SOCIOLOGY 101: Classical Social Theory
Fall 2012: Tu/Th 12:40-14:00, A1 Hearst Annex
John Lie, 486 Barrows, johnlie@berkeley.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 14:10-15:30 & by appointment
Graduate Student Instructors: Mario Castillo, Andy Scott Chang, Laura Nelson, and Rachel Wotts

This course is an introduction to "classical social theory." Broadly speaking, classical social theory sought to describe and explain the profound transformations in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Europe: the triple revolution of industrial capitalism, modern democracy, and the making of modern identities. Rather than presenting a genealogy of social theory, the course will focus on six major texts. I hope that you will engage in close reading and in so doing not only to enhance your basic competencies in reading, writing, and thinking but also to glean a sense of the astonishing ambition and continuing relevance of classical social theory.

TEXTS


EVALUATION

Two short papers (800 words each): 20% x 2 = 40%
Two examinations: 20% x 2 = 40%
Oral examination and class participation: 20%

READING SCHEDULE

23 August: Introduction

Part I: Industrial Capitalism

28 August: Begin Weber

30 August: Continue Weber

4 September: Continue Weber

6 September: Finish Weber

11 September: Marx, Part 8

13 September: Marx, pp.89-103, Chaps.1 (focus on pp.163-177), pp.270-292

18 September: Marx, Chaps.10 (esp. Sections 1-3, 5), 12, 15 (focus on Sections 1, 3, 5)

20 September: Marx, pp.762-802
Part II: Modern Politics

25 September: Begin Tocqueville
27 September: Continue Tocqueville

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE ON 28 SEPTEMBER

2 October: Continue Tocqueville
4 October: Finish Tocqueville
9 October: Begin Arendt
11 October: Continue Arendt
16 October: Continue Arendt
18 October: Finish Arendt
23 October: Extended Office Hours with GSIs
25 October: MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Part III: Social Theory and American Life

30 October: Begin Veblen
1 November: Continue Veblen
6 November: Finish Veblen
8 November: Begin Mills
13 November: Continue Mills
15 November: Finish Mills
20 November: None
22 November: THANKSGIVING
27 November: Oral examination (to be scheduled individually)
29 November: Oral examination (to be scheduled individually)

SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE on 30 November

FINAL EXAMINATION ON 14 DECEMBER