SOC 101
SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY I

In this course, we will discuss the works of major late 19th century and early 20th century theorists, their analyses, the methodologies they use and their social interventions. How do they study social processes? What are their major findings and arguments? How does the social world work? How can society be improved? We will look at how Marx, Du Bois, Weber, and Durkheim have answered these questions in conflicting ways. De Beauvoir’s theorization will bridge this semester and the next.

Class and section discussion will highlight how we might use these theories to think about our own lives and recent events and processes.

Assignments:

You will write two take-home exams for this course. The midterm exam will be 5 double-spaced pages. The final exam will be 6 double-spaced pages. More specific guidelines about these (take-home) exams will follow.

Midterm Exam: Due on October 5, 5 pm
Final Exam: Due on December 13, 6 pm

Reading response memos: Students will write 300-word responses to the texts. You will write eight of these memos. You will write them after you hear the professor lecture on the text. They will be uploaded on bcourses. Each response memo will be worth three points. Further guidelines on memos will follow.

Texts: The reader is available at Copy Central (Telegraph Ave.). It is also available digitally: https://copycentral.redshelf.com/app/ecom/book/2158822/soc-101-sociological-theory-i-2158822-none-cihan-tugal

Evaluation:
Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 35%
Reading memos: 24%
Section participation: 10%
Bonus for surviving the semester: 1%
**Academic honesty**  
Before you embark on any assignment for this course, 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). Avoid verbatim repetition (or even repetition through slight altering) of the texts we are reading, as much as possible. When you feel you have to use direct quotes, make sure you use quotation marks.

**TEXTS AND SCHEDULE**

**August 25**  
Introduction  
No readings assigned

**MARX AND ENGELS**

**August 30. Background on Marx and Engels**


**September 1. Labor and Alienation**


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2
September 6-8. Classes and Class Struggle


September 13. The Family


September 15-20. Capitalist Social Relations


September 22. Society and Nature


September 27-29. The Paris Commune


Film showing


II. WEBER

October 6. Beyond Class


October 11. Specificity of the West; Religion and Capitalist Stratification


October 13. Calvinism

October 18. Rationalization; The Iron Cage


October 20. Bureaucracy and Efficiency


October 25. Bureaucracy, Equality, and Democracy


**III. DU BOIS**

October 27-November 1. Racial Capitalism


**IV. DURKHEIM**

November 3. Mechanical and Organic Solidarity

Durkheim, *The division of labor in society*, pp. 31-44, 60-64, 68-72, 77-87.

November 8. Causes of Social Change


November 10. Religion and Effervescence


November 15. Rituals; The Future of Religion

V. DE BEAUVOIR

November 17. Male Domination

Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 3-17.

November 22. Women’s Liberation


November 29. Review.

December 1. Hold date (for possible rescheduling of lectures).