

Spring 2025
TuTh 2:10-3:30 pm
Latimer 120

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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 March 4, 12 pm

Final Exam: Due on May 12, 2:30 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/2802663/soc-101-sociological-theory-i-2802663-none-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

January 21

Introduction

No readings assigned

MARX AND ENGELS

January 23. Background on Marx and Engels

Engels, "Speech at the Graveside of Karl Marx," pp. 681-682 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Marx, "Speech at the Anniversary of the *People's Paper*," pp. 577-578 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Marx, "Marx on the History of His Opinions," (or "Preface to a Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy,") pp. 3-6 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach," pp. 143-145 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

January 28. Labor and Alienation

Marx, "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844," Pp. 70-81 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

January 30-February 4. Classes and Class Struggle

Marx and Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party,” pp. 473-483, 497-500 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Marx, “18th Brumaire of Louis Napoleon Bonaparte,” pp. 608-616 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

February 6. The Family

Engels, “The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State,” pp. 734-740 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

February 11-13. Capitalist Social Relations

Marx, “Capital, Vol. I,” Pp. 302-308; 319-336; 361-364; 376-384; 419-428 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

February 18. Society and Nature

Foster, John Bellamy. 1999. “Marx’s Theory of Metabolic Rift: Classical Foundations for Environmental Sociology.” *American Journal of Sociology* 105/2: 366-405. Read only pp. 373 to 389; skim the rest.

February 20. The Paris Commune

Marx, “The Civil War in France,” pp. 629-642 in Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

February 25. Review of Marx and Engels.

II. WEBER

February 27. Beyond Class

Weber, “Class, Status, Party,” pp. 180-195 in Gerth and Mills, *From Max Weber*.

March 4. Specificity of the West; Religion and Capitalist Stratification

Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, pp. xxviii-xlii; 1-50.

March 6. Calvinism

Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, pp. 53-80.

March 11. Rationalization; The Iron Cage

Weber, *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, pp. 102-125.

March 13. Bureaucracy and Efficiency

Weber, "Bureaucracy," pp. 196-204; 214-216 in Gerth and Mills, *From Max Weber*.

March 18. Bureaucracy, Equality, and Democracy

"Bureaucracy," pp. 220-235; 240-244 in Gerth and Mills, *From Max Weber*.

III. DU BOIS

March 20. Double consciousness

W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, pp. 3-22, 77-88

March 24-27. No lecture or section: Spring Break

April 1-3. Racial Capitalism

W. E. B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America*. Pp. 3-31, 37-39, 55-57, 82-85, 670-673, 678-680, 691-710.

Du, Bois, W. E. B, *The World and Africa*, Chapter 2; Chapter 11.

IV. DURKHEIM

April 8. Mechanical and Organic Solidarity

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

April 10. Causes of Social Change

Durkheim, *The division of labor in society*, pp. 200-225.

April 15. Religion and Effervescence

Durkheim, *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, pp. 33-44; 207-236.

April 17. Rituals; The Future of Religion

Durkheim, *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, pp. 303-314; 350-352; 418-433.

V. DE BEAUVOIR

April 22. Male Domination

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

April 24. Women's Liberation

Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 753-766.

April 29. Review.

May 1. No lecture.