

St. Francis Xavier University
Sociology 201: Traditions in Social Thought
Dr. P. Cormack
Spring, 2013

Instructor: Dr. P. Cormack

Office: Annex 112A

E-mail: pcormack@stfx.ca

Office hours: Monday: 11:15- 12:15, Tuesday: 9:10- 11:00, Friday: 10:15-11:15.

This course will introduce you to some of the foundational texts in sociological thought – running from classical to contemporary authors. It will provide a foundation for upper level theory courses in Sociology: 301, 302, and 303.

The classes will be organized around a detailed discussion of the day's assigned reading. I will ask you each day to bring a written question or comment about the assigned reading. Please leave your question (with an attempt at an answer) on the desk as you come into the classroom each class.* Include your name and the date on it. Please base your questions on specific lines or passages from the text and note the page number so we can quickly turn to the page for discussion. Also make an attempt at answering the question. You will not be penalized for a wrong interpretation. The quality of your contribution is the basis of your participation grade. If you miss a number of classes due to illness you may make up these grades with a written research paper (along with a doctor's note).

The reading in this course is challenging, and we move from author to author quickly. It is essential to keep up with the reading in order to understand it. Your exam and assignments will be assessed in terms of how well you understand these texts.

Evaluation

Midterm: (Monday, Feb. 18)	20%
Final: (TBA)	50%
Essay: (Monday, March 11)	15%
Participation: (1 X 15 submitted questions*)	15%

Required Text

Gordon Bailey and Noga Gayle (eds.), Social Theory: Essential Readings. 2nd ed. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Part I: Sociology as Science/Sociology of Science

Auguste Comte, from The Positive Philosophy of August Comte (1842), pp. 6-14.

Herbert Spencer, from The Study of Sociology (1873), pp. 103-107; The Principles of Sociology (1876), pp. 107-110.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, from The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 or “Paris” Manuscripts, pp. 47-52.

- from The German Ideology (1845-6), pp. 55-61.

Emile Durkheim, from The Rules of Sociological Method (1895), pp. 126-140.

- from Suicide (1897), p. 140-155.

Max Weber, from Science as a Vocation, speech (1918), pp. 199-204.

- from The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (1904), pp. 228-237.

(MID-TERM EXAM)

PART II: The Interpretive Turn

Weber, from Economy & Society, pp. 204-213.

C. Wright Mills, from The Sociological Imagination (1959), p. 280-285.

Charles Horton Cooley, from Human Nature and the Social Order (1902), pp. 239-245.

George Herbert Mead, from Mind, Self, and Society (1934 – posthumous), pp. 247-258.

Erving Goffman, from The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life (1959), pp. 288-296.

Michel Foucault, from The History of Sexuality (1980), pp. 307-315.

Edward Said, from Orientalism (1978), pp. 388-406.

Dorothy Smith, from The Everyday World as Problematic (1987), pp. 324-339.

(FINAL EXAM – inclusive of all readings.)