

SOC301: Classical Social Theory
Fall, 2017
Instructor: Dr. P. Cormack

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Office hours: Monday: 10:00-12:00; Tuesday: 12:30-1:30; Wednesday: 12:30-1:30;
Friday: 10:15-12:15.

This course covers the earliest sociological thinkers who still have a profound influence on sociology today. We will read and explore these thinkers looking for their conception of society and how to investigate it. The readings in this course are challenging. It is essential that you keep up with the assigned readings in order to pass the exams.

Midterm (20%)

Final Exam (40%)

Participation/Writing (10%)

Dialogue assignment (30%) – see moodle for assignment

Participation/Writing – for each class you are to bring a short reflection on the assigned reading. It should be about 50-100 words in length and be typed. Try to put the main ideas of the text in your own words. You may want to begin by directing attention to a sentence or passage you think is relevant or interesting. Hand these in at the beginning of each class.

Assigned Reading:

- Durkheim, The Rules of Sociological Method
- Durkheim, Suicide
- Weber, “Science as a Vocation” (moodle)
- Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
- Marx and Engels, The Marx-Engels Reader

Reading Schedule

Sept 8: Durkheim, Rules of Sociological Method, “Preface to the First Edition” and “Preface to Second Edition”.

Sept 12: Durkheim, Rules of Sociological Method, Chapter 1, pp. 20-27.

Sept 15: Durkheim, Rules of Sociological Method, Chapter 2, pp.39-48.

Sept 19: Durkheim, Rules of Sociological Method, Chapter 3, pp.50-66.

Sept 22: Durkheim, Suicide, "Egoistic Suicide", pp.152-170.

Sept 26: Durkheim, Suicide, "Egoistic Suicide, continued", pp.171-216.

Sept 29: Durkheim, Suicide, "Altruistic Suicide", pp. 217-240.

Oct 3: Durkheim, Suicide "Anomic Suicide", pp.241-276,

Oct 6 (No Classes)

Oct 10: Weber, "Science as a Vocation", pp. 6 -10.

Oct 13: Weber, "Science as a Vocation", pp. 11-16.

Oct 17 - MIDTERM

Oct 20: Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Chapters 1 & 2

Oct 24: Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Chapter 3

Oct 27: Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Chapter 4

Oct 31: Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Chapter 5

Nov 3: Marx and Engels, "The German Ideology" – pp. 146-155

Nov. 7: Marx, "Estranged Labour" – pp. 70-81

Nov. 10: Marx, "Wage Labour and Capital" – pp. 203-217.

Nov.14 and 17: Marx, "The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof" – pp. 319-329

Nov. 21: Marx & Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party" – p. 473-491

Nov. 24 and 28: Engels, "The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State", pp.734-751

Dec 1 – review (**Dialogue due**)