

CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SOC 210 – 12572 - Spring 2018
TUESDAY 5:00 – 7:00 PM
Room: SJH 115

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

As a social science, the discipline of sociology has had a responsibility to the academy and, most importantly, to the world: to create explanations to bring us closer to understanding how individuals, institutions, structures and societies are related to one another with the ultimate goal of improving the living conditions of all human beings. From its inception as a social science in modern Western Europe, to its current breadth and depth in both the Global South and Global North, sociology has kept the development of theory at its core. Contemporary scholars have built on what became labeled as classical theories as well as other early writings and created new frameworks to address social issues that had been left unattended because they had not yet emerged or they had not been identified as significant in the past.

In this course, we will take a journey through the origins of sociological theorizing, including the traditionally identified work of “the classics” and also the writings from authors who did not make it to the classical canon but contributed greatly to the development of our sociological understanding of the world. While we will pay attention to the theories, we will also think about the contexts in which they were developed and how ideologies, paradigms and worldviews shaped their epistemology and applicability.

Designed as a graduate seminar, this course requires its students to be highly responsible readers and writers, critical thinkers and active participants throughout the semester. The depth of our learning will depend on each of our individual as well as collective engagement with the material and assignments. I count on you, and trust that by the end of this course, you will have a solid grasp of the essential pillars of sociology as a discipline and be able to fully appreciate the value that theory has as the foundation of all social research.

GOALS

This is one of the required courses for the completion of your MA in Sociology. This course contributes to the goals and outcomes of your graduate education as students are expected to meet Goal I of the MA program, that is, to “demonstrate advanced knowledge of key theorists and concepts in the discipline of sociology;” with the objective of “applying sociological concepts and theories to analyze social issues.”

ASSESSMENT

Your performance in this seminar will be evaluated and will contribute to your final grade as follows:

In-Class Participation		15 pts
Reflection Journals	(5 pts x 11)	55 pts
Final Paper & Oral Presentation	(25 paper + 5 oral)	30 pts
Total		100 pts

*** Late submissions will be penalized**

*** Guidelines for your journal reflections, in-class participation and final paper and presentation will be provided timely**

Final Letter Grade Breakdown

100–95 = A
94-90 = A-
89-85 = B+
84-80 = B
79-75 = B-
74-70 = C+
69-65 = C
64 or less = F

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to respect the **Academic Honor Pledge**

(<http://www.stjohns.edu/academics/provost/excellence/integrity>) of St. John's University.

Students who violate these rules will be subject to the **Judicial Process for Violations of the Academic Honor Code** (<http://www.stjohns.edu/campus/handbook/chapter6/regulations/discipline.sju>).

The use of cellphones and laptops is **not permitted during class**. Please bring your readings and notes printed to work in class (plan in advance so you have all the materials necessary to be active during our meetings).

Note-taking by hand is strongly encouraged (see <https://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away>).

Occasionally, the professor may request students to work with their laptops, but when that occurs, students are required to focus on the task at hand and avoid browsing the internet or doing other activities not related to class in the computer.

If you must communicate with someone during the time we are meeting, you are required to step out of the room to make your call or send your message.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Academic accommodations will be made to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed in this class.

Any student requiring academic accommodations should contact the Department of Student Life Services.

For further reference, visit <http://www.stjohns.edu/campus/handbook/chapter6/disabilities.sju>

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Connell, R. 2007. *Southern Theory: The Global Dynamics of Knowledge in Social Science*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

- Calhoun, C., Gerteis, J., Moody J., Pfaff, S. and Indermohan, V. (Eds.) 2012. *Classical Sociological Theory*. 3rd Edition. West Sussex, United Kingdom: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Lengermann, P. and Niebrugge, G. 1998. *The Women Founders: Sociology and Social Theory 1830-1930 A Text/Reader*. Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press.

- *Additional Required Readings will be available on Blackboard [BB]*

- *Further citations and reading suggestions may be provided throughout the semester and made available through the Library or via BB*

UNITS OF INSTRUCTION, SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Date	Unit of Instruction	Readings	Assignment
1/23	Unit 1 - Introduction to the course: What is theory to sociology and how to put it in practice?	Syllabus	Journal Reflection # 1 (due 1/23)
1/30	Unit 2 - The creation of sociology as a social science and the making of the classical cannon	Calhoun, Introduction Ritzer & Stepnisky – Ch. 1 & pp. 191-209 from Ch. 6 [BB] Mannheim [BB] Connell – Ch. 1 Lengermann & Niebrugge (L&N) – Ch. 1	Journal Reflection # 2 (due 2/1)
2/6	Unit 3 – Some precursors to sociological theory	Hobbes, Rousseau, Kant and Smith in Calhoun - Part I Hegel [BB]	Journal Reflection # 3 (due 2/8)
2/13	Unit 4 – Marx & Engels	In Calhoun – Part III	Journal Reflection # 4 (due 2/15 - <i>rescheduled</i>)
3/6	Unit 5 – Martineau & Addams	In L&N – Ch. 2 & Ch. 3	Journal Reflection # 5 (due 3/8)

3/13	Unit 6 – Durkheim	In Calhoun – Part IV	Journal Reflection # 6 (due 3/15)
3/20	Unit 7 – Max Weber	In Calhoun – Part V	Journal Reflection # 7 (due 3/22)
3/27	Unit 8 – Gilman & Marianne Weber & the Chicago Women’s School of Sociology	In L&N – Ch. 4 & Ch. 6 L&N – Ch. 7	Journal Reflection # 8 (due 3/29)
4/3	Unit 9 – Du Bois, Cooper & Wells-Barnett	Du Bois in Calhoun (pp. 404-410) and in [BB] L&N – Ch. 5	Journal Reflection # 9 (due 4/5)
4/10	*Unit 10 – Cooley, Mead, Dewey, Simmel, Freud, Husserl, Schutz *Unit 11 – Lukacs, Gramsci, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse	Mead, Simmel, and Freud in Calhoun – Part VI Dewey, Cooley, Freud, Schutz in [BB] Horkheimer, Adorno and Marcuse in Calhoun – Part VII Lukacs and Gramsci in [BB]	Journal Reflection # 10 (due 4/10)
4/17	Unit 12 – Synthesis of early sociological writings and a look ahead into modern/contemporary theories	Ritzer & Stepnisky – Ch. 1 & pp. 209-232 from Ch. 6 [BB] L&N – Epilogue Connell – Ch. 2, Ch. 3 & Ch. 10	Journal Reflection # 11 (due 4/26)
4/24	<i>No class meeting – Final Paper Prep</i>		
5/8	<i>Final Paper DUE and Oral Presentation</i>		