

## Sociology 3410: Early Sociological Theory

Pre-requisites: Soc 1100 and Soc 2111  
 Class Location: Ryan Building 2044  
 Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:30-1:00 pm  
 Sociology Website: <http://sociology.lakeheadu.ca>

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It is important to understand the key theoretical ideas of classical sociology in order to understand the intellectual foundations of our discipline. In this course, we will encounter those who are regarded to be the most important classical theorists in sociology, by reading original excerpts from their most important works. We begin reading the work of a number of intellectual precursors to the tradition, such as Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Adam Smith, Alexis de Tocqueville, and August Comte. The primary focus of the course will be on the famous “big three” theorists of our tradition, Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim. Finally, we examine selected works of Harriet Martineau, Georg Simmel, Jane Addams, George Herbert Mead, Karl Mannheim, and Sigmund Freud. This survey of theorists should give you a strong sense of the key ideas in classical sociological theory, and provide a chance to engage with this literature firsthand.

### GOALS OF THE COURSE

The goals of the course can be broken into four major emphases: (1) to gain a strong familiarity with classical sociological ideas by reading the arguments in their original form; (2) analyze, compare, and critically evaluate abstract theoretical ideas (3) accurately summarize and articulate the key ideas of major sociological theorists, and (4) develop analytical ability and writing skills by crafting an essay styled response to critical theoretical questions about the readings in the course.

With these goals in mind, you will be evaluated on the following:

(1) Daily Summaries	(40%)
(2) Group Assignments	(20%)
(2) Take Home Test	= <u>          (40%)</u>
	Final = (100%)

### REQUIRED READINGS

(1) *Classical Sociological Theory, Second Edition* (Edited by Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.

(2) There will also be supplementary material not included in the book that can be found on 1 Hour Reserve at the Paterson Library.

### A NOTE ON FORMATTING YOUR ESSAYS

The department has adopted the ASA formatting style for referencing and citations. To refer to this, please refer to the departmental website, or refer to the *ASA Style Guide*, published by the American Sociological Association.

## **EXPLANATION OF EVALUATIONS:**

### **(1) Daily Summaries (40%)**

For each class, you are expected to hand in a concise statement (*maximum* one page double spaced, at 12 pt font) that summarizes the reading for that day. Try to include all major concepts introduced in the reading, but avoid getting bogged down in too many extraneous details. This is a difficult skill, and one that improves greatly with practice. As such, these summaries serve to: (1) keep you on top of the readings; and (2) practice writing often, with an emphasis on concise, clear argumentation. I count the best 10 summaries toward your final grade.

\*\*\* There will be no late summaries accepted – they must be handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are to be discussed if they are to count toward your grade. \*\*\* Also, illness or other excuses are not accepted, since I only accept the best 10. If you have to miss a few, you have plenty of chances to get to 10 by the end of the term.

### **(2) Group Assignments (20%)**

In many classes, I will pose a theoretical question, often after the lecture, for you to work on as a group of 4-5 people. After debating the issues, you will appoint a secretary to write down the argument in point form, and submit your answers. There are no specific dates set aside for these assignments, so it pays to attend regularly, and keep up with the readings, to prepare. If you miss a group assignment, there is no way to make it up. However, I will forgive 2 missed group assignments by only counting your best (n – 2) assignments toward your grade.

### **(3) Take Home Test (40%)**

As well as summarizing arguments and understanding the content of the course, it is also important that you learn to analyze and evaluate this work critically. The take home test, distributed at the end of the semester, will ask you to compare the theories learned in class and evaluate them in relation to one another, in essay format. Emphasis will be placed on quality of prose as well as the depth of understanding displayed in evaluating the grade. The test should be typed using 12 point times new roman font, double-spaced, accurately referencing sources as necessary.

## **SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

### September 12

Welcome to the Class

### September 14

Thomas Hobbes “Selections from Leviathan,” pp 4-20 in *Classical Sociological Theory, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (Michael Kimmel (ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press. (ON RESERVE)

### September 19

Jean-Jacques Rousseau “Of the Social Contract” (pp 28-38)

September 21

August Comte "Selections from *Positive Philosophy*," pp 132-141 in *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Michael Kimmel (ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press. (ON RESERVE)

September 26

Adam Smith "The Wealth of Nations" (p 44-54)

September 28

Alexis de Tocqueville "Democracy in America" (pp 55-72)

October 3

Harriett Martineau, Excerpts from "How to Observe Morals and Manners," "Society in America" and "Domestic Service" (pp 46-64) in Patricia Lengermann and Gillian Niebrugge (eds.) *The Women Founders: Sociology and Social Theory 1830-1930*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. 1998. (ON RESERVE)

October 5

Karl Marx "The German Ideology," and "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" (pp 82-95)

October 10

\*\*\* THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY \*\*\*

October 12

Karl Marx "Manifesto of the Communist Party" (pp 96-111)

October 17

Karl Marx "Wage Labour and Capital" and "Classes" (pp 122-130)

October 19

Max Weber "Objectivity in Social Science," and "Basic Sociological Terms" (pp 211-227)

October 24

Max Weber "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" (pp 228-246)

October 26

Max Weber "The Distribution of Power within the Political Community" and "The Types of Legitimate Domination" (pp 247-263)

October 31

Max Weber "Bureaucracy" (pp 264-274)

November 2

Emile Durkheim "Rules of Sociological Method" (pp 139-157)

November 7

Emile Durkheim “The Division of Labor in Society” (pp 158-178)

November 9

Emile Durkheim “The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life” (pp 181-192)

November 14

Emile Durkheim “Suicide” (pp 193-202)

November 16

Jane Addams, Excerpts from “The Settlement as a Factor in the Labour Movement,” “Democracy and Social Ethics,” Problems of Municipal Administration,” and “The Long Road of Women’s Memory” (pp 90-104) in Patricia Lengermann and Gillian Niebrugge (eds.) *The Women Founders: Sociology and Social Theory 1830-1930*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. 1998. (ON RESERVE)

November 21

Georg Simmel “Group Expansion and the Development of Individuality” (pp 300-314)

November 23

George Herbert Mead, “The Self” (pp 282-294).

November 28

Sigmund Freud, “Civilization and its Discontents” (pp 315-322).

November 30

Karl Mannheim, “Ideology and Utopia” (pp 335-346)

December 5

review

**\*\*\* HAVE AN EXCELLENT WINTER BREAK! \*\*\***

**POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

All work handed in late receives a grade of zero.

# Lakehead University Regulations:

## IX Academic Dishonesty

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.

A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

- (a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- (b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.