

**HISTORY OF SOCIAL THEORY**

**This course will be taught synchronously on zoom on  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2.00-3.30p.m. in  
<https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/97568239682>**

This is the second semester of our two-semester course devoted to the history of social theory. Last semester we studied the development of Marxism beginning with the writings of Marx and Engels followed by Lenin and Gramsci, ending up with Du Bois. This semester we will study various critical responses to Marxism, beginning with Durkheim and Weber and moving into a feminist tradition starting with Beauvoir, followed by MacKinnon and Collins. But we will make it more complicated: if last semester we placed Du Bois's *Black Reconstruction* in dialogue with Marxism, this semester we will place a selection of Du Bois's essays from *Darkwater* in dialogue with Durkheim, Weber and feminism. Du Bois will provide the connection to last semester as well as the connections among theorists this semester.

As last semester, we will study our theorists through the lens of the division of labor and the inspiration this gives to their different conceptions of history. We will see how the major historical divide is not, as it was for Marxism, between a communist future and a pre-communist past, but between "modern," "rational-legal," and "industrial" society on the one side and a historically prior "traditional," "patrimonial," and "feudal," society on the other. The communist future is denied in different ways. The optimistic Durkheim argues that "socialism," or something like it, is almost already with us whereas the pessimistic Weber argues that "communism" can only lead to deeper bureaucratization. Du Bois will continue the Marxist tradition in postulating the possibility of a radical democracy while feminists naturally ask what happens to male domination in this classless utopia.

For each theorist "the division of labor" signifies something different. Where Marxism examined the consequences of the division of labor for "class", Durkheim is interested in the relationship of the division of labor to "solidarity," Weber its relation to "rationalization," Du Bois its relation to racial domination and feminism its relation to "gender." To gain insight into each theorist we will continue to ask about the form, origins, conditions of existence, mechanisms of development and future of the division of labor. In the process we will see which collective identities each theorist recognizes. We will also examine how each theorist understands the relation of the division of labor to "individuality" and "individualism." We will pay particular attention to where "individuals" come from, how "they" are produced, how "they" are fitted into the division of labor and with what consequences.

\*\*\*

**All the readings are available as a PDF on bcourses.** I recommend you buy a reader for \$27.46 plus tax that includes all the readings for the course. Here's the link to the copy shop: <https://readers.replicadigitalink.com/product/Soc-102-S2021-P>. You can order online and pick up the reader at 2138 Oxford St. or you can have it sent to your address for another \$10-15. If you want to buy books, then you should be careful you order the correct edition. If you rely on digitalized

PDFs then you should print them out so as to be able to carefully annotate the assigned pages.

There will be two mid-semester examinations. The first will deal with Durkheim, Marx and Du Bois while the second will involve Weber, Lenin and Du Bois. The first mid-term will be worth 20% and the second mid-term 30% of the final grade. The final oral examination will cover the entire year's work and count for 25% of the final grade. The remaining 25% will be based on participation in sections.

Your Graduate Student Instructors are the same spectacular team as last semester: Audrey Augenbraum, David Joseph-Goteiner, Adriana Ramirez, Emily Ruppel and Miranda Smith. It is essential that you attend sections if you wish to pass the class.

My office hours are Tuesdays, 4-6p.m. Sign up at <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/cnkxn/> to meet me in <https://zoom.us/meeting/96374328008>. I will also hold the special extra collective office hours, "Anything Goes," Thursdays, 4-6p.m. in <https://berkeley.zoom.us/j/95261423707>. Come along, speak your mind, ask your questions, join in the discussion or just listen.

One of the most fruitful ways of learning ST is by forming study groups that supplement the excellent work of your GSIs. These groups become a stimulating way to become adept in social theory, and to help you prepare for the mid-term and final papers. As Marx and Engels said of communism, people develop their rich and varied abilities in *community with others*. These groups have formed the basis of life-time friendships. They become a way of living ST and making ST live. We encourage you to create your own groups but you can also contact your GSIs to help put you in touch with others similarly looking for companionship. Learning theory is like learning a foreign language, often best accomplished by practicing it collectively. When it comes to the writing of assignments and examinations, however, you must author your own work. Do not share google docs!

## COURSE SCHEDULE

- January 19      **Introduction: Marxism and Sociology**
- January 21      **Last semester we ended with Du Bois's account of the Civil War, Reconstruction, the demolition of Reconstruction and the restoration of a racial order. We begin the new semester with Du Bois's account of the black migration from the South to the industrial centers of the North during World War I, and the racial violence that ensued, once again situated in its global context. What sort of capitalism was this? Was the unity of black and white workers impossible? If so, why?**  
 Du Bois, "Of Work and Wealth," *Darkwater*, Chapter IV (pp.47-59)
- DURKHEIM (1858-1917)**
- January 26      Continued
- January 28      **Roots of Durkheim. Sociology as Science. Is the division of labor a pathology or normal?**  
*The Division of Labor in Society*, Preface to First Edition (pp.xxv-xxx); Introduction (pp.1-8)
- February 2      **The Argument. The functions of the division of labor? What are Durkheim's two notions of solidarity? How to measure solidarity? What is the relation between division of labor and solidarity? How to explain conflict and disorganization?**  
*The Division of Labor in Society*, Book I, chapter 1 (pp.11-30)
- February 4      **What is a Crime? What is the Function of Punishment? What is the form of punishment? Mechanical Solidarity and the State.**  
*The Division of Labor in Society*, Book I, chapter 2 (pp.31-67)
- February 9      **What is organic solidarity? Restitutive Law. Durkheim's criticism of Spencer. Organic solidarity and the state.**  
*The Division of Labor in Society*, Book I, chapter 3 (pp.68-72; 77-87) and chapter 7 (pp.149-175)
- February 11      **What happens to the collective consciousness under organic solidarity? What are the origins and impetus behind the development of the division of labor.** *The Division of Labor in Society*, Book I, chapter 5 (pp.118-123), chapter 7 (pp.172-4); and Book II, chapter 2 (pp.200-225)
- February 16      **Normal and Abnormal division of labor. Anomic, forced and discontinuous division of labor.**  
*The Division of Labor in Society*, Book III, chapters 1, 2 and 3 (pp.291-328)
- February 18      **Marx meets Durkheim? Du Bois meets Durkheim? Ransacking Durkheim.**  
*The Division of Labor in Society*, Conclusion (pp.329-341), and Second Preface (pp.liv-lvii)
- February 22      FIRST TAKE-HOME EXAMINATION DUE

**WEBER (1864-1920)**

- February 23     **In 1903 Du Bois writes the *Souls of Black Folk* a Durkheimian appeal to whites that blacks are human too, that they share a collective consciousness. By 1910 he has given up and turns the table to examine the (in)humanity of white folk – the ideology of white supremacy, the barbarism of World War I as competition to exploit Africa. This is the back drop against which we will read Weber’s account of the origins of capitalism.**  
Du Bois, “Souls of White Folk,” *Darkwater*, Chapter II (pp.17-29)
- February 25     Continued
- March 2         **What Does Weber mean by Rationalization and by Modern Western Bourgeois Capitalism?**  
*Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, pp.13-31
- March 4         **What is the Spirit of Capitalism?**  
*Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, pp.47-78
- March 9         **What is the Protestant Ethic? The difference between Luther and Calvin?**  
*Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, pp.79-128.
- March 11        **What is the connection between the Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism? What is the difference between the origins of the Capitalist Division of Labor and its reproduction?**  
*Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, pp.155-183
- March 16        **From Capitalism to Bureaucratization. What is Bureaucracy? What are the Conditions and Origins of Bureaucracy?**  
*Bureaucracy*, Sections 1 and 2, (pp.196-204), Sections 3 (pp.204-9), 9 (pp.224-228), and 11 (pp.230-232).
- March 17        **6.30p.m. Film: The Godfather**
- March 18        **What are the tensions between democracy and bureaucracy? Between power and knowledge?**  
*Bureaucracy*, Sections 12 (pp.232-235), and 14 (pp.240-44)
- March 22 – March 26   MID-SEMESTER BREAK
- March 30        **Why is bureaucracy so permanent? Whose interests are served by bureaucracy? What threatens bureaucracy? Weber vs. Lenin?**  
*Bureaucracy*, Sections 6 (pp.214-216), 10 (pp.228-30), and 7 (ONLY pp.220-1)
- April 1         **Lenin vs. Weber. Ransacking Weber.**

**April 5 SECOND TAKE-HOME EXAMINATION DUE**

## FEMINIST TRADITION

- April 6            **Introduction to Feminism.**
- April 8            **What is the “damnation of women” and with what consequences?**  
Du Bois, “The Damnation of Women,” *Darkwater*, Chapter VII (pp.95-108).
- April 13          **Women as Other. Why do women submit to male domination?**  
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Introduction (pp.xix-xxxvi)
- April 14          **4p.m. Film: Daughters of Beauvoir**
- April 15          **Liberation and the independent woman.**  
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Conclusion (pp.716-732)
- April 20          **Marxism and Feminism. Work and Sexuality.**  
Catharine MacKinnon, *Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State: An Agenda for Theory*,  
pp.227-239
- April 22          **Sexuality and Gender. Objectification. Objectivity. Consciousness Raising.**  
Catharine MacKinnon, *Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State: An Agenda for Theory*,  
pp.240-256
- April 27          **Multiple Oppressions**  
Patricia Hill Collins, *Learning from the Outsider Within*
- April 29          **Seeking Universality**  
Patricia Hill Collins, *Learning from the Outsider Within*
- May 4             REVIEW SESSION
- May 6             REVIEW SESSION