

Sociological Theory I

Christopher Muller

Sociology 101

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM – 10:59 AM, 160 Kroeber

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

Course website: <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1457568>

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. I have also required you to purchase and bring to class an i>clicker so that I can pose a question to all of you and see what you think. I hope this will help to get a discussion going during lecture.

In the final four 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 up 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 five required books, all available at the Cal Student Bookstore. The bookstore may have ordered the newer version of *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. I have listed both editions. My lectures will be based on the older version. 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.
- Weber, Max. 1987. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: Routledge.

Or

- Weber, Max. 2008. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Oxford.

Sections

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

Days	Time	Location	GSI
Tuesday and Thursday	8:00 AM – 8:59 AM	41 Evans	Martin Eiermann
Tuesday and Thursday	11:00 AM – 11:59 AM	35 Evans	Martin Eiermann
Tuesday and Thursday	12:00 PM – 12:59 PM	45 Evans	Xuan Jin
Tuesday and Thursday	12:00 PM – 12:59 PM	7 Evans	Paula Uniacke
Tuesday and Thursday	1:00 PM – 1:59 PM	47 Evans	Paula Uniacke
Tuesday and Thursday	2:00 PM – 2:59 PM	7 Evans	Xuan Jin

Sections begin on Tuesday, January 24th. Section is mandatory. Your GSIs will take attendance. If there is still a waitlist on the 24th, 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. GSIs will announce their office hours in section on the 24th.

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%	February 7, due at the beginning of class
Midterm exam	20%	March 14, in class
Memo 2	10%	April 18, due at the beginning of class
Final exam	25%	May 10, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Quotes	10%	Due each week 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. I will randomly select quotes you submit to discuss during class. In class, I will ask you to read the quote and to tell us why you selected it. You can expect to have me call on you to read a quote you submitted at least once over the course of the semester. You will get .5 of a point for each quote just for submitting it. The first quote is due at 4 PM on January 18th. You do not need to submit a quote when there is no reading assigned for the next day's class.

- 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; eiermann@berkeley.edu; uniacke@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.

i>clicker

At the bookstore, you must purchase an i>clicker remote and register it. You can find information about how to use and register your i>clicker remote here: <https://www.ets.berkeley.edu/services-facilities/clickers/students-getting-started>. You must bring your i>clicker remote to every class. I will use the i>clicker to take attendance and to poll the class during lecture.

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.

Enrollment

This is a required course for sociology majors. Students are admitted in the following order of priority:

- Phase I (October 17 – November 13, 2016):
 - Declared sociology majors with senior standing (7+ terms in attendance)
- Phase II (November 14 – January 8, 2017):
 - (1) Declared sociology majors with senior standing (7+ terms in attendance)
 - (2) Declared sociology majors with junior standing (5–6 terms in attendance)
- If you fit into one of the categories below, Cal Central will force you onto the waitlist. Students on the waitlist will be admitted in the following order of priority:
 - (1) Intended majors with senior standing
 - (2) Intended majors with junior standing
 - (3) Declared majors with sophomore standing
 - (4) Non-intended and non-declared sociology majors

If you are eligible to declare, doing so will increase your chances of getting into the course. Your chances of getting into the course will be increased if you enroll in a discussion section, even if it is not your first choice, rather than join the waitlist for your preferred section. Sociology 101 will be offered again next fall, followed by Sociology 102 in the spring of 2018.

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 17

Course Overview

January 19

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 24

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 26

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. 70–93 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 31

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 2

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

February 7

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 9

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 14

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

February 16

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

February 21

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 23

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 28

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 2

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

Or (the newer edition)

Weber, Max. 1904. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Oxford. Pp. 61–97.

March 7

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

Or (the newer edition)

Weber, Max. 1904. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Oxford. Pp. 101–159.

March 9

Film: Hamer, Bent. 2003. *Kitchen Stories*.

March 14

Midterm exam in class

March 16

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 21

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 23

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

April 4

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

April 6

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

April 11

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

April 13

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 18

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

April 20

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

April 25

Haidt, Jonathan. 2012. *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*. New York: Pantheon. Pp. 221–233

Bowles, Samuel. 2016. *The Moral Economy: Why Good Incentives are No Substitute for Good Citizens*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Pp. 9–37.

April 27

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.