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Course: 101
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Semester: Spring 2013
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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, Durkheim, and Mosca 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): 10%
Section Participation: 20%
Mid Term: 20%
Research Paper: 20%
Final: 30%

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*).
Gaetano Mosca, *The Ruling Class*. (Hereafter referred to as *RC*)

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*).

Classical Social Theory

January 22

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

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

January 24

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?

January 29

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

Karl Marx (1818-1883): Historical Materialism

January 31

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

February 5

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

February 12

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?

February 14

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

February 19

Marx, Karl. 1994. [1867]. "Capital Volume One (selections)." Pp. 214-264 in *SW*. What is surplus value?

Émile Durkheim (1859-1917): Differentiation and Solidarity

February 21

Durkheim, Émile. 1984 [1893]. "Preface to the First Edition" and "Introduction." Pp.

xxv-xxx, Pp. 1-30. in *DOL*. What is Durkheim's puzzle? Durkheim, Émile. 1984 [1893]. "Chapter II". Pp. 31-67. in *DOL*. What is "mechanical solidarity?"

February 26

Durkheim, Émile. 1984 [1893]. "Chapter III." Pp. 68-72, 77-87, 149-175 in *DOL*. What is "organic solidarity?"

February 28

Durkheim, Émile. "Chapter II." Pp. 200-225 and 291-328 in *DOL*. What are the causes of the division of labor and what are its abnormal forms?

March 5

Durkheim, Émile. "Introduction/Subject of our Study: Religious Sociology and the Theory of Knowledge." Pp. 3-83 in *EFRL*. What is Durkheim's question and method of answering it?

March 7

Durkheim, Émile. "Conclusion." Pp. 221-343 in *EFRL*. New York: Free Press. What is the connection between religion and society? Summary of Durkheim.

March 12

Mid-Term

Max Weber (1864-1920): Rationalization and Charisma

March 14

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?

March 19

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?

March 21

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?

Research Paper Prompt Distributed

April 2

Research Break

April 4

Research Break

April 9

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

Research Paper Due

April 11

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

April 16

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

April 23

Review of Weber

Gaetano Mosca (1858-1941): Elitism

April 25

Mosca, Gaetano. 1939. *RC*. Pp. 50-162. What is the ruling class?

April 30

Mosca, Gaetano. 1939. *RC*. Pp. 271-336. What is Mosca's critique of Marxism?

May 2

Course Review

May 13

Final Exam: 11:30-2:30