

University of Toronto | Department of Sociology
Fall 2021
SOC201H1F LEC0201- Classical Sociological Theory

Fridays 12:00p.m – 3:00.p.m

Location: Zoom (until Sept 24) and Sid Smith 1073 (from Oct 1 and onwards)

Instructor: Cinthya Guzman

Email: c.guzman@mail.utoronto.ca

Online Office Hours: Fridays 10-11am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/83417114765>

Meeting ID: 834 1711 4765

Passcode: 362448

Statement of Acknowledgement

We acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the HuronWendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory. [Council of Aboriginal Initiatives, 2014]

Course Description

This course provides students with a foundation of classical theories in sociology. There are three objectives. The first is to demonstrate what theory is, and how it is important to sociology. The second is to help you read, make sense of, and use theory. The third is to explore ways in which modern sociology is shaped by the theoretical assumptions and preoccupations of its founders, and how historical circumstances set sociological agendas.

As you will come to learn, the classical sociological theorists tried to understand the impact of two great crises of modernity, the Industrial Revolution and the Democratic Revolution. In doing so, the theorists we will cover aimed to answer diverse questions like: what holds society together? What is the relationship between individuals and the communities? How does the physical and social world shape who we are? How do people and ideas shape society? What are the implications of increasing individualism and a division of labor on social relations, morality and governance? How does power shape social relations and action? These questions, and the theories offered by the classical sociological theorists to answer them, are still of great relevance today.

The course will be organized around three key themes that are raised in the classical works covered. The three themes will be: 1) Freedom, Community and the Public Good; 2) Power and Domination; 3) the Self and Society.

Course Objectives

The course is organized in a way that encourages students to build and develop skills focused around collaborative learning, critical reading, writing, and the formation of arguments. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate and discuss a number of approaches central to classical sociological theory.
- Identify and assess key classical theoretical concepts and arguments.
- Write analytically and critically about classical sociological theory.
- Make and support an academic argument through use of evidence.

Prerequisite:

The prerequisite for this course SOC101Y1, or a combination of SOC102H1+ SOC103H1, SOC102H1+ SOC150H1, SOC103H1+ SOC150H1, or SOC100H1+ SOC150H1. Students without one of these combinations will be removed from the class at any time discovered and without notice.

Accessibility needs:

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit: <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

Description of Evaluation Components

| Evaluation Component | Grade Weight | Due Date |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|
| In-Class Test 1 | 25% | October 29 |
| Position Paper 1 | 25% | October 22 |
| Position Paper 2 | 25% | Nov 26 |
| In-Class Final Test | 25% | Dec 3 |

Grading Descriptions and Late and Missed Test Policies

Position Paper 1 & 2

Worth 25% each

3 pages, (excluding references) in 12-point font, double-spaced.

Your task is to make an argument -- not to summarize. Your paper should focus on providing evidence to persuade the reader of the validity of a distinctive interpretation advanced by you. Students may also advance an argument in relation to a contemporary issue.

In-Class Test 1 & 2

Worth 25% each

There will be two tests over the term that will cover content from lecture slides and

Accessibility: If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Handing in assignments: All assignments must be handed to the instructor electronically via Quercus. *The instructor and TA will NOT accept electronic copies of assignments via email.*

Deadlines: The assignments are due by class time (6:10 p.m.). Please refer to the Due Date stated on page 2 of the Syllabus. Late work will not be accepted without proper documentation (the Declaration of Absence on ACORN).

If you miss a test or a paper deadline, do not contact the instructor or a TA unless you have followed the steps described here.

In case of illness, you must supply a completed the Declaration of Absence on ACORN.

If you are registered with Accessibility Services, your counselor will need to send an email message on your behalf (a one-week extension being the norm).

Absence Declaration: The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. Please use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation in the University. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to your faculty or campus. In addition to this declaration, you are responsible for contacting me to request the academic consideration you are seeking. You will be notified by the University if this policy changes.

Late Assignments: Late term papers without a valid excuse will be deducted 5% per day, including weekends and holidays. We will not be accepting work submitted over a week late.

Missed Assessments: Students who do not submit the test on time will receive a mark of zero for that test unless reasons beyond their control prevent them from taking it. If you expect any delays in your submission due to illness, students must give the instructor a written request for special consideration, accompanied by proper documentation from your college registrar or through the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN, which explains why the assessment was submitted late. We will not be accepting work submitted over a week late.

Grade Appeals: The instructor and teaching assistant take the marking of assignments and tests very seriously, and will work diligently to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules: If it is a mathematical error simply alert the instructor of the error.

In the case of more substantive appeals, you must:

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1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
 2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader's comments.
 3. If you still feel the grade you received is not an accurate reflection of the work that you produced, you must discuss your grade with your TA within 3 days of the grade being returned to you, addressing the comments they provided to you.
 4. If you are unable to come to an agreement, you may request a regrade from the instructor. In your request, you must address your TA's comments and explain why you feel they do not

adequately reflect your assignment. Keep in mind that upon regrading, your mark may go up or down or stay the same.

Turnitin: The term paper and take-home tests must be submitted to turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their papers to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0%) unless a student instead provides, along with their assignment, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submitted was truly their own.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to scholarship at the University of Toronto and beyond. Academic offenses include, but are not limited to, using someone else's ideas in a paper or exam without proper citations, submitting your own work for credit in multiple courses, obtaining assistance from others during exams (including having someone edit your work or looking at a classmate's work), and falsifying illness on the Absence Declaration tool.

Please familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/codebehaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>

Writing Support Each college has a writing centre with instructors who can assist you at various stages of writing projects. I highly recommend seeking help from your college writing centre for your reading responses. Find your writing centre here: <https://writing.utoronto.ca/writingcentres/>

Student Responsibilities and Expectations

This class is completely online. All lectures will be provided to students via Quercus' BB Collaborate function asynchronously, so you can download lectures at your convenience. They will be made available by the date listed in the syllabus. Office hours for the TA and myself will also be held online, also using BB collaborate.

Participation: Students are expected to participate actively by 1) completing assigned readings, 2) writing the assigned discussion posts, and 3) keeping up to date on course information posted on Quercus. In all activities, students are to be respectful of fellow classmates and teaching staff.

Email Policy: I will respond to your email within two business days (48 hours, except weekends and holidays). Emails that do not follow these guidelines will not receive a response: Your use of an official U of T address is required. Please include the course code (e.g. SOC201) in the subject line and your full name and student number in your message. Please do not send a repeat email (e.g., "did you get my email?").

In general, please treat emails as you would any other professional communication. You should be respectful in the way you address the instructor and the TA. Email is most suitable for

questions that are clear, concise, and easily answerable; if you are confused about the course material or need to discuss a concept, I strongly encourage you to instead attend office hours or make an appointment. Please read the syllabus carefully before asking a general question about the course.

HELP from your T.A.: Your T.A. will hold scheduled online office hours and respond to your emails within 48 hours. Please be judicious in your use of email. Use it only for questions that are brief and specific. Before sending a question by email, be sure to check the course outline to see if an answer is already available. Emails should not be seen as an alternative to doing the assigned reading or attending lectures.

Required Readings & Course Schedule

Required readings: We will use one textbook for this course, listed below. As this is an online course, an e-version of the textbook is available online for purchase and are substantially cheaper than the hardcopy version. You can purchase this e-book or physical through the UofT Bookstore or VitalSource. Other readings will be added to Quercus.

Kivisto, Peter. *Social Theory. Roots and Branches*. SOC201 University of Toronto Custom Edition.

Course Schedule: Students are expected to complete all required readings prior to each online lecture.

Note: every attempt will be made to follow this schedule, but it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Introduction to Sociological Theory

Sept 10: Introduction to Classical Sociological Thought: What, Why, Who, and How?

Readings:

Introduction: Social Theory: Classical Foundations and Contemporary Developments"- Kivisto text

i) Freedom, Community and the Public Good

Sept 17: Durkheim I

Readings:

Chapter 6: What is a Social Fact?

Chapter 5: On Mechanical and Organic Solidarity

Sept 24: Durkheim II

Readings:

Chapter 7: Anomic Suicide

The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life (On Quercus)

Oct 1: Tocqueville

Readings:

Chapter 17: On Individualism

ii) Power and Domination

Oct 8: Marx I

Chapter 2: The German Ideology
Chapter 3: Manifesto of Communist Party
Chapter 1: Alienated Labor

Oct 15: Weber I

Readings:
Chapter 9: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
Chapter 10: Bureaucracy

Oct 22: Weber II

Readings:
Chapter 11: The Sociology of Charismatic Authority
Chapter 12: Class, Status, Party
Position Paper 1 Due

Oct 29: In-Class Test 1

Nov 12: Reading Week

iii) The Self and Society

Nov 19: Mead; W.E.B. Du Bois

Readings:
Chapter 24: The Fusion of the I and the Me in Social Activities (Mead)
Chapter 18: Of Our Spiritual Strivings (Du Bois)

Nov 26: Simmel; Veblen

Readings:
Chapter 14: The Metropolis and Mental Life (Simmel)
Chapter 15: The Stranger (Simmel)
Chapter 20: Conspicuous Consumption (Veblen)
Position Paper 2 Due

Dec 3: In-Class Final Test