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).


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, *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

**Karl Marx (1818-1883): Historical Materialism**

September 6

September 8
Marx, Karl. 1994 [1845]. "The German Ideology." Pp. 103-156 in *SW*. What is the general mechanism of historical development?

September 13

September 15

September 20

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

September 29

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

October 13
Mid-Term

Max Weber (1864-1920): Rationalization and Charisma

October 18

October 20

October 25
question?

October 27

November 1

November 3

November 8

November 15

April 17

November 22

November 29

December 1
Course Review

Final Exam: 11:30-2:30