

Marion Fourcade

Department of Sociology

UC Berkeley

fourcade@berkeley.eduOffice hours: Tuesdays 10:30-12:30pm in Barrows Hall 474. [Please sign up ahead of time.](#)**Soc 101. Classical Sociological Theory**

Fall 2018

Hearst Field Annex 1

T-Th 8-9:30am

This course offers an introduction to the construction of social theories through a survey and critical analysis of the foundational texts in sociology. We will explore the following questions: (1) What are the main themes and arguments developed in classical sociological theory? (2) How do they relate to the social and intellectual context in which these texts were produced? (3) How do these theories help us understand the world around us?

Rules:

-*Don't be intimidated by these texts.* The purpose of the course is to help you to understand the logic of social theories from within. By the end of it you'll feel like the theories are comfortable pairs of glasses that you can put on to look at the social world.

-*Read what has been assigned:* the amount of reading is limited so you can truly focus on the essentials.

-*Think analogically.* Don't dismiss these texts because they were written a 100+ years ago. A lot of what is being said here applies to the society you live in. We will constantly go back and forth between past and present.

-*Keep an open mind.* You'll learn a lot from these texts, and from our collective discussions about them. They will help you gain insight into the lives of others, and navigate the world around you better.

REQUIREMENTS

| Requirements | Value | Date due |
|-------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Memo #1 | 10% | September 23 |
| Midterm exam (in class) | 15% | October 23 |
| Memo #2 | 10% | November 18 |
| Section grade | 25% | See with GSI |
| Random in-class quizzes | 15% | throughout |
| Final exam | 25% | December 12, 3-6pm |

Should you fail to show up for an exam or turn in a paper for any other reason, I will record a 0% for that assignment. If you have any questions about submitting work, ask me or your section leader well before it is due. Note that no extensions will be granted on the memos.

Memos (prompts to be given later)

Memo #1-On alienation and exploitation. 1,200 words.

Memo #2-On collective effervescence. 1,200 words.

Mid-term and final exams

Both exams will be a mix of essay-type and short answer questions about the class material. These are closed-book tests, which means you cannot use notes or electronics (this policy includes cell phones and MP3 players).

Quizzes

There will be an undisclosed number of in-class quizzes (up to 5 questions each) during the semester. **You are required to purchase an i>clicker remote** from the Cal Student store or online at www.iClicker.com, and register it (see below). The i>clicker will be mandatory at every lecture after the first two weeks of classes. We will use it for spontaneous polling, quizzes and participation.

Note: The components of the so-called 'quiz grade' are as follows:

1 point for participating in the quiz, 1/3 point for each correct answer (maximum # of questions on one quiz is 6). Each quiz thus carries a maximum of 3 points. There will be about 7 quizzes in the semester. I will discard the two worst quizzes at the end of the semester, possibly more if we do more than 7 quizzes. Highest quiz grade is 15 points.

Attendance

Attendance to both sections and lectures is mandatory.

Important: I will take attendance at every class during the first two weeks of classes, and randomly afterwards. If you miss a class during the first two weeks without notifying me, you will be automatically dropped from the course on September 6.

Sections

Important: Anybody who is interested in taking this class has to enroll into a section. Sections will start on Monday, 9/27.

There are five GSIs for this course. Each of you must be registered both for the lecture course and for one of the 10 sections listed below.

| Section No. | Days of Week | Section Time | Room | |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| LECTURE | Tu/Th | 8:00 - 9:30am | Hearst Field Annex A1 | Marion Fourcade |
| 101 | Tu/Th | 10:00 - 11:00am | Evans 7 | Antonia Mardones-Marshall |
| 102 | Tu/Th | 11:00 - 12:00pm | Evans 39 | Antonia Mardones-Marshall |
| 103 | Tu/Th | 12:00 - 1:00pm | Evans 47 | Tom Trieu |
| 104 | Tu/Th | 1:00 - 2:00pm | Evans 47 | Tom Trieu |
| 105 | Tu/Th | 2:00 - 3:00pm | Evans 39 | Isaac Dalke |
| 106 | Tu/Th | 3:00 - 4:00pm | Evans 61 | Isaac Dalke |
| 107 | Mo/We | 8:00 - 9:00am | Barrows 80 | Tyler Leeds |
| 108 | Mo/We | 9:00 - 10:00am | Barrows 80 | Tyler Leeds |
| 109 | Mo/We | 10:00 - 11:00am | Evans 41 | Miranda Smith |
| 110 | Mo/We | 11:00 - 12:00pm | Evans 45 | Miranda Smith |

Email addresses are as follows:

Tom Trieu: thomas.trieu@berkeley.edu

Tyler Leeds: tyler_leeds@berkeley.edu

Miranda Smith: msmith13@berkeley.edu

Antonia Mardones-Marshall: mardones_antonia@berkeley.edu

Isaac Dalke: isaacdalke@berkeley.edu

COURSE MATERIAL

Six books are on order at the Cal Student Bookstore:

- Robert C. Tucker, ed. 1978. *The Marx-Engels Reader*, W. W. Norton. ISBN 039309040X.
- Emile Durkheim. 1997. *Suicide. A Study in Sociology*. New York: The Free Press. ISBN 0684836327
- Emile Durkheim. 2008. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. The Free Press (1995) ISBN 0029079365. *Alternate edition: Oxford Classics* ISBN 0199540128. I will use the Free Press edition. Copies of the main excerpts are included on the website and in the reader. The (cheap) Oxford edition is available from the campus bookstore. Table of contents indications for the Oxford edition are included in the syllabus.
- Max Weber. 2002. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Penguin. ISBN 0140439218.
- Anthony Giddens. 1972. *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. EAN 9780521097123.

- Marcel Mauss. 2000. *The Gift. The Form and Reason for Exchange in Archaic Societies*. W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 039332043X

All the other readings are available on the bCourse website and/or through the reader.

iclicker

You must purchase **iclicker**, either as an app or as a handheld remote. To download the app, go to <https://www.iclicker.com/students>, and create an account for this class. If you prefer to use a remote, you will be able to purchase it (new or used) from the bookstore. If using a remote, you need to make sure to register it on the iclicker website. **You must have your iclicker remote or app with you at every class.** You may be able to sell your remote back to the bookstore at the end of the semester.

Reader and online resources

A reader is available from **Copy Central, 2411 TELEGRAPH**. Note that all the required readings marked website/reader below, as well as many recommended readings, have also been uploaded on bCourses (under 'Files').

Course reserve

The documentaries will be available from the Media Resource Center.

Helpful textbooks

If you want to go further, I recommend the following textbooks:

- Raymond Aron. *Main Currents in Sociological Thought*. Transaction Publishers.
- Randall Collins. *Four Sociological Traditions*. Oxford University Press.
- Lewis Coser. *Masters of Sociological Thought*. Waveland Press.
- Anthony Giddens. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge University Press.
- Warren Schmaus. *Rethinking Durkheim and His Tradition*. Cambridge University Press

bCourse

bCourse will be our main communication and grading tool during this class. Also use it to access readings, if necessary.

Academic honesty

You must in no way misrepresent your work or be party to another student's failure to maintain academic integrity. It is your responsibility to check the code of academic integrity at <http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/conduct.pdf>. The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be an F grade for the course. Written assignments must include complete bibliographies and follow proper citation practices (including page numbers for direct quotes from scholarly texts).

Grievances

If you wish to contest a grade, you must come first to your section leader and submit him/her a one-page statement explaining why you think the grading is unfair. Only if you are still dissatisfied should you come to me. Before I will listen to your case, however, I will first want to hear from your GSI. I will not change any grade without first discussing it with him/her. Please bear in mind that your grade may move upwards or downwards should I decide to re-grade your paper.

Grading scheme

You will accumulate points throughout the semester. The total # of points for all assignments is 100. Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

| | | | |
|----|-------|----|-------|
| A+ | >96% | C+ | 77-79 |
| A | 93-96 | C | 73-76 |
| A- | 90-92 | C- | 70-72 |
| B+ | 87-89 | D | 60-69 |
| B | 83-86 | F | <60 |
| B- | 80-82 | | |

Enrollment

This is a required course for sociology majors. Students are admitted in the following order of priority:

- Declared sociology majors with senior standing (7+ terms in attendance)
- Declared sociology majors with junior standing (5–6 terms in attendance)
- If you fit into one of the categories below, Cal Central will force you onto the waitlist.

Students on the waitlist will be admitted in the following order of priority:

- (1) Intended majors with senior standing
- (2) Intended majors with junior standing
- (3) Declared majors with sophomore standing
- (4) Non-intended and non-declared sociology majors

If you are eligible to declare, doing so will increase your chances of getting into the course. Your chances of getting into the course will be increased if you enroll in a discussion section, even if it is not your first choice, rather than join the waitlist for your preferred section. Sociology 101 will be offered again next spring.

Please note that if you miss lecture and/or section during the first two weeks of classes, you will be automatically dropped from the course.

Accommodations

If you have an accommodation letter from the Disabled Students Program (DSP), please contact me or sign up for office hours in the next two weeks so that we can make early arrangements for these accommodations.

August 23. Course Introduction and Overview. What is social theory?

No required reading

Recommended: (all on website)

C. Wright Mills. *The Sociological Imagination*. Oxford University Press 2000. Pp1-13.

Stefan Bargheer. 2014. 'The Use(fullness) of Theory.' *Perspectives. A Newsletter of the Theory Section*. Fall.

Kieran Healy. 2017. 'Fuck Nuance.' *Sociological Theory*. 35(2) 118–127.

August 28. ADAM SMITH (1723-1790), SELF INTEREST, AND THE DIVISION OF LABOR

Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, Bantam Classic 2003. Pp9-26; 91-99; 572 (paragraph on the "invisible hand"); 987 "In the progress..."-994. (Website/Reader)

Recommended:

Robert Heilbroner, 'The Wonderful World of Adam Smith.' Pp42-74 in *The Worldly Philosophers*. Simon and Schuster.

KARL MARX (1818-1883) AND FRIEDRICH ENGELS (1820-1895)

August 30. Introduction to Marx & Engels: Biography & Method.

From Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*:

Engels, 'Working Class Manchester', Pp579-85

Engels, 'Speech at the Graveside of Karl Marx', Pp681-2.

Marx, 'Marx on the History of His Opinions.' (or Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*) Pp3-6.

Marx, *Theses on Feuerbach* Pp. 143-145.

Recommended:

Robert Heilbroner, 'The Inexorable System of Karl Marx.' Pp136-170 in *The Worldly Philosophers*. Simon and Schuster.

September 4. Alienation

From Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*:

Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844, Pp70-81.

Excerpt from Charlie Chaplin, *Modern Times*, 2:50-10:15.

September 6. Classes and Class Struggle.

From Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*:

German Ideology, p. 176-179

Manifesto of the Communist Party, pp. 473-483, 499-500

18th Brumaire of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, p608.

Recommended: *18th Brumaire* Pp594-617.

September 11. Ideology and Revolution.

From Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*:

Re-Read Pp3-6; add p54.

German Ideology, 172-175; 186-188; 192-193 (from 'Finally'... to 'society anew').

Recommended: *German Ideology*, Pp149-163.

September 13. The Dynamics of Capitalism.

From Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*:

Marx, *Capital*, Vol. I., Pp. 302-308; 319-336; 361-364; 376-384; 419-428.

Marx, *Capital*, Vol. III, 439-441.

Recommended:

Marx, *Wage Labor and Capital*, pp. 203-217

Duncan Foley. 1986. *Understanding Capital: Marx's Economic Theory*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Stuart Jeffries. 2012. "Why Marxism is on the Rise Again." *The Guardian*, July 4.

September 18. Movie. Conclusion on Marx and Engels.

Mac McClelland. "A Visit to the Warehouse of Soul-Crushing Sadness." *Mother Jones*. July 12, 2011. (Website/Reader)

Documentary excerpts: Michael Moore, *Roger and Me* (1989): This documentary portrays the impact of delocalization on the city of Flint, Michigan, as General Motors closes plants and eliminates thousand of jobs across the region.

Recommended:

Charles Ferguson, *The Inside Job* (2010). This documentary describes the unfolding of the 2008 financial crisis.

Jennifer Baichwal, *Manufactured Landscapes* (2006).

BEYOND CLASSES

September 20. RACE. W.E.B. DU BOIS (1868-1963).

W. E. B. Du Bois, 1935. *Black Reconstruction in America*. New York: Russell & Russell. Pp.3-39, 670-710. (Website/Reader)

Memo #1 due at 11:59 on September 23. No late memos accepted.

September 25. GENDER. FRIEDRICH ENGELS (1820-1895).

From Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*:

Friedrich Engels, 'The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State'. Pp734-741.

Recommended:

John Stuart Mill. 'The subjection of women' (1869), Pp1-16.

Adam Gopnik, 'The passions of John Stuart Mill,' *New Yorker* October 6, 2008.

September 27. STATUS GROUPS. MAX WEBER (1864-1920).

Max Weber, 'Classes, Status Groups and Parties.' Pp43-56 in Runciman, ed. *Weber. Selections in Translation*. (Website/Reader)

Also in this class: Introduction to Max Weber. Biography.

MAX WEBER (1864-1920).

October 2. Weber. Main concepts.

Weber, 'The Nature of Social Action.' Pp7-32 in Runciman, ed. *Weber. Selections in Translation*. Cambridge University Press 1978. (Website/Reader)

Weber, 'Science as a Vocation', Pp129-159 in From Gerth and Mills, *From Max Weber*. Ulan Press 2012. (Website/Reader)

October 4. The Institutional Conditions for Capitalism.

Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Pp.1-36 (particularly 8-28, 'The Spirit of Capitalism'), Pp359-365 (until '...equally important.') in Appendix II.

Recommended:

Elizabeth Kolbert. 'Why Work. A Hundred Years of "The Protestant Ethic".' *The New Yorker*. Nov 29, 2004.

October 9. Rationalization and the Modern Condition

Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, pp. 67-87; 105-122.

Recommended:

Peter Baehr, 2001. 'The "Iron Cage" and the "Shell as Hard as Steel": Parsons, Weber, and the Stahlhartes Gehäuse Metaphor in the Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism,' *History and Theory*, 40(2): 153-169.

October 11. Power.

Weber, 'The Three Pure Types of Legitimate Rule.' Pp133-145 in Sam Whimster. *The Essential Weber*. Routledge 2003. (Website/Reader)

Weber, 'Bureaucracy' Pp196-240 in Gerth and Mills, eds. *From Max Weber*. Ulan Press 2012. (Website/Reader)

Recommended:

Kieran Healy, ['A Sociology of Steve Jobs'](#) (on charismatic authority)

October 16. Movie.

Heinz Schirk, *The Wannsee Conference* (Reconstructed Documentary). 85 minutes.

Please be on time.

The subject of the movie is the Wannsee conference in 1942, during which Reinhard Heydrich, a top SS official, secured the support and cooperation of the various bureaucracies of the Third Reich (the Nazi regime in Germany) for the plan to exterminate the remaining Jewish population. It is a historically accurate reconstruction, based on the minutes from the conference. The movie is in German with English subtitles. You can see information about the conference, including the full minutes, at:

<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/holocaust/h-wannsee.htm>

Warning. Please note that the topic and treatment of the subject is upsetting. There are no images of actual physical violence.

October 18. Discussion of movie, conclusion on Weber (50 minutes), Midterm review (30 minutes).

Hannah Arendt, 'The Wannsee Conference or Pontius Pilates.' Pp344-346 in Peter Baehr (ed.) *The Portable Hannah Arendt*. Penguin 2003. (Website/Reader)

October 23. Midterm exam (in class)

October 25. HANNAH ARENDT (1906-1975) AND TOTALITARIANISM.

Arendt, 'Total Domination.' Pp119-145 in Peter Baehr (ed.) *The Portable Hannah Arendt*. Penguin 2003. (Website/Reader)

Richard Bernstein. 2018. 'The Illuminations of Hannah Arendt.' *New York Times*. June 20. (Website/Reader)

EMILE DURKHEIM (1858-1917) AND SOLIDARITY

October 30. Emile Durkheim. Biography. Social Facts.

From Anthony Giddens, ed., *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1972.

'The subject matter of sociology.' Pp63-67

'Emergent properties' pp69-71

'Social Morphology', pp82-86

Durkheim, *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. New York: Free Press 2012. Pp. 41-53, 152-168, 197-216.

November 1. Durkheim. Anomie, Integration, Regulation.

Durkheim, *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. Pp. 217-234, 241-258, 270-272, 276 (footnote 25), 297-300.

November 6. Durkheim. The Movement of History. Social Differentiation.

From Anthony Giddens, ed., *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1972. (Website)

p241-242

'Forms of Social Solidarity.' Pp. 123-140

'The Division of Labour and Social Differentiation.' Pp. 141-154

November 8. Durkheim. Classification and Knowledge.

Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Pp1-18 (Introduction); 33-44 (Book I, Chapter I, III-IV) (Website/Reader)

Recommended

Anne Rawls, 1996, "Durkheim's Epistemology: The Neglected Argument." *American Journal of Sociology*, 102(2): 430-482

Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Translator's introduction

November 13. Durkheim. Religion and Ritual.

Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Pp207-234 (Book II Chapter VII), 303-314 (Book III Chapter I until '...into practice'), 330-331, 350-352 (Book III Chapter II, intro and V), 418-448 (Conclusion). (Website/Reader)

November 15. Movies, Discussion and conclusion on Durkheim

Excerpt from Stanley Kubrick, *Full Metal Jacket* (1987)

Excerpt from David LaChapelle, *Rize* (2005)

Memo #2 due at 11:59 on November 18. No late memos accepted.

November 20. Collective Conscience, the Looking Glass Self, and Double Consciousness

Charles Horton Cooley, 'The Looking Glass Self' In *Human Nature and the Social Order*. Pp147-153. (Website/Reader)

W.E.B. Du Bois, 'Of Our Spiritual Strivings.' Pp7-15 in *The Soul of Black Folks*. Dover 1994. (Website/Reader)

Recommended

Karen E. Fields. 2002. 'Individuality and the Intellectuals: An Imaginary Conversation Between W. E. B. Du Bois and Emile Durkheim.' *Theory and Society* 31:435-462. (Read pp439-456)

November 22. Thanksgiving Day. No Class.

November 27. MARCEL MAUSS (1872-1950) AND RECIPROCITY

Marcel Mauss, *The Gift. The Form and Reason for Exchange in Archaic Societies*. W. W. Norton & Company 2000. Pp. 1-14 (until '...the generations.'), 39-46 (From 'The three obligations...'), 65-83.

Recommended

Theodore Caplow. 1984. 'Rule Enforcement Without Visible Means: Christmas Gift Giving in Middletown' *American Journal of Sociology*.

Gail Rubin. 1975. 'Traffic in Women' Pp157-210 in Rayna Reiter, ed. *Toward an Anthropology of Women*. Monthly Review Press. (Focus on Pp157-183)

November 29. Conclusion of the Course

December 6: 8am, same room: Review

Final exam: Wednesday, December 12, 3-6pm.