

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology

Sociology 301.10
Fall 2022

Dr. David Lynes
Nicholson Tower Rm 616

Classical Social Theory

Sociology continues to be influenced by the work of a particular group of social theorists. The questions they raised about the nature and ethos of our collective coexistence, as well as the way each went about investigating the answers, continues to influence the theoretical framework within which much of sociology is presently pursued. This course will provide an overview of the historical context from which Sociology emerged as a discipline, committed as it was (and is still) to examining and confronting the troubling consequences of society's turn towards the modern era, with particular emphasis on the parallel developments of industrialization and capitalism.

The aim of this course is not to provide exhaustive coverage of the whole range of social thinkers who influenced the development of the field. Rather, we will focus on the works of 5 key theorists whose writings have contributed in important and lasting ways to the establishment of Sociology's primary theoretical directions. They are, Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, and W. E. B. Du Bois. We will examine in particular how each viewed the social world they were a part of and deeply concerned about. In addition, the course will explore and develop how each of these perspectives implicitly recommends a particular understanding of what it means to live a socially responsible life. The main objective throughout, is to promote the capacity for critical social awareness through the practices of writing, active reading and interpreting of the main ideas and theoretical commitments in each case.

Texts

There is one required text for this course:

Capitalism and Classical Sociological Theory (3rd Ed.) by John Bratton & David Denham (Toronto: UTP, 2019).

This book will be available at the university bookstore, as well as many on-line book outlets. It will be supplemented by additional readings from key theoretical works by each of the theorists and will be made available via the course Moodle site. The books these additional readings will be taken from are as follows:

Karl Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Edited by T. B. Bottomore (Norton, 1972).

Emile Durkheim, *The Rules of Sociological Method*. Edited with an introduction by Steven Lukes, translated by W. D. Halls (The Free Press, 1982).

Max Weber, *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Edited and translated by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills (Oxford, 1958).

Georg Simmel, *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*. Edited and translated by Kurt H. Wolf (The Free Press, 1964).

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Soul of Black Folk*, New York, NY: Vintage Books, 1990

Evaluation

The course work will consist of a series of written exercises and assignments aimed at systematically developing a theoretically critical approach to the material covered in class. The exercises will be worth an increasing amount as the course progresses, as indicated below. There will also be an assessment for class participation.

1 st written assignment.....	25%
2 nd written assignment.....	30%
Final exam.....	35%
Participation and Exercises.....	10%

Attendance, Respect, and Academic Integrity

Regular class attendance is important and expected of everyone enrolled in this course. Please be sure you are familiar with the regulations on course attendance and withdrawal as outlined on page 14 of the University Calendar. Note also that plagiarism and academic dishonesty are considered very serious academic offenses which can seriously and permanently impact your academic record and career. What constitutes such offenses and how they will be responded to is outlined in the the University Calendar on page 14 under "Academic Integrity".

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. Please feel free to contact the Human Rights and Equity Advisor Megan Fogarty if you have questions or concerns about equity in any class or in the StFX Community in general. Megan can be contacted by email at mfogarty@stfx.ca or by telephone at 902-867-5306.

Course materials are designed for use in Sociology 101.17 at StFX University only and are the property of the instructor, unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Copying this material for distribution, online posting, or selling of this material to third parties without permission is subject to Canadian Copyright Law and is strictly prohibited.

Please Note: Attendance is especially important for this course, as the in-class discussion is designed to enhance the appreciation of the text and reading material and is essential to the spirit of the course objectives. However, attendance is considered a prerequisite for, and not the substance of, the class participation component of the course. If, for any you are unable to attend for any length of time, please let me know early on so we can attempt to find a remedy.

Office Hours

My office is in Nicholson Tower, Room 616. I will be available to meet during office hours listed below. Other times can be arranged (by email) if you are unable to meet during these times. Also note that office hours this term will be held virtually, however, in-person meetings can also be arranged upon request. The office hours for this term only are:

Monday	11:15 to 2:00
Thursday	10:00 to 12:00
Friday	11:00 to 1:00 (by appointment)

There will be times when I am unable to be in office during the posted office hours due to committee meetings or unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, please send an email message and I will get back to you as soon as I can. If you are unable to make the listed times, other times can be arranged by appointment. Contact me through e-mail to arrange a meeting or to ask any questions about the course or the Sociology program.

E-mail: <dlynes@stfx.ca>

Phone: 902 867-3802

Reading and Assignment Schedule

Note: Page references listed below refer to: *Capitalism and Social Theory*, by Bratton et.al. The additional primary source readings will be assigned and available via the course Moodle site.

September 6th – 8th : Introduction, Modernity and Social Theory, p. 23 – 43.

September 13th – 15th : European Enlightenment and Early Social Thought p. 45 – 72.

September 20th – 22nd : Karl Marx: Philosophy p. 71 – 93

September 27th – 29th : Karl Marx: Theory of History p. 95 – 123

Primary Source Reading: “Wage Labour and Capital”

October 4th – 6th : Karl Marx: Economics of Capitalism p. 125 – 147

Note: 1st Assignment Due Friday October 7th 2022 (by midnight)

October 11th – 13th : Emile Durkheim: Division of Labour 149 – 170

October 18th – 20th : Emile Durkheim: The Rules p. 171 – 192

Primary Source Reading: *The Rules of Sociological Method* (from p 50)

October 25th – 27th : Emile Durkheim: Primary Source: “What is a Social Fact?”

November 1st – 3rd : Max Weber: Social Classes and Legitimate Domination p. 255 – 274

November 8th – 10th : **Study Break – No Classes**

November 15th – 17th : Max Weber: Primary Source: “Science as a Vocation”

Note: 2nd Assignment Due Tuesday November 15th 2022 (by midnight)

November 22nd – 24th : Georg Simmel: Primary Source: “The Social and the Individual Level” + “The Metropolis and Mental Life”

November 29th – December 1st : W. E. B. Du Bois On Race p. 301 – 322

December 6th : Overview, Conclusion

Important Dates:

The first assignment is due Friday October 7th 2022 (by midnight). The second assignment is due Tuesday November 15th 2022 (by midnight). Both assignments are to be submitted to the course Moodle site where indicated. The Final examination will be held during the regular exam period, on the day assigned by the Registrar's Office. This date will be posted by the Registrar's office early in the term. **The deadline to drop a three-credit first-term course is Wednesday, November 2nd 2022.** Students choosing to do so must be sure the course is dropped online, in Banner in order for the course grade-to-date to be omitted from one's official university transcript. After this date students are not permitted to drop courses without permission from their Dean. No longer attending does not, by itself, constitute dropping the course.

Note: Due to the time constraints related to the submission of grades, no assignments will be accepted beyond 24hrs after the Due date, and only then, with permission (exceptions for dire emergencies only).