

SOC 617
 Fall 2009
 U 18:00-20:50
 714 PLC

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 Office Hours:
 U 11:00-12:20 , or by appointment

Sociological Theory I: Classical Sociological Theory (SOC 617)

I. Purpose

The intent of this course is to address the major themes and historical bases of classical sociological theory and their contemporary relevance. Emphasis will be placed on the classical ideas of Marx, Durkheim, Weber, and Du Bois. Additionally, the origins of women's movement in the United States will be studied via Angela Davis's *Women, Race, and Class*, and the contemporary political-economic crisis of capitalism (and its relation to classical sociological concerns) via Foster and Magdoff's *Great Financial Crisis*. Students will be encouraged to approach these theories critically and creatively, aimed at developing their own distinctive syntheses.

II. Required Readings (Available U of O Bookstore/Duck Store and on reserve in the library)

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Marx-Engels Reader*
 Karl Marx, *Capital*, vol. I (Vintage/Penguin edition)
 Emile Durkheim, *Readings from Emile Durkheim*
 Max Weber, *Selections in Translation*
 W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Oxford W.E.B. Du Bois Reader*
 Angela Y. Davis, *Women, Race, and Class*
 John Bellamy Foster and Fred Magdoff, *The Great Financial Crisis*

III. Recommended Readings

Ernst Fischer, *How to Read Karl Marx* (a few copies are available in Smith Family Bookstore)
 István Mészáros, *The Structural Crisis of Capital*
 G.W.F. Hegel, *The Philosophy of Right*
 Ernst Fischer, *How to Read Karl Marx*
 Paolo Freire, *The Pedagogy of the Oppressed*
 Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic* (Talcot Parsons translation)
 V.I. Lenin, *Imperialism*
 Bowditch and Ramsland, *Voices of the Industrial Revolution*
 C. B. Macpherson, *The Life and Times of Liberal Democracy*
 Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution*
 Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Industry*
 Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire*
 Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes*
 Anthony Giddens, *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*
 Karl Marx, *Early Writings*
 Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The German Ideology*
 Karl Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*
 Karl Marx, *Pre-Capitalist Economic Formations*

Karl Marx, *Capital*, vol. II (Vintage/Penguin edition)
 Karl Marx, *Capital*, vol. III (Vintage/Penguin edition)
 Teodor Shanin, *Late Marx and the Russian Road*
 Frederick Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*
 John Bellamy Foster, *Marx's Ecology*
 Paul Burkett, *Marx and Nature*
 Lise Vogel, *Marxism and the Oppression of Women*
 Bertell Ollman, *Alienation*
 István Mészáros, *Marx's Theory of Alienation*
 István Mészáros, *Beyond Capital*
 István Mészáros, *The Challenge and Burden of Historical Time*
 Harry Braverman, *Labor and Monopoly Capital*
 Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*
 Karl Korsch, *Three Essays on Marxism*
 Cornel West, *The Ethical Dimensions of Marxist Thought*
 Paul M. Sweezy, *The Theory of Capitalist Development*
 E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*
 G.M.E. de Ste Croix, *The Class Struggle in the Ancient Greek World*
 Robin Blackburn, ed. *Ideology in Social Science*
 Norman Geras, *The Literature of Revolution*
 Emile Durheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*
 Emile Durkheim, *Suicide*
 Emile Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*
 Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*
 Emile Durkheim, *Socialism*
 Jennifer Lehmann, *Durkheim and Women*
 Max Weber, *Economy and Society*
 Max Weber, *General Economic History*
 Max Weber, *The Agrarian Life of Ancient Societies*
 Max Weber, *The Method of the Social Sciences*
 Patricia Madoo Lengermann and Jill Niebrugge-Brantley, *The Women Founders: Sociology and Social Theory*
 Wolfgang Mommsen, *The Political and Social Theory of Max Weber*
 Herbert Marcuse, *Negations*
 W.E.B. Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America*
 Cornel West, *Prophesy Deliverance!*
 Cedric Robinson, *Black Marxism*
 Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Yellow Wallpaper and Other Writings*
 C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*
 Ellen Meiksins Wood and John Bellamy Foster, ed. *In Defense of History*
 Edward Said, *Orientalism*
 Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*
 Samir Amin, *Eurocentrism*

(Many of these Recommended Readings are on reserve in the library under this course.)

IV. Requirements

(10%) Participation. Participation in discussions is a requirement of this class. You will receive 1 point for each class that you attend.

(20%) You will be required to keep a journal on the readings and discussions over the course of the term. Guidelines for journals are to be found at the end of this syllabus. The Journal will be handed in twice during the term—October 20 in class (10%) and December 4 by 4:00 P.M. in instructor's box(10%).

(30%) First Essay Assignment. You are required to write a 5 page paper on a topic of your own choosing based on the course material. You should rely on the reading materials for background. You are encouraged to present your proposed topics to the instructor in advance (though this is not mandatory). All essays will be due in class on October 27.

(40%) Second Essay Assignment: Research Paper. You are required to write a 10 page paper researching some topic directly related to the theorists/theories dealt with in the class. A handout will be provided containing possible ideas for such a paper, but you will be free to choose your own topic (prior approval by the instructor is encouraged but not mandatory). The reading and lecture materials in the course should be incorporated in some way as background sources in your research. All essays will be due at in Instructor's Box in 736 PLC by 4:00 P.M. on December 7.

V. Readings, Discussion Themes, Assignments, Handouts

Note on Readings: All readings (including those of the first week) should be completed *before* the class to which they are assigned. Class discussions will be based on these readings.

1. U September 29 [Come to the first class with these readings already completed]

Themes: Introduction to Course/Introduction to Marx

Required Readings: Readings: *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 53-54, 70-125, 143-145

Recommended: John Bellamy Foster, "Introduction," in Ernst Fischer, *How to Read Karl Marx*, 7-30

2. U October 6

Theme: Historical Materialism

Required Readings: *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 146-93, 3-6, 469-500; Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1, pp. 873-940, 89-103,

3. U October 13

Theme: Marx's Method, Fetishism of Commodities, General Formula of Capital

Required Readings: Marx, *Capital*, vol. I, 125-37, 163-77, 247-280, 304-06 320-29, Du Bois, *Oxford Du Bois Reader*, 256-64

4. U October 20

Theme: Exploitation/General Law of Accumulation: Marx's *Capital*, vol. 1, 340-44, 429-54, 470-80, 547-64, 636-69.

Recommended: Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1, 455-91, 492-517, 738-46, 762-802, *Marx-Engels Reader*, 512-19, 522-41, 594-95,

Journal due first time

5.U October 27

Theme: The Sociology of Anomie

Required Readings: Durkheim, *Readings from Emile Durkheim*, 23-105, 129-48, 149-56

Recommended: Durkheim, *Readings from Durkheim*, 1-9.

First (5 page) Essay Due

6. U November 3

Theme: Weber, Rational Capitalism and the Logic of Historical Explanation

Required Reading: Weber, *Selections in Translation*, 7-61, 69-131, 138-91

Recommended: Weber, *The Theory of Economic and Social Organization*; Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*; Weber, *General Economic History*, 352-69 (final chapter)

7. U November 10

Theme: Weber on Class, Status, Power, Bureaucracy, and Socialism/Introducing Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*

Required Readings: Weber, *Selections in Translation*, 212-25, 251-62, 331-54, 359-69; Du Bois, Preface to the Jubilee Edition of the *Souls of Black Folk*, *Monthly Review*, November 2003, <http://www.monthlyreview.org/1103dubois.htm>; Du Bois, *Oxford Du Bois Reader*, 100-31

8. U November 17

Theme: Darkwater

Required Readings: Du Bois, *Oxford Du Bois Reader*, 131-240, 438-54, 497-520, 564-76

Recommended: "Negroes and the Crisis of Capitalism in the United States," *Monthly Review*, April 2003; "The Negro Question in the United States (1906)," *New Centennial Review*, vol. 6, no. 3 (Winter 2006); Recommended: Patricia Madoo Lengermann and Jill Niebrugge-Brantley, *The Women Founders: Sociology and Social Theory*

9. U November 24

Theme: Women, Race and Class

Required Readings: Davis, *Women, Race and Class*, entire book

10. U December 1

Theme: The Structural Crisis of Capital

Required Readings: Foster and Magdoff, *The Great Financial Crisis*, entire book

Recommended: Holleman, et. al., "The Penal State in an Age of Crisis," *Monthly Review*, June 2009

Journal Due (Second Time) by 4:00 P.M. December 4 in Instructor's Box

Final Essay Due by 4:00 P.M. December 7 in Instructor's Box

VI. Guidelines for Journal

The main purposes of the journal are to give you an opportunity to focus intently on the texts being discussed in class; to prepare notes for class discussion; to critically reflect on the course materials on a week by week basis; and to compose a permanent record of your thoughts related to the course.

Journal entries should be kept in flat notebooks 8 1/2" x 11" or 9" x 12" in size. They can be either typed or hand written (if fairly legible). Entries in the journal should be

dated. There should be entries related to each week's readings. You should average at least 2-4 pages of journal entries per week.

Entries in your journal should take a variety of forms. Thus your journal might include extracts from the text and commentary; *critical reflections on the readings and on class discussions*; notes in preparation for classes; comments on personal experiences or field research related to the class materials; thoughts on current events of relevance to the class; notes for your essays, etc. Avoid making your journal into a mere collection of extracts from the texts. Use the journal instead as a means for the development of your own ideas and critical reflections.

The grading of journals will be based on the quantity and quality of reflections, with particular attention to: (1) evidence of close reading and reflection on the texts; (2) demonstrated capacity to build on class discussions; (3) critical thinking and imagination; (4) the emergence of a coherent perspective, reflected in the journal as a whole; and (5) the capacity to relate the materials to your own experience of contemporary events.

Journals will be handed in for grading twice during the term: in class October 20 (10%) and by 4:00 P.M. December 4 in instructor's box (10%). **Late journals will not be accepted.**