-5225
Office: 490 Barrows

Graduate Student Instructors:

Isabel Garcia: isabel.garcia@berkeley.edu
Steve Lauterwasser: swlauterwasser@berkeley.edu
Fatinha Santos: fsantos@berkeley.edu
Mary Shi: mary.shi@berkeley.edu
Bill Welsh: wwelsh@berkeley.edu

This course introduces the classic works of social theory. By "classical social theory" I mean an explanation of the origins, internal dynamic, and fate of modern society. Hegel, Marx, Weber, and Durkheim reacting to industrialization and the rise of the nation-state all held modern societies to be sharply different from pre-modern ones. They further asked, "what were the causes and consequences of this distinctiveness"? In answering this question, each thinker develops a "theory of history" -- that is, a broad understanding of what set modern societies apart from the pre-modern ones, how modern societies came to be, and what they were likely to become in the future. In this class you will learn to understand, contrast, and evaluate these different accounts of social change. In the process you will develop a broad understanding of how some key figures understood the distinctive problems and possibilities of modernity.

Your grade is based on four pieces of work.

Quiz (multiple choice and short answer x2): 20%
Section participation including reading responses: 20%
Mid Term: 25%
Final: 35%

The readings are included in seven books that you need to purchase for the class. The books are:

Emile Durkheim *The Division of Labor in Society*. Translated by W.D. Halls. (Hereafter referred to as *DOL*).
Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religions Life*. Translated by Carol Cosman. (Hereafter referred to as *EFRL*).
Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *Reason in History*. Translated by Robert S. Hartman. (Hereafter referred to as *RH*).
Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*. Edited by Lawrence H. Simon. (Hereafter

referred to as *SW*).

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Translated by Stephen Kalberg. (Hereafter referred to as *PE*).

Max Weber, *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. (Hereafter referred to as *FMW*).

Max Weber, *Economy and Society Volume 1*. (Hereafter referred to as *ES*) Edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich.

Classical Social Theory

August 25

What is classical social theory? Why should one study it?

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831): Objective Idealism

August 30

Hegel, G.W.F. 1988 [c.1830]. *RH*. Pp. xx-xl, 3-67. What is "Spirit" and what are the means it uses to realize itself?

September 1

Hegel, G.W.F. 1988 [c.1830]. *RH*. Pp. 68-95. What is history?

Karl Marx (1818-1883): Historical Materialism

September 6

Marx, Karl. 1994 [1845]. "Theses on Feuerbach." Pp. 98-101 in *SW*. What is the connection between theory and practice?

September 8

Marx, Karl. 1994 [1845]. "The German Ideology." Pp. 103-156 in *SW*. What is the general mechanism of historical development?

September 13

Marx, Karl. 1994 [1848]. "The Communist Manifesto." Pp. 157-186 and "Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*." Pp. 209-213 in *SW*. What are the developmental tendencies of capitalism?

September 15

Marx, Karl. 1994. [1867]. "Capital Volume One (selections)." Pp. 214-264 in *SW*. Why are commodities exchangeable?

September 20

Marx, Karl. 1994. [1867]. "Capital Volume One (selections)." Pp. 264-294 in *SW*. What is surplus value?

September 22

Marx, Karl. 1994. [1867]. "Capital Volume One (selections)." Pp. 294–300 in *SW*.
What is primitive accumulation?

Émile Durkheim (1885-1917): Differentiation and Solidarity

September 27

Durkheim, Émile. 1984 [1893]. "Preface to the First Edition", "Introduction", "The Method of Determining this Function", and "Chapter II. Mechanic Solidarity, or Solidarity by Similarities" Pp. 3–7, Pp. 33–87. in *DOL*. What is Durkheim's puzzle? What is "mechanical solidarity?"

September 29

Durkheim, Émile. 1984 [1893]. "Chapter III. Solidarity Arising from the Division of Labor, or Organic Solidarity." Pp. 88–91, 96–103, 158–180 in *DOL*. What is "organic solidarity?"

October 4

Durkheim, Émile. "Chapter II. The Causes" Pp. 201–222 and 277–308 in *DOL*. What are the causes of the division of labor and what are its abnormal forms?

October 6

Durkheim, Émile. "Introduction: The Subject of Study Sociology of Religion and Theories of Knowledge" and "Preliminary Questions" Pp. 3–83 in *EFRL*. What is Durkheim's question and method of answering it?

October 11

Durkheim, Émile. "Book III. Principal Ritual Conduct." Pp. 221–343 in *EFRL*. New York: Free Press. What is the connection between religion and society? Summary of Durkheim.

October 13

Mid-Term

Max Weber (1864-1920): Rationalization and Charisma

October 18

Weber, Max. 1976 [1921]. "Science as a Vocation." Pp. 129-156 in *FMW*. What is science?

October 20

Weber, Max. 1976 [1921]. "Politics as a Vocation." Pp. 77-128 in *FMW*. What is politics?

October 25

Weber, Max. 2011 [1905]. Weber, Max. 2011 [1905]. "Part I: The Problem." and "Part I Chapter II: The 'Spirit' of Capitalism." Pp. 67-98 in *PE*. What is Weber's

question?

October 27

Weber, Max. 2011 [1905]. "Part I Chapter III: Luther's Conception of the Calling." and "Part II Chapter IV: The Religious Foundations of This-Worldly Asceticism." Pp. 99-138 in *PE*. What is the paradoxical connection between Calvinism and the Spirit of Capitalism?

November 1

Weber, Max 1976 [1905]. "Part II Chapter V: Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism." Pp. 158-179 in *PE*. What happens to the Spirit of Capitalism in capitalist society?

November 3

Weber, Max. 1978. "Chapter II. Sociological Categories of Economic Action." Pp. 63–85. What is economic action?

November 8

Weber, Max. 1978. "Chapter II. Sociological Categories of Economic Action." Pp. 85–107. What is formally rational economic action?

November 15

Weber, Max. 1978. "Chapter II. Sociological Categories of Economic Action." Pp. 107–113, 161–166. What is capitalism and what are its "substantive" preconditions?

April 17

Weber, Max. 1976 [1920]. "VIII. Bureaucracy." Pp. 196–204 in *FMW*. What is bureaucracy ?

November 22

Weber, Max. 1976 [1920]. "VIII. Bureaucracy." Pp. 204–244 in *FMW*. How does bureaucracy develop?

November 29

Weber, Max. 1976 [1920]. "Prefatory Remarks to Collected Essays in the Sociology of Religion." Pp. 233-250 in *PE*. What is rationalization?

December 1

Course Review

Final Exam: 11:30-2:30