

Sociological Theory I

Instructor: Fatmir Haskaj

Sociology 101

MWF 10:00A-10:59A - 145 - Dwinelle

Office hours/location: TBD

Email: haskaj@berkeley.edu

GSI contact:

Elena Amaya: elena_amaya@berkeley.edu.

Jenae Carpenter: jmcarpenter@berkeley.edu

Justin Germain: justin.germain@berkeley.edu

Maria-Fatima ("Fatinha") Santos: fsantos@berkeley.edu

Description

This course is the first half of the year-long sequence in Sociological Theory. The first half of the course focuses on the works and ideas of the “classical” thinkers such as Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Simmel but will expand beyond the traditional scope of what is considered classical sociology. This semester we will read a broad range of thinkers from as early as the Middle Ages to more recent writings. The goal is not to achieve a mastery of a classical canon of texts, but rather to understand the core human concerns and themes that continue to reverberate across time and space. The class is organized weekly according to both individual thinkers (who often are representative of a school of thought or paradigm) and sociological concerns such as community, power, alienation and knowledge. This will help us organize, sort, and contextualize a dizzying array of ideas and debates we sometimes call classical sociological theory. We will not be pedantic in our timeline and what will determine our path are the ideas more so than time periods. What will become apparent is that many of today’s concerns, debates and conflicts have been present for some time and have been grappled with by sociologists past and present. Hopefully, traversing these well-worn paths of thought will leave us a bit wiser to face the malstrom of experiences and concepts that modern life produces and churns.

Even though this is a large lecture, I would like us to interact as much as possible and so be prepared to be called upon from time to time. We will have class discussions as well and you are always free to ask questions at any point during lecture.

Classroom Policies:

Required readings:

1) Articles will be available on bCourse for download.

Assignments and Grading:

- Discussion Sections: Students are expected to regularly attend and complete all assignments in weekly discussion sections led by the GSI
- Term paper: The paper must be 8-10 pages (2300-2500 words) in 12-pt Times New Roman font with 1” margins on a topic of your choice from the readings. Any evidence of plagiarism or AI will result in an automatic zero for the assignment and a potential F in the course.
- Exams: There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final. Both examinations will have essay-style questions and will require not only knowledge of the course material but also the capacity to analyze various paradigms and perspectives. **All students will take the exams on specified dates: exceptions will not be granted unless the requests conform with the accommodations policy of the campus.**

Grading Structure

Term paper: 20%

Midterm: 30%

Final: 30%

Section (GSI determined): 20%

Total=100%

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism and cheating will result in disciplinary proceedings. If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism and what the consequences are read this: [Definitions & Examples of Academic Misconduct | UC Berkeley: Division of Student Affairs](#). 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 which may result in a permanent mark on your record.

Class Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

- Calhoun, C. 2007. "Introduction" & "Tocqueville: Democracy in America" in America, in *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd ed. pp. 1-14, 55-71
 - Suggested: Kant: "What is Enlightenment" & Adam Smith: *Wealth of Nations*, pp. 39-54.

Week 2: Revolutions

- Nisbet, Robert, 1966. "The Two Revolutions," in *The Sociological Tradition*. New York: Basic Books, pp. 3-44.
- Burke, Edmund. 1909–1914. Reflections on the Revolution in France, The Harvard Classics, ed. Charles W. Eliot. New York: P.F. Collier & Son. par. 279

- Suggested: Zeitlin, Irving M.. “The Enlightenment” in 1994. *Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory*, 6th ed. New York: Prentice-Hall. pp. 1-6

Week 3: Reaction: Comte and Hegel: Science vs. Spirit

- “The Romantic Conservative Reaction” in Zeitlin, Irving M.. 1994. *Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory*, 6th ed. New York: Prentice- pp. 45-52, 62-63, 78-86.
- Singer, Peter. 2000. “The Young Hegelian.” in *Marx: A Very Short Introduction*. New York City: Oxford University Press. Pp.16-27

Week 4 Community

- Tonnies, Ferdinand. “Community and Society” from C. P. Loomis (ed.), *Community and Society* (1963) [1887]
- Durkheim, Emile. *excerpt from* *Suicide*. Edited and translated from: *Le Suicide: étude de sociologie*, Paris, Alcan, 1897. Trans. Margaret Thompson
- Simmel, George. 1903. *Metropolis and Mental Life*. from Kurt H. Wolff (ed.), *The Sociology of Georg Simmel* (1950).

Week 5 Power & Authority

- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. 1848. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, Chapter II. Proletarians and Communists.
- Max, Weber. 1978. "The Types of Legitimate Authority" in *Economy and Society*, ed. Roth, G., & Wittich, C. UC Press: Berkeley. pp. 212-243.

Week 6 Class

- Marx, Hegel and Feuerbach in Zeitlin. 1994. *Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory*, 6th ed. New York: Prentice-Hall. 139-151.
- Marx, Karl. 1973. Selections from the Chapter on Capital in *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*, trans. Martin Nicolaus. Vintage Books: New York.
- Marx, Karl. 1867. "The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof." *Capital*, Vol. 1.

Week 7 Alienation & Capitalism

- Katznelson, Ira.1993. 'Marxism and the City?', *Marxism and the City*. Oxford, pp. 157-202.
- Calhoun, C., Gerteis, J., Moody, J., Pfaff, S. and Virk, I. eds., 2022. *Classical sociological theory*. John Wiley & Sons. pp. 75-95, 112-130. (note: you can skip The Communist Manifesto)
 - Introduction

- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. The German Ideology [1845]
- Karl, Marx. Economic and Philosophical manuscripts of 1844
- Karl, Marx. The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte [1852]
- Karl Marx. Wage Labor and Capital [1847]
- Karl Marx. Classes [1867]

Week 8 Exam

- [Exam](#)
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Week 9 Solidarity: Durkheim

- The Division of Labor in Society (1893), excerpt from The Division of Labor in Society by Émile Durkheim, translated by George Simpson. The Free Press.
- The Elementary Forms of Religious Life (1912), excerpt from The Elementary Forms of Religious Life by Émile Durkheim, translated from the French by Joseph Ward Swain. 2008. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, Inc.

Week 10 Culture & Capitalism

- “Introduction” by Randall Collins in Weber, Max. 1998. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. trans. Parsons, T. Roxbury Press: Los Angeles, CA. pp. vii-xv.
- Excerpts from Weber, Max. 1958. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Scribner's Press. pp. 47 - 78

Week 11 Simmel: The Other

- Simmel, G. 1971. "On exchange", "Fashion" and “The Stranger” in *On Individuality and Social Forms*. University of Chicago Press

Week 12 Recognition and recognizing Race

- W. E. B. Du Bois, "The Souls of Black Folk" From *Dark Water: Voices from Within the Veil* by W. E. B. Du Bois, Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, pp. 55–60, 65–70
- Siemerling, W. (2001). WEB Du Bois, Hegel, and the staging of alterity. *Callaloo*, 24(1), 325-333.

Week 13 Freud

- Freud, Sigmund. Excerpts

- The Psychological Apparatus and the Theory of Instincts* Sigmund Freud (1900–1939)
- Dream-Work and Interpretation* Sigmund Freud (1900–1939)
- Oedipus, the Child* Sigmund Freud (1900)
- Remembering, Repeating, and Working-Through* Sigmund Freud (1919)
- The Return of the Repressed in Social Life* Sigmund Freud (1937–1939)
- Civilization and the Individual* Sigmund Freud (1930)

Week 14 The Self & Society

- Mead, GH. 1934. *Mind, Self, and Society* excerpt on "mind"
- Mead, GH. 1934. *Mind, Self, and Society* excerpt on "society"

Week 15 RRR

Week 16

Final Exam Tue, May 7 • 3:00P - 6:00P • Exam Location TBD