

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE

WINTER 2010
SOCIOLOGY 331.01
CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

INSTRUCTOR: V. A. Haines Office: Social Sciences 946
Phone: 220-7605
Email: haines@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: R 0930-1100 or by appointment

LECTURES: TR 0800-0915 ST 125

REQUIRED READINGS: Readings for Sociology 331 Classical Sociological Theory
Haines

MARK DISTRIBUTION: A. Composition of Final Grade

Examination One (February 2)	25%
Examination Two (March 11)	35%
Final Examination	40%

B. Examination One and Examination Two

Examination One and Examination Two will be written during class.

C. Final Examination

There will be a three-hour final examination scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will offer an historical reconstruction of sociological theory from its nineteenth-century origins to World War II. The discussion will focus on the works of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Talcott Parsons. This course will introduce the main ideas of the theories and situate them in their social and intellectual contexts. It will move beyond description to analysis by examining alternative solutions to three of the central problems in social theory: (1) method, (2) agency, and (3) change. It will conclude by using the works of Charlotte Perkins Gilman to explore the current debate on canonicity in sociology.

LECTURE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS

The following is a brief summary of the dates when the major topics will be covered and the topic-specific readings. Minor departures from this outline should be expected.

I. INTRODUCTION (Jan. 12)

Central Problems in Social Theory.

II. POSITIVISM AND CLASSICAL EVOLUTIONARY THEORIZING (Jan. 14-21)

Comte and Positivism.

Reading 1 Auguste Comte

Reading 2 The Nature and Importance of the Positive Philosophy

Spencer's Evolutionary Social Theory.

Reading 3 Herbert Spencer

III. KARL MARX (Jan. 26-Feb. 9)

Alienation.

Reading 4 Estranged Labour

Sociology of Capitalism.

Reading 5 Manifesto of the Communist Party

Reading 6 Commodities and Money

Reading 7 Production of Relative Surplus-Value

Historical Materialism.

Reading 8 Marx's Historical Sociology

IV. EMILE DURKHEIM (Feb. 11-Mar. 2)

Social Solidarity.

Reading 9 Division of Labour in Society

Rules of Sociological Method.

Moral Integration.

Reading 10 Sociological Method: Its Application to Suicide

V. MAX WEBER (Mar. 4-23)

Subjective Understanding.

Reading 11 The Definitions of Sociology and Social Action

Ideal Types.

Reading 12 The Ideal Type

The Origins of Modern Capitalism.

Reading 13 The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Rationalization.

Reading 14 The Spread of Secular Rationalism

VI. TALCOTT PARSONS (Mar. 25-Apr. 1)

The Structure of Social Action.

Reading 15 Introduction and Preface

Reading 16 The Theory of Action

VII. THE DEBATE ON CANONICITY IN SOCIOLOGY (Apr. 6-15)

The Sociological Canon.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

Reading 17 Early Women Sociologists and Classical Sociological Theory

Reading 18 The Yellow Wallpaper and Women and Economics

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Examinations will be cumulative. They will cover material that is presented in the lectures and in required readings.

Exam Policies: You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for an excused absence from 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. Excused absences may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting an excused absence. Excused absences 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. Examinations will be cumulative. They will cover material that is presented in the lectures and in required readings.