

**SOC 6050-001: Classical Sociological Theory (Tentative Syllabus)**

**Fall 2014**

**Meeting Time: Tuesday 2:00 PM- 5:00 PM**

**3 Credits**

**Location: BEH S 315**

**Instructor:** Dr. Brett Clark

**Email:** brett.clark@soc.utah.edu

**Office: Room:** 405, BEH S Building

**Office Phone:** 801-581-7108

**Office Hours:** W 2:00-4:00 PM, and by appointment

**Website:** Use the canvas site for the class

**Course Description:**

The intent of this course is to address the major themes, arguments, and historical bases of classical social and sociological theory, while reflecting upon the contemporary relevance of these theories. Emphasis will be placed on the social theory of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, Gilman, Du Bois, Mead, and Goffman. Given the restriction of what can be covered in one term, you will get an in-depth survey of important theorists in the canon of classical sociological theory, in which you will gain familiarity with many of the fundamental debates and concerns that underlie sociological research. Students will be encouraged to approach these theories critically and creatively, in order to facilitate their own distinctive syntheses.

**Required Texts (in the bookstore):**

Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader*

Karl Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1 (Vintage)

H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, eds., *From Max Weber*

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Max Weber, *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*

Emile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*

Emile Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*

David Frisby and Mike Featherstone, eds., *Simmel on Culture*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Women and Economics*

Eric J. Sundquist, ed., *The Oxford W.E.B. Du Bois Reader*

George Herbert Mead, *On Social Psychology*

Charles Lemert and Ann Branaman, eds., *The Goffman Reader*

**Recommended Readings and Texts:**

The following list is simply a small sample of the various books that students may find useful for further reading on the theories discussed in this class.

G.W.F. Hegel, *The Philosophy of Right*

Ernst Fischer, *How to Read Karl Marx*

V.I. Lenin, *Imperialism*

John Bowditch and Clement 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)  
 Karl Marx, *Grundrisse*  
 Teodor Shanin, *Late Marx and the Russian Road*  
 Frederick Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*  
 Frederick Engels, *Dialectics of Nature*  
 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*  
 Harry Braverman, *Labor and Monopoly Capital*  
 Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*  
 Karl Korsch, *Three Essays on Marxism*  
 Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*  
 Umberto Melotti, *Marx and the Third World*  
 Cornel West, *The Ethical Dimensions of Marxist Thought*  
 Paul M. Sweezy, *The Theory of Capitalist Development*  
 Paul M. Sweezy, *Four Lectures on Marxism*  
 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*  
 Fredric Jameson, *Valences of the Dialectic*  
 Norman Geras, *The Literature of Revolution*  
 Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*  
 Emile Durkheim, *Suicide*  
 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*  
 Wolfgang Mommsen, *The Political and Social Theory of Max Weber*  
 Reinhard Bendix, *Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait*  
 Herbert Marcuse, *Negations*  
 Cornel West, *Prophesy Deliverance!*  
 Cornel West, *Race Matters*  
 Cedric Robinson, *Black Marxism*  
 Dorothy E. Smith, *The Everyday World as Problematic*  
 Dorothy E. Smith, *The Conceptual Practices of Power*  
 Sandra Harding, *Whose Science? Whose Knowledge?*  
 Sandra Harding, *Is Science Multicultural?*  
 Sandra Harding, *The Feminist Standpoint Reader*

Angela Davis, *Women, Race and Class*  
Angela Davis, *The Angela Y. Davis Reader*  
Donna Haraway, *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women*  
Nancy C.M. Hartsock, *The Feminist Standpoint Revisited and Other Essays*  
C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*  
C. Wright Mills, *The Power Elite*  
Ellen Meiksins Wood and John Bellamy Foster, ed., *In Defense of History*  
Edward Said, *Orientalism*  
Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*  
Samir Amin, *Eurocentrism*  
Michael Dawson, *The Consumer Trap*  
Paul Baran and Paul Sweezy, *Monopoly Capital*  
Robert W. McChesney, *The Problem of the Media*  
Robert W. McChesney, *The Political Economy of Media*  
Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky, *Manufacturing Consent*  
Harry Magdoff, *Imperialism*  
Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*  
Howard Winant, *Racial Conditions*  
Michael Omi and Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States*  
Oliver Cox, *Caste, Class and Race*  
Georg Simmel, *The Philosophy of Money*  
Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man*  
Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*  
Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of Business Enterprise*  
Thorstein Veblen, *Absentee Ownership*  
Thorstein Veblen, *The Instinct of Workmanship and the State of Industrial Arts*  
Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality*  
Robert Merton, *The Sociology of Science*  
Robert Merton, *On Social Structure and Science*  
Robert Merton, *Social Theory and Social Structure*  
Robert Merton, *Science, Technology and Society in Seventeenth Century England*  
Harold Garfinkel, *Studies in Ethnomethodology*  
[www.marxists.org](http://www.marxists.org) (This website contains an extensive archive of writings by Marx and others.)

### **Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

*No laptop computers* will be allowed in the class. This class is rooted in group discussion and critical reflection. You should bring your books, notes, questions, summaries, reflections, and comments to class. This material will serve as the basis for your contribution to the class discussion. When writing papers, you should *use the ASA style*.

Your final grade will be based on the following criteria:

(10%) Participation. Active participation in all class discussions is required. You need to complete the readings before our meeting each week and be prepared to engage this work. Your grade for participation will be based on both quality and quantity in class discussions. Halfway through the class *you need to meet with the instructor* to talk about your participation in class up to that point.

(25%) Lead Discussion and Four-Page (Single-Spaced) Critical Reflection Papers. You are required to lead discussion, with a group, **five times** during the semester. As a group, you will stimulate class discussion by summarizing key points and pointing to questions that are worthy of debate. Here you will be able to highlight critical issues and grapple with theoretical arguments. You can also extend theoretical arguments. You may draw out comparisons and apply the theory to specific events. When you lead discussion you are required to prepare individually a *four-page (single-spaced)* summary/critical reflection of the readings. Your critical summary should demonstrate (1) evidence of closely engaging the texts; (2) capacity to build on class discussions; (3) critical thinking and imagination as far as the strengths and weaknesses of arguments; (4) the emergence of a coherent perspective; and (5) the capacity to relate the materials to contemporary events. This paper will be turned in during class.

(20%) Critical Reflection Papers (when you do not present). Every week that you do not lead discussion, you need to prepare a *two-page (single-spaced)* summary/reflection on the readings. Expectations are the same as noted above, but on a smaller scale, given the reduced length of the paper. This paper will be turned in during class.

(15%) First Essay Assignment. You will write a *five-page (single-spaced) paper* on a topic of your own choosing based on the course material. You should rely on the reading materials for background. You should discuss your proposed topics with the instructor in advance of the due date. All essays will be due in class on **October 8**.

(30%) Second Essay Assignment: Research Paper. You are required to write a *ten-page (single-spaced) paper* researching some topic directly related to the theorists/theories dealt with in the class. We will discuss the specifics and requirements of this assignment in class. You are free to choose your own topic. You need to get prior approval from the instructor. The paper should be comprehensive drawing extensively upon the readings and lecture materials in the course. All essays will be due **December 17**. Turn papers into instructor's mailbox.

**Grading Scale:**

A 94-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	
A- 90-93	B 84-86	C 74-76	D 64-66	
	B- 80-83	C- 70-73	D- 60-63	F <60

**Statement on Academic Integrity:** Violations, such as plagiarism (whether intentional or not), may result in a failing grade for the class. It is a violation of the Code of Academic Conduct to turn in a work that is not your own. This includes, turning in the work of another student, buying/copying a paper off the Internet, using the words or ideas of others without proper quotation and citation.

University of Utah (Policy # 6-400): “A student who engages in academic misconduct,” as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” See: <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>.

**Open Learning Environment:** The intention and structure of university level courses are to provide open, thoughtful forums for a wide variety of topics and ideas. While discussing these topics, students shall not discriminate on the basis of “race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability or veteran status.”

**ADA Statement:** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

([www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/](http://www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/))

**Course Schedule:**

Students must come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments for that week's classes. The additional readings for the class will be distributed (posted) on the canvas site for the class.

**Week 1** (August 26)

Topic: Introduction/Class Logistics/Introduction to Marx/Critique/Materialism

Readings:

Tucker, *Marx-Engels Reader*, pages xix-xlii, 3-25, 53-65

**Week 2** (September 2)

Topic: Alienation/Praxis/Historical Materialism/Mode of Production/Class

Readings:

Tucker, *Marx-Engels Reader*, pages 66-125, 143-200, 203-217, 469-500, 579-585

**Week 3** (September 9)

Topic: Marx's Method/Primitive Accumulation/Fetishism of Commodities/General Formula of Capital

Readings:

Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1, pages 873-940, 89-103, 125-177, 247-280

Stephen Hymer, "Robinson Crusoe and the Secret of Primitive Accumulation"  
(to be distributed)

**Week 4** (September 16)

Topic: Exploitation of Labor and Land/Labor Process/Value/Division of Labor

Readings:

Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1, pages 283-306, 320-344, 429-564, 636-639, 643-667

John Bellamy Foster, "Marx's Theory of Metabolic Rift" (to be distributed)

Heather Brown, TBD (to be distributed)

**Week 5** (September 23)

Topic: The Absolute General Law of Accumulation/Human Needs/  
Capital Needs/Class Struggle/Revolution

Readings:

Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1, pages 711-802 (mostly focus on 738-746, 762-802)

Tucker, *Marx-Engels Reader*, pages 439-442, 512-519, 522-541, 683-717,  
734-759

Harry Braverman, "The Universal Market" (to be distributed)

Michael A. Lebowitz, "The Path to Human Development" (to be distributed)

Robert J. Antonio, "After Neoliberalism: Whither Capitalism?" (to be distributed)

**Week 6** (September 30)

Topic: Introduction to Weber/Protestant Ethic/Idealism/Rational Capitalism/  
Vocation/Science/Politics/Disenchantment

Readings:

Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Gerth and Mills, *From Max Weber*, pages 3-74, 77-156, 267-301, 323-359

John Bellamy Foster and Hannah Holleman, "Weber and the Environment"  
(to be distributed)

Helpful reading (Not Required):

Weber, *Social and Economic Organization*, pages 1-86

**Week 7** (October 7)

**\* First Essay Assignment is due in class.**

Topic: Sociological Concepts/Class, Status, Party/Bureaucratization/  
Economic Organizations/Rationalization/Social Action/Authority

Readings:

Gerth and Mills, *From Max Weber*, pages 159-264

Weber, *Social and Economic Organization*, pages 87-157, 324-429 (if you have  
time read parts of pages 158-323)

Val Burris, "The Neo-Marxist Synthesis of Marx and Weber on Class."  
(to be distributed)

**Week 8** (October 21)

Topic: Introduction to Durkheim/Sociology as a Science/Social Facts/Suicide/Anomie/  
Moral Regulation

Readings:

Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*

Durkheim, *Readings from Emile Durkheim*, pages 21-31, 91-115, 139-158, 176-  
180 (to be distributed)

Durkheim, "Course in Social Science—Inaugural Lecture" (to be distributed)

Eugene A. Rosa and Lauren Richter, "Durkheim on the Environment"  
(to be distributed)

**Week 9** (October 28)

Topic: Division of Labor/Social Integration and Institutions/Crime/Religion

Readings:

Durkheim, *Division of Labor in Society*

Durkheim, *Readings from Emile Durkheim*, pages 117-135 (to be distributed)

**Week 10** (November 4)

Topic: Introduction to Simmel/Culture and Crisis/Spatial Relationships/Money/Reification/The Individual, Dyad and Triad/Social Distance/Stranger

Readings:

Frisby and Featherstone, *Simmel on Culture*

Simmel, *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*, pages 118-177, 402-408 (to be distributed)

Thorstein Veblen, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, selections to be determined (to be distributed)

**Week 11** (November 11)

Topic: Introduction to Charlotte Perkins Gilman/Sexual Division of Labor/Androcentric Culture/Standpoint Perspective/Feminist Critique/Rosa Luxemburg

Readings:

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Women and Economics*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, other selections (to be distributed)

Harriet Martineau, selections to be determined (to be distributed)

Jane Adams, selection to be determined (to be distributed)

Chicago Women's School of Sociology, selection to be determined (to be distributed)

Rosa Luxemburg, selections to be determined (to be distributed)

Ida B. Wells, selections to be determined (to be distributed)

**Week 12** (November 18)

Topic: Introduction to W.E.B. Du Bois/Concepts and Definitions of Race/The Veil/Double Consciousness/The Color Line/Social Reform and Change

Readings:

Sundquist, *The Oxford W.E.B. Du Bois Reader*, pages 37-240, 344-354, 377-394

**Week 13** (November 25)

Topic: Du Bois/Politics/Education/Propaganda/Structural Inequalities/Race, Colonialism, and Independence

Readings:

Sundquist, *The Oxford W.E.B. Du Bois Reader*, pages 394-400, 438-461, 481-675

**Week 14** (December 2)

Topic: Introduction to Mead/Evolution/Social Knowledge/Social Psychology/Self and Society/Interaction/Cooley/Human Nature/Looking Glass Self

Readings:

Mead, *On Social Psychology*, pages vii-282, 293-307

Charles Horton Cooley, *Social Organization*, "The Theory of Public Opinion" (to be distributed)

Charles Horton Cooley, *Human Nature and the Social Order*, selection (to be distributed)



**Week 15** (December 9)

Topic: Introduction to Goffman/Self-Presentation/Ritual/Drama/Frame Analysis  
Gender Display/Introduction to Dewey/Knowledge, Science, Culture, and Nature

Readings:

Lemert and Branaman, *The Goffman Reader*

Dewey, *Experience and Nature*, selection (to be distributed)

**\* Final Essay due December ?**