

Sociology 310
Development of Sociology
Fall 2009
TR 4:00-5:20 pm
MCK 240a

Teacher

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Teaching Assistants

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Course description

This course explores the development of sociological theory as well as sociology as a discipline by examining the work of selected major social theorists and their historical contexts. Emphasis will be on understanding the different explanatory strategies employed by these theorists, their contrasting views of modern society and its problems, and the political implications of their theoretical perspectives. These will be revisited later in the course in relation to the development of sociology as a profession in the United States.

I recommended you read material thoroughly before the day on which it is assigned, then to review it briefly following the discussion in class. Sociological theory is difficult because it is abstract and does not lend itself to simple memorization. You will read from some rather difficult primary sources and write integrative essays which demonstrate an ability to analyze the material critically, compare their ideas with one another, and apply concepts in social analysis of the social world around them. Don't be discouraged if you find some readings difficult at first. A second reading will help (and is often necessary).

Required Text

Marx, Karl, Friedrich Engles. 1978. *The Marx-Engles Reader*. 2nd ed. by Robert C.

Tucker. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company Inc.

Other required readings will be available through blackboard.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on two exams (25% each), completion of five "Primary Reading Worksheets" (see blackboard for details; 20% total), and a take-home essay assignment (30%).

Late Work

Late work generally will not be accepted. Any exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the instructor, who may impose any penalty he deems appropriate on late assignments.

Classroom Policies

Academic Etiquette: Please arrive in class on time and do not leave early (*or pack up to leave early*). Both arriving late and leaving early can be very disruptive. Although you should feel free to ask questions of the instructor during lectures, please remain quiet in class otherwise so as not to distract other students. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off during class. Most importantly, you are expected to be respectful to all members of this class.

Academic Integrity: All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. *The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with the instructor before you complete any requirement of the course.* For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. Note that if you commit an act of academic dishonesty, you may receive an F in the course.

Attendance: I expect you to be in class, although I will not take attendance. Each of you will be responsible for any material, announcements, assignments, and/or schedule changes presented in class. If you miss a lecture you will need to ask another student for details of what was covered in class; I will not repeat information in class for those who have missed classes.

Disability Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. *Please notify me during the first week of class* of any accommodations needed for this course.

Course Schedule of Topics and Reading Selections

Part 1: Marx's critique of Bourgeois Ideology and Political Economy

Introduction to Social Science in the Nineteenth Century

Sept. 29^h

Hobsbawm: *Age of Revolution*, chapter 13, "ideology: Secular" (pgs. 234-252); chapter 15, "Science" (pgs. 277-296);

Oct. 1st

Hobsbawm, *Age of Capital* chapter 14, "Science, Religion, Ideology" (pgs. 251-276)

Marx's Method - Historical Materialism and the Dialectic Method

[All Marx readings are in *The Marx-Engels Reader* unless otherwise noted]

Oct. 6th

Intro Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy (pgs.3-6)

Afterword to the second German Edition of Capital

(<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/p3.htm>), (~9pgs)

“Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” (pgs.70-109)

Oct. 8th

Introduction: Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right (pgs.53-54)

The German Ideology (pgs.147-175; 175-200 optional)

(Optional)

Clark, Brett, John Bellamy Foster and Richard York, "The Critique of Intelligent Design: Epicurious, Marx, Darwin, and Freud and the Materialist defense of science." *Theory and Society* 36 (515-546)

Marx's Analysis of Capitalism

Oct. 13th

So-called Primitive Accumulation (pgs.431-38)

Commodities (pgs.302-29)

Oct. 15th

The General Formula for Capital (pgs.329-36)

Labor Power and Surplus Value (pgs.336-67)

Oct 20th

Surplus Value cont. and Division of Labor and Manufacture (pgs.376-403; 415-419)

The Absolute General Law of Capital Accumulation (pgs.419-31)

Oct. 22nd

The Communist Manifesto (pgs.473-91)

Critique of the Gotha Program (pgs.525-541)

Exam1

Part 2: Classical Sociology and the Debate with Marx's Ghost

Emile Durkheim- Social Stability, Anomie, Social Facts, and Positive Sociology

Oct.27th

Hobsbawm, *Age of Empire*, chapter 11, "Reason and Society" (pgs. 262-275)
Durkheim, Sociology— its nature and program (pgs.21-32)
Durkheim, Division of Labor in Society (33-57)

Oct 29th

Durkheim, The Rules of Sociological Method (pgs.63-90)
Durkheim, Suicide (pgs.91-116)

Max Weber- Interpretive Sociology and Methodological Individualism, Power and Ideology

Nov.3rd

Weber, The Nature of Social Action (pgs.7-32)
Weber, Bureaucracy (~50pgs)
Weber, Class, Status Groups, and Parties (pgs.43-61)

Nov.5th

Weber, Protestant Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism (pgs.138-73)~20pgs
Weber, The Origins of Industrial Capitalism in Europe (Eurocentrism) (pgs.331-340)

W.E.B. Dubois- “The Veil”/Standpoint Theory, Colonialism/Imperialism

Nov.10th

Dubois, “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” From *The Souls of Black Folks*
Dubois, “Of The Sons of Master and Man” From *The Souls of Black Folks*
Dubois, Fifty Years After: Preface to the Jubilee Edition of *The Souls of Black Folks* in 1953
<http://www.monthlyreview.org/1103dubois.htm>

Nov.12th

Dubois, The White Masters of the World (pgs.16-43) From *The World and Africa: an inquiry into the part which Africa has played in world history*

(Optional)

Dubois, The Rape of Africa From *The World and Africa: an inquiry into the part which Africa has played in world history*

“Statement by Professor Noam Chomsky to the United Nations General Assembly Thematic Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect” United Nations, New York 23 July 2009
<http://www.un.org/ga/president/63/interactive/protect/noam.pdf>

Women Sociologists

Nov.17th

Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House-* “A Decade of Economic Discussion” (pgs.177-197)

(additional reading TBA)

Nov.19th

Wells-Barnett, Ida B. "Southern Horrors -- The Lynch Law in all its Phases"

Exam2

From the Classics to the American Sociological Association: Applying Sociological Critique to the Discipline Itself

Nov.24th

"Improving Human Societies: Reassessing the Classics"

Liberation Sociology, Chpt2 (Pp.37-57)

Dec.1st

"US Sociology from the 1890s to the 1970s: Instrumental Positivism and Its Challengers"

Liberation Sociology, Chpt3 (Pp.59-96)

Dec. 3rd

"Sociology Today: Instrumental Positivism and Continuing Challenges"

Liberation Sociology, Chpt3 (Pp.97-133)