

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Sociology
Sociology 331.01
Classical Sociological Theory
Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. A.W. Frank

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Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 12:30-1:30, or by appointment

Course hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 11-12:15

Sociology Department web page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

Emergency Evacuations: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Professional Faculties Building.

Course objectives:

The course explores the origins of social science in the context of late 19th and early 20th century history and thought. Extensive consideration is given to Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud, whose influences are the widest and most lasting. We will also read about Marx's younger contemporary, Friedrich Nietzsche, who is a major influence on both Freud and Max Weber, the other principal theorist in the course. Lectures will discuss the contemporary importance of Durkheim, Mead, Elias, and (time permitting) Parsons.

The interest of the course, but also its difficulty, is that none of these theorists would be considered more than half right today—many critics would be harsher. So the question becomes: Why read thinkers whose specific 'findings' have been superseded? The course proposes that these men—and that gender bias is another reason for suspicion—constitute a way of thinking about what comes to be known as *social life*. That way of thinking continues to have profound influences that social scientists need to reflect upon, lest they become victims of its assumptions. To restate and underscore the difficulty of the course: *How do we develop the profoundest respect for theorists with whom we have good reason to disagree over much—certainly not all—of what they said, as well as with much of their direct influence?*

Our interest, then, is not so much in exactly where these theorists are now considered right or wrong (though that will be discussed). Rather, we seek to understand how each enacted a *style of thought* that remains pervasive, even though its first (and maybe even second) half-life is expended. At the core of this style of thought is the idea of the *social* as both an explanation and a need for interpretation, and the availability of certain *methods* for asserting particular interpretations as true.

Required Texts:

- *The Portable Karl Marx*, ed. Eugene Kamenka. Penguin.

- Michael Tanner, *Nietzsche: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford.
- Gianfranco Poggi, *Weber: a short introduction*. Polity.
- *The Freud Reader*, ed. Peter Gay. Norton.

Course Requirements:

Final grades will be based on three components: two in-class examinations (each worth 25% of the final grade) and a take-home final essay (50%).

- October 1, exam #1 on Marx.
- November 3, exam #2 on Nietzsche and Weber.
- Friday, December 11, final take-home exam due at my office, SS 921, between 12 noon and 2:00.

Missed examinations: Due to the paucity of comparable questions, *no re-takes or extensions* will be allowed on the scheduled examinations, October 1 and November 3. Students who miss either examination will have their grades determined by the remaining two assignments.

- Only medical excuses will be accepted as reason for missing a scheduled examination. These excuses must specify that the student was incapable of completing the required work, not simply that you saw a physician on a certain day (but the nature of your medical problem is private and need not be included in the physician's note).
- Requirements in other courses, job commitments, or personal engagements are not acceptable reasons for missing the exams.
- N1H1 contingency: a considerable flu epidemic is forecast during this semester. Public health officials advise staying home when you might have the flu, to prevent contagion. This advice contradicts University policy for medical excuses. Depending on the severity of a possible epidemic, normal requirements for medical excuses may be waved, and in-class exams may have to be rescheduled as take-home exams.

Format of final take-home exam: Length, 1,000 to 1,250 words. Spelling, syntax, and the organization of ideas will count in the grade. Careful editing is crucial.

The take-home essays should be typed or printed, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with pages numbered and stapled together. The student's name and ID# should appear in the upper corner of the first page. Please do not put papers in covers.

Grades and Return of final essays: Papers will *not* be returned through the Sociology Department Office, nor will grades be posted by the instructor (due to FOIP rules). Students who want their papers returned by mail should attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Other papers will be available for pick-up during the instructor's Winter Term office hours (TBA). Please do not telephone the departmental office asking for your grade.

Keep a copy: As in every course, my friendly advice is to keep a printed copy of all work you submit. At some point you should have printed at least one draft to edit on paper; keep that too. Students who might want a letter of recommendation should keep copies of their written term work (again, good advice in all courses).

Lecture schedule and readings:

September 8 – course introduction

September 10 – Marx: Engel’s Graveside Speech, 68-71; journalism: 337-365.

(Note: this edition has a useful glossary of Marx’s concepts, beginning at p. 559.

Kamenka’s introduction is also useful, especially for Marx’s biography.)

September 15, 17 – Marx, 1844 Manuscripts etc., pp. 125-161

September 22-24 – Marx, German Ideology, pp. 162-195; Communist Manifesto, 203-228

September 29 – Marx, Capital, pp. 432-461.

October 1 – exam #1

October 6-8 – Nietzsche, chapters 1-6

October 13 – Nietzsche, chapters 7-9

October 15 – Poggi on Weber, chapters 1-2

October 20, 22 – Weber, chapters 3-5

October 27, 29 – Weber, chapters 6-7

November 3 – exam #2

November 5 – Freud, xi-xxix (Gay’s introduction); 60-78 (Breuer’s “Anna O”)

November 10-12 – Freud on screen memories and dreams: pp. 117-172

November 24, 26 – Freud on ego, id, and the death instinct, 545-562; 594-658.

December 1, 3 – Freud on civilization, 722-772

December 8 – Freud, Autobiographical Study, pp. 3-41.

Exam Policies: You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate

reason, you will be able to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

Ethics Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct: cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student’s responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation

- disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.