

CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SOC 201H1F

Summer 2022 (May 10 – June 16)

Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:10-9 pm.

DELIVERY/Venue: Online via *Quercus* & *ZOOM*

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Office: Department of Sociology, 725 Spadina, Rm. 346

Office Hours: by arrangement Teaching Assistants: TBD

*** Students will need a computer with microphone and camera in order to participate in synchronous online activities; lectures will not be recorded. Posting course materials or lecture recordings you may make for private study to other websites without permission from the Instructor will constitute Copyright infringement.

The historical investigation of the development of a science is most needful, lest the principles treasured up in it become a system of half-understood precepts, or worse, a system of prejudices. Historical investigation not only promotes the understanding of that which now is, but also brings new possibilities before us by showing that what now exists is in great measure conventional and accidental.

Ernst Mach (1838-1916)

** The prerequisite to take SOC201H1 is SOC100H1 and SOC150H1.

University policy mandates that students without this requirement will be removed upon discovery.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduction to the history, nature, and role of sociological theory, through an examination of the works of key classical theorists such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, Georg Simmel, George Herbert Mead, Karl Mannheim, and others.

COURSE SYNOPSIS: The main focus of this course will be directed towards exploring and understanding the development of Sociological Theories in the so-called “Classical” Phase, when the foundations of the emerging discipline of Sociology were established: in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Knowledge of those theoretical “points of departure” is essential for comprehending subsequent theoretical developments in Sociology, for the “classics” continue to provide not only many of the basic orienting assumptions for sociological research, but also much of conceptual terminology presently being utilized in explicating social worlds and their transformations over time. As we shall attempt to establish, all forms of theoretical knowledge are in varying degrees “conditioned” by the social and historical contexts in which they originated, as well as “informed” by the inherited thought-traditions to which they respond, constructively and critically. Sociological Theory, in short, has a History, ... and that history is also sociological.

TEXTS: Selected Readings to be placed as Modules on Quercus

REQUIREMENTS and GRADING:

4 Reading Reflections (~200 words each) on the Assigned Weekly Texts: *Your Selection!* (5% each = 20%);

1 Research Essay, approximately 1200 to 1500 words in length, due June 9 (30%);

2 Timed Online Tests (May 24 & June 14), form to be determined (20% + 20% = 40% total);

Critical Reflection Commentary (~800 words), due in the Final Assessment Period, (10%)

& Class Participation (for outstanding contributions, bonus maximum 3%)

Learning Objectives: To (i) Master the arcane mysteries of Sociological Theories, as they pertain to the diverse social worlds human beings create, and are created by; (ii) Regale friends, family, and prospective future employers with your deep knowledge of complex subjects; and (iii) Enhance your skills in the crafts of writing and carrying out research.

Academic Integrity is fundamental to learning at UofT. Familiarize yourself with the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*, at (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) . It is the University rule book for academic behaviour, and you are expected to know the rules.

Plagiarism Policy: Ouriginal

Sometimes, students will be required to submit their assignments to the University’s plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>). For some of your assignments, we will be using the software *Ouriginal*. It uses text matching technology as a method to uphold the University’s high academic integrity standards to detect any potential plagiarism. *Ouriginal* is integrated into Quercus. For the assignments set up to use *Ouriginal*, the software will review your paper when you upload it to Quercus. To learn more about *Ouriginal*’s privacy policy please review its [Privacy Policy](#).

Email policy: Owing to the large number of junk mailings I receive, I do not favor using this medium for class communication, other than for emergencies. My email address and home phone number are in the public domain, but my preference is for you to contact me in class for all course-related matters. *NOTE:* The TAs should be contacted first regarding all routine course matters.

Missed Tests: Owing to the large enrolment, no “make-up” tests will be offered. For students with officially legitimate reasons and documentable proof for absences on test days, the policy will be to substitute a score from another assignment for the legitimately missed exam. **Missed Lectures:** *Students who miss classes are expected to obtain lecture notes from classmates.*

Policy on Extension Requests: Extensions for completing course assignments can only be given in accordance with university rules, which are limited to medical situations or family emergencies. Documentation will be required to establish compliance. *NOTE: Late papers without such documentation will not be accepted, and scored as ‘0’ pts.*

Students who miss the test, or are late in submitting an assignment for medical reasons, need to email the instructor (not the TA), and also declare their absence on the system (ACORN).

(NOTE: Because of Covid-19, students do NOT need to submit the usual documentation, i.e., medical notes or the Verification of Illness forms).

Students who miss a test, or are late in submitting an assignment for other reasons, such as family or other personal reasons, should request their College Registrar to email the instructor.

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

WRITING ASSISTANCE

Students can find information about college writing centres at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. It is recommended that you *book appointments well in advance*, as the Writing Centres are commonly very busy. See also the website Writing at the University of Toronto at www.writing.utoronto.ca. For numerous practical advice files, see www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice.

Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>. There is also Reading eWriting, an online program that helps students engage course readings more effectively.

SUMMER TERM

1. May 10 ***Introduction: From Social Philosophy to Sociological Theory***

Readings: Vilfredo Pareto, "What is Sociology?," from *The Mind and Society* (1 pg);
J.M. Bryant, "Sociological Theory, Part One: Getting One's Bearings" (Marx, Weber, Durkheim 10 pgs)

2. May 12 ***What is Theory?***

Reading: J.M. Bryant, "Sociological Theory, Part Two: Theories of Structure and Agency"
(pp. 11-27 survey "Contemporary Theory" perspectives: Mead and Symbolic Interactionism, Feminism, etc.)

3. May 17 ***Karl Marx and the Materialist Conception of History***

Readings: Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, *The German Ideology* (on Historical Materialism, 5 pgs);
The Communist Manifesto, Chapter I (10 pgs)

4. May 19 ***Karl Marx and the Materialist Conception of History (cont.)***

Reading: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume One*: Part VIII: Primitive Accumulation (abridged 16 pgs)
Tutorial Session (after lecture): Review in Preparation of Test # 1

5. May 24 ***Karl Marx and the Materialist Conception of History (cont.)***

Reading: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume One*: Part VIII: Primitive Accumulation (cont. & review)

*** **Test # 1** *** [covering readings & lectures through session 4, excluding Primitive Accum.]
** **Essay Assignment provided** **

6. May 26 ***Max Weber: Historical-Comparative Sociology: States and Economies***

Readings: Max Weber, Excerpts on Bureaucracy (2 pgs) and Politics (9 pgs)

7. May 31 ***Max Weber: Historical-Comparative Sociology: Religions***

Reading: Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (abridged & annotated, 18 pgs)

8. June 2 *Emile Durkheim: On Sociological Method, as illustrated by Suicide*

Readings: Review “Sociological Theory, Part One”: Durkheim

9. June 7 *Emile Durkheim: Sociology of Religion*
Georg Simmel: Formal Sociology

Readings: Durkheim, Selected Excerpts (4 pgs); Simmel, “The Stranger” (4 pgs)

10. June 9 *George Herbert Mead: Minds, Selves, and Societies* [& *Tutorial Session* for Test #2]

Readings: Review “Sociological Theory. Part Two”: section on Mead in Symbolic Interactionism
Mead, Selections: “Play, the Game, and the Generalized Other” (6 pgs); “The I and the Me” (2.5 pgs)
Tutorial Session (after lecture): Review in Preparation of Test # 2

*** **ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE** ***

11. June 14 *George Herbert Mead: Minds, Selves, and Societies (cont.)*

*** ***Test # 2*** *** [covering readings & lectures from sessions 5-10]

12. June 16 *Karl Mannheim and the Sociology of Knowledge*

Reading: Mannheim, from *Ideology and Utopia*, Chapter V: “The Sociology of Knowledge” (excerpts)

*** ***Critical Reflection Commentary*** *** [Quercus submission due June 25]

Final Assessment Period: Wednesday, June 22 – Wednesday, June 27, 2022

“But all science would be superfluous if the outward appearance and the essence of things directly coincided.”
Karl Marx, *Capital* Vol. III

“Everything that can be thought at all can be thought clearly. Everything that can be said can be said clearly.”
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

“Theory is only one moment of elucidation, and always lacunary and fragmentary.”
Cornelius Castoriadis, *Crossroads in the Labyrinth*