

Sociology 3410: Early Sociological Theory – Fall, 2019

Pre-requisites: Soc 1100 and Soc 2111

Class Location: ATAC 2003

Class Time: Tues/Thurs 8:30am-10:00am

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 the contemporary 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 some of their most important works. We begin reading the work of some intellectual precursors to the tradition of sociology, such as Thomas Hobbes, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Adam Smith, Alexis de Tocqueville, Harriet Martineau, and August Comte. The primary focus of the course will be on the famous “big three” theorists, including Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim. We will also be examining some of the selected works of Sigmund Freud, George Herbert Mead, and Jane Addams.

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 strong writing skills in so doing.

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

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|--------------------------|----------------|
| (1) Reading Summaries | (20%) |
| (2) Group Assignments | (20%) |
| (3) Midterm Test | (20%) |
| (2) Take Home Final Test | (40%) |
| | Final = (100%) |

REQUIRED READINGS

(1) *Classical Sociological Theory, 3rd Edition* (Edited by Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk). Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing. 2012. All selections on the reading list are in this book unless otherwise mentioned. To get the book quickly and at low cost, it is recommended to purchase through **amazon.ca** (there are more than enough new and used copies available for the class in stock).

(2) There will also be supplementary material not included in the book that can be found on D2L. These will be marked on the reading list appropriately.

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) Reading Summaries (20%)

Each class, you may 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 prose. **Your best 10 will be counted toward your grade (you can hand in as many as you like).**

(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 3-5 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, except in the case of a doctor's note or other formal documentation deemed acceptable by me.

(3) Midterm Test (20%)

On October 10, we will have an in-class midterm test. This will be an essay style test, where you answer broad questions posed about the readings up to that point. Emphasis will be placed on how well you demonstrate knowledge of the readings, and how well you organize and present your answers in written form.

(4) Final Test (40%)

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 using the ASA referencing style. **DUE DATE: TBA**

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

September 3

Welcome to the Class

September 5

Thomas Hobbes "Of the Natural Condition and the Commonwealth"

September 10

Jean-Jacques Rousseau “Of the Social Contract”

September 12

Adam Smith “The Wealth of Nations”

September 17

Alexis de Tocqueville “Influence of Democracy on the feelings of Americans”

September 19

Harriett Martineau, Excerpts from “How to Observe Morals and Manners,” “Society in America” (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. (D2L)

September 24

August Comte “Selections from *Positive Philosophy*,” pp 132-141 in *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Michael Kimmel (ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press. (D2L)

September 26

Karl Marx “The German Ideology”

October 1

Karl Marx “Manifesto of the Communist Party”

October 3

Karl Marx “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844”

October 8

Karl Marx “Wage Labour and Capital”

October 10

Midterm test!

October 15-17

Reading Week!

October 22

Max Weber “Objectivity in Social Science,” and “Basic Sociological Terms”

October 24

Max Weber “The Distribution of Power within the Political Community” and “The Types of Legitimate Domination”

October 29

Max Weber “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism”

October 31

Max Weber “Bureaucracy”

November 5

Emile Durkheim “Rules of Sociological Method”

November 7

Emile Durkheim “The Division of Labor in Society”

November 12

Emile Durkheim “The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life”

November 14

Emile Durkheim “Suicide”

November 19

Sigmund Freud, “Civilization and its Discontents”

November 21

George Herbert Mead, “The Self”

November 26

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. (D2L)

November 28

Review and test help!

***** 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.