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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 Religious Life*. Translated by Carol Cosman. (Hereafter referred to as EFRL).
Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*. Edited by Lawrence H. Simon. (Hereafter referred to as SW).
Gaetano Mosca, *The Ruling Class*. (Hereafter referred to as RC)

**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

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

January 31

February 5
Marx, Karl. 1994 [1845]. "The German Ideology." Pp. 103-156 in *SW*. What is the general mechanism of historical development?

February 12

February 14

February 19

**Émile Durkheim (1885-1917): Differentiation and Solidarity**

February 21
February 26
Durkheim, Émile. 1984 [1893]. "Chapter II." Pp. 31-67 in DOL. What is "mechanical solidarity?"

February 28
Durkheim, Émile. 1984 [1893]. "Chapter III." Pp. 68-72, 77-87, 149-175 in DOL. What is "organic solidarity?"

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

March 12
Mid-Term

Max Weber (1864-1920): Rationalization and Charisma

March 14

March 19

March 21

Research Paper Prompt Distributed

April 2
Research Break

April 4
Research Break

April 9

Research Paper Due

April 11

April 16

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