

Sociological Theory I

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Sociology 101

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 AM – 9:29 AM, 100 Genetics and Plant Biology

Office hours: <http://sociology.berkeley.edu/faculty-office-hours>

Course website: <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1467666>

Of the social sciences, sociology is the most open about the ways it lets you study the social world and the ideas it lets you use to think about it. Sociologists watch people, talk to them, count them, and sometimes even get them to do things without them knowing it. With so many ways of doing sociology, it can be hard to know what holds the field together. One of the few things that all sociologists are required to do is to read texts by the field's founders in a Sociological Theory course like this.

Who are the founders? Different sociologists will tell you differently. But almost every classical theory course in sociology will require you to read Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Émile Durkheim. This semester, we'll also be reading work by W. E. B. Du Bois, a scholar many sociologists have come to believe is at least as rightful a founder of sociology as the other three.

Students have told me that they see the world completely differently after reading these authors. I find that I do better research when I am teaching this class. At a minimum, Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Du Bois are worth reading because they were extremely astute observers of the social world. If you're going to read sociology, you may as well read some of the best stuff it has to offer. These texts promise that.

That said, reading Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Du Bois can be hard. This is not your fault. The texts we'll read were written a long time ago. The sort of language they use is very different from the sort of language we use. Try not to be intimidated, especially in the first few weeks. If you're confused, you are not alone. In class, we'll spend a lot of time translating the texts into plainer English together. If we're successful, you'll begin doing this for yourself as you read.

Although this class is formally a lecture, I would like us to interact as much as possible. I hope you will grow comfortable interrupting me if you are confused or have a question. When I have taught this class in the past, we have had active discussions, even in a large lecture hall. Discussions make lecture more interesting and engaging for everyone. I encourage you to join in.

In the final three weeks of class, we will turn to authors who have extended, modified, or synthesized the texts we'll read in the earlier weeks.

Ground rules

I will insist that you not use any devices—laptops, phones, ipads, etc.—during lecture. Your cell phones should be turned off, not just set to vibrate. I promise that I am not doing this to be mean or punitive. Even if you are trying hard to pay attention, devices will distract you and your classmates. If I attend a lecture on campus that I really want to focus on, I won't bring a laptop because I know it will be hard to resist the temptation to use it to do something other than take notes. Recent research has shown that students learn less when they take notes on a laptop than when they take notes by hand. If you have special reasons for needing to take notes on a laptop, please discuss this with me in office hours. If, because of a true emergency, you need to keep your phone on during a particular class, let me know before I start lecturing.

To make it up to you, I will post the lecture slides on the bcourses website the night before class. I suggest that you print the slides, with four (2 × 2) slides on a page, double-sided. That way, you won't waste time in class jotting down what is on the slides. Take notes on what is being said about a given slide in the margins of your printout. Many students have told me that they have kept their annotated lecture slides and used them when they wrote papers for other sociology courses. If you cannot print the slides, you can take notes directly on the texts, since my slides will include page numbers. I will also number each slide, so you could take notes in a notebook, numbering your notes to correspond to the number of each slide.

Required books

There are four required books, all available at the Cal Student Bookstore. For the other readings, you can either buy a course reader at Copy Central on Bancroft or print the readings yourself from the Files folder on the bcourses website.

- Durkheim, Émile. 1966. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. New York: Free Press.
- Gerth, H. H. and C. Wright Mills, eds. 1946. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Giddens, Anthony. 1972. *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tucker, Robert C., ed. 1978. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. New York: Norton.

Sections

In addition to attending lecture, you must register for one of the following eight sections:

Days	Time	Location	GSI
Tuesday and Thursday	11:00 AM – 11:59 AM	321 Haviland	Carter Koppelman
Tuesday and Thursday	12:00 PM – 12:59 PM	245 Hearst Gym	Carter Koppelman
Tuesday and Thursday	1:00 PM – 1:59 PM	155 Barrows	Paula Winicki
Tuesday and Thursday	2:00 PM – 2:59 PM	587 Barrows	Paula Winicki
Tuesday and Thursday	2:00 PM – 2:59 PM	250 Dwinelle	Xuan Jin
Tuesday and Thursday	3:00 PM – 3:59 PM	251 Dwinelle	Xuan Jin
Tuesday and Thursday	4:00 PM – 4:59 PM	7 Evans	Michaeljit Sandhu
Tuesday and Thursday	5:00 PM – 5:59 PM	7 Evans	Michaeljit Sandhu

Sections begin on Tuesday, January 23rd. Section is mandatory. Your GSIs will take attendance. If there is still a waitlist on the 23rd, we will determine enrollment partly based on your attendance in section that day. We strongly advise you not to try to switch your section. If you must, you will need to find a person in the section you want to join who wants to join your section and email Seng Saelee at ssaelee@berkeley.edu. GSIs will announce their office hours in section on the 23rd.

Assignments and Grading

Your grade will be based on two memos, two exams, your participation in section, and quotes from the reading you will submit before each class.

Assignment	Value	Date
Memo 1	10%	Part 1 due February 1 at the beginning of class; Part 2 due February 8 at the beginning of class
Midterm exam	20%	March 13, in class
Memo 2	10%	April 17, due at the beginning of class
Final exam	25%	May 10, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Quotes	10%	Due by 4 PM the day before class
Section attendance and participation	25%	Consult with GSI

- Each memo will consist of 1,000 words you write at home in response to a prompt.
- The exams will consist of essays and short answer questions about the reading material and lectures. These are closed-book tests. You will not be allowed to use any devices or books while taking the exams.
- By 4 PM the day before each class, you will submit a quote from the reading to the bcourses website. This quote should consist of a passage you believe is especially important or a passage that confused you and that you would like to discuss. You should include the page number the quote came from in parentheses directly after it. Your GSIs will use the quotes you submit to help organize your discussion in section. You will get .5 of a point for each quote just for submitting it. The first

quote is due at 4 PM on January 17th. You do not need to submit a quote when there is no reading assigned for the next day's class. You only need to submit one quote per class, even if there are several different readings assigned that day.

- Your GSI will assign you a grade based on your attendance and participation in section.

Should you fail to show up for an exam or turn in a paper for any other reason, I will record 0% for that assignment. If you have questions about submitting work, ask your GSI well before it is due. We will not grant an extensions on the due date of the memos.

Email

Before emailing me or your GSI with a question about the course, please first make sure that your question is not already answered here in the syllabus. Almost everything you need to know about the course can be found here. If you have longer questions about the course material, sign up for office hours at the link on the first page of this syllabus. For section questions, please consult your GSIs (xjin@berkeley.edu; carter.koppelman@berkeley.edu; sandhu.michaeljit@berkeley.edu; pwinicki@berkeley.edu). For questions not covered in the syllabus or that cannot be discussed in office hours, you may email me at cmuller@berkeley.edu.

Academic honesty

You must in no way misrepresent your work or be party to another student's failure to maintain academic integrity. If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, you should consult Berkeley's code of academic integrity: <http://sa.berkeley.edu/student-code-of-conduct>. It is much better to hand in a bad paper, or not to hand in a paper at all, than to hand in a paper that is plagiarized or that does not otherwise reflect your own work. Written assignments must include a bibliography and follow proper citation practices. If you have questions about proper citation, please consult your GSI. The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be a grade of 0% on the assignment and reporting to Student Judicial Affairs.

Grievances

If you wish to contest a grade, you must first submit to your GSI a one-page statement explaining why you believe the grade is unfair. Only if you are still dissatisfied should you come to me. Before I will listen to your case, I will consult your GSI. I will not change your grade without first consulting your GSI. Please bear in mind that your grade could move upwards or downwards should I decide to re-grade your paper.

Accommodation

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.

January 16

Course Overview

January 18

Smith, Adam. 1776. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. New York: Modern Library. Pp. 6–18; 66–71; 225; 445–446.

January 23

Engels, Friedrich. 1845. “Working-Class Manchester.” Pp. 579–585 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1864. “Inaugural Address of the Working Men’s International Association.” Pp. 512–519 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1856. “Speech at the Anniversary of the *People’s Paper*.” Pp. 577–578 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Engels, Friedrich. 1883. “Speech at the Graveside of Karl Marx.” Pp. 681–682 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

January 25

Marx, Karl. 1859. “Marx on the History of His Opinions.” Pp. 3–6 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1844. “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844.” Pp. 70–81 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1846. “The German Ideology: Part I.” Pp. 149–163; 172–175; 186–188 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

January 30

Marx, Karl. 1845. "Theses on Feuerbach." Pp. 143–145 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1848. "Manifesto of the Communist Party." Pp. 469–500 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. 1852. "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte." Pp. 594–603; 608 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

February 1

Film: Baichwal, Jennifer. 2006. *Manufactured Landscapes*.

February 6

Marx, Karl. 1867. "Capital, Volume I." Pp. 294–336 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

February 8

Marx, Karl. 1867. "Capital, Volume I." Pp. 336–384; 419–438 in *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: Norton.

February 13

Film: Smith, Llewellyn. 2004. *Reconstruction: The Second Civil War*

February 15

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1935. *Black Reconstruction in America*. New York: Russell & Russell. Pp. 3–39; 670–710.

February 20

Weber, Max 1922. "Class, Status, Party." Pp. 180–195 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

Weber, Max. 1919. "Politics as a Vocation." Pp. 77–79; 116–117 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

February 22

Weber, Max. "Bureaucracy." Pp. 196–216 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

Weber, Max. "Science as a Vocation." Pp. 129–156 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

February 27

Weber, Max. "Basic Sociological Terms." Pp. 3–26; 43–46 in *Economy and Society*, edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. Berkeley: University of California Press.

March 1

Weber, Max. 1904. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: Routledge. Pp. 35–92.

March 6

Weber, Max. 1904. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: Routledge. Pp. 95–183.

March 8

Midterm review

March 13

Midterm exam in class

March 15

Durkheim, Émile. "The Field of Sociology." Pp. 51–68 in *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*, edited by Anthony Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Durkheim, Émile. “Methods of Explanation and Analysis.” Pp. 69–88 in *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*, edited by Anthony Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

March 20

Durkheim, Émile. “Forms of Social Solidarity.” Pp. 123–140 in *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*, edited by Anthony Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Durkheim, Émile. “The Division of Labour and Social Differentiation.” Pp. 141–154 in *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*, edited by Anthony Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Durkheim, Émile. “Religion and Ritual.” Pp. 219–222 in *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*, edited by Anthony Giddens. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

March 22

Durkheim, Émile. 1912. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York: Free Press. Pp. 1–18; 33–44.

April 3

Durkheim, Émile. 1912. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York: Free Press. Pp. 207–235.

April 5

Durkheim, Émile. 1912. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. New York: Free Press. Pp. 41–53; 145–151; 169–170; 208–214.

April 10

Durkheim, Émile. 1912. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. New York: Free Press. Pp. 217–228; 234–239; 246, 258, 271, 299, 307–320.

April 12

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1903. *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York: Modern Library. Pp. 7–15.

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1920. *Darkwater: Voices From Within the Veil*. Mineola, NY: Dover. Pp. 17–29.

April 17

Wright, Erik Olin. 2009. "Understanding Class." *New Left Review* 60:101–116.

April 19

Weeks, Kathi. 2011. *The Problem With Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Pp. 37–77.

April 24

Morris, Aldon. 2015. *The Scholar Denied: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Pp. 149–167.

Fields, Karen E. 2002. "Individuality and the Intellectuals: An Imaginary Conversation Between W. E. B. Du Bois and Emile Durkheim." *Theory and Society* 31:435–462.

April 26

Final review