

Sociology 2270A
Foundations of Social Theory
UWO, Summer Evening 2013
Tuesday & Thursday 7-10, 5H3305
Dr. Doug Mann, dmanna@uwo.ca

This course will deal with the foundations of social theory, starting with the French and Scottish Enlightenments and the beginnings of a specifically sociological worldview, moving on to Durkheim's organic view of society, then to Marx's dialectic materialism, finishing with Weber's *Verstehen* sociology and ideal types of authority and Freud's dim view of civilization. We'll try to understand their theories not just as historical relics,

but as living sets of ideas relevant to contemporary social issues. Class attendance and participation will be *strongly* encouraged.

Texts

Craib, Ian. *Classical Social Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.
Karl Marx. *Selected Writings*. Ed. Lawrence H. Simon. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994.
Mann, Doug ed. *Classical Social Theory Reader* (courseware). UWO, 2013. ☺

Workload

Quizzes (5 x 8% each): 40%
Mini-Report (with the option of writing two): 10%
Participation (see below for details): 10%
Final Exam (covers the entire course): 40%

Schedule

We'll follow the following order of topics. Some of the later material may be condensed or omitted. Courseware readings indicated by ☺.

Part I: The Origins of Social Theory

1. The Basic Concepts of Social Theory and the Enlightenment Origins of Sociology

Reading: ☐ Craib, *Classical Social Theory*, Chapter 1, pp. 1-10. ☐ Map of Social Theory, notes. ☺

2. Historical Progress in Early French Social Theory: Condorcet and Comte [long lecture]

Readings: ☐ Condorcet, *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind*, trans. Jane Barraclough (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1979), Introduction: pp. 3-13; Sixth Stage, pp. 77-88. ☺

☐ Notes on Condorcet's Ten Stages of History. ☺ ☐ Craib pp. 23-26.

☐ Comte Cartoons in Richard Osborne, *Philosophy for Beginners* (NY, 1992), pp. 134-135. ☺

3. The Scottish Enlightenment on Property and Social Structure [long lecture]

Readings: ☐ Anand Chitnis, *The Scottish Enlightenment: A Social History* (London: Croom Helm, 1976), Chapters 1 and 5, pp. 4-10, 91-123. ☺

☐ Alan Swingewood, "Origins of Sociology: The Case of the Scottish Enlightenment," *British Journal of Sociology* 21 (1970): 164-180. ☺

☐ Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*, 1767, selections on rude nations & property, subordination, and the division of labour: Part 2 Sections II & III, 3.II, 4.I, 4.II. ☺

☐ Notes on the Scottish Enlightenment in courseware. ☺

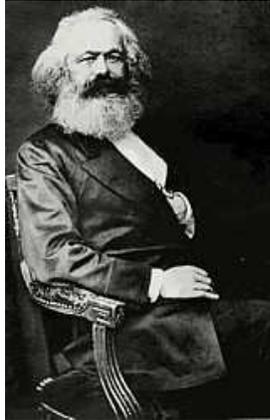
Part II: Durkheim

4. Durkheim on Social Facts and Suicide

Reading: ☐ Craib Chapters 2 and 3, pp. 11-34.

5. Durkheim on Solidarity, Religion and Politics

Reading: ☐ Craib Chapter 7, pp. 63-85 and Chapter 11, pp. 187-203.



Part III: Marx

6. Marx's Historical Materialism

Readings: ☐ Karl Marx, *Theses on Feuerbach*, Simon 98-101.

☐ Karl Marx, *Preface to a Contribution to a Critique*, Simon 209-213.

☐ Karl Marx, *Capital Volume I Preface*, Simon 214-219.

☐ Karl Marx, *Afterword to Capital*, Second German Edition. ☺

☐ Frederick Engels, *Letters to Bloch and Mehring*. ☺

☐ Craib Chapter 4, pp. 35-42.

7. Marx on Alienation and the Economics of Capitalism (heavy readings!)

Readings: ☐ Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844* on alienation, Simon 54-55, 58-68.

☐ Karl Marx, *Capital Volume I*, Chapters 1, 6, 7 (on commodities, fetishism of commodities, the buying and selling of labour power, the labour process and

surplus value), Simon 220-243, 264-291.

☐ Karl Marx, *Capital Volume I*, Chapter 25, on the industrial reserve army. ☺

☐ Craib Chapter 8, pp. 86-104.

8. Marx on Ideology and the Family

Readings: ☐ Marx and Engels, *The German Ideology*, Simon 102-126, 129-132. Browse Part II of *The Communist Manifesto* (see unit 9).

☐ Craib Chapter Chapter 8, pp. 105-118.

9. Marx on the Stages of History

Readings: ☐ Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, Parts I, II, IV, Simon 157-176, 185-186.

☐ Karl Marx, *Capital Volume III* Chapters 48.3, 52 (on necessity and freedom, classes). ☺

☐ Craib Chapter 12, pp. 201-231.

Part IV: Weber & Freud

10. Weber's Verstehen Methodology (short lecture)

Reading: ☐ Craib Chapter 5, pp. 43-52.

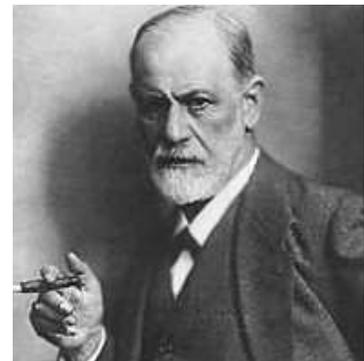
11. Weber on Classes, Groups, Legitimacy and Authority

Reading: ☐ Craib Chapter 9, pp. 119-145.

12. Weber on Religion [this might be cut for time reasons]

Readings: ☐ Max Weber, "Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism," Chapter 5 of *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. ☺

☐ Craib Chapter 13, pp. 232-260 (concentrate on 232-238, 248-260).



13. Freud on Civilization [this might be cut for time reasons]

Readings: ☐ Sigmund Freud, Chapters 2 & 5, *Civilization and its Discontents*, Trans./Ed. James Strachey, (New York: Norton, 1990), pp. 22-36, 64-74. ☺

Mini-Report

You have to write one of these, and have the option of writing a second. In every week but the last one I will post a new mini-report online linked to that week's lectures. You can pick which one of the five topics you wish to write on. Each topic will cover a distinct issue in social theory, with a different due date and structure. The actual topics, formats and due dates for each mini-report will be announced online. Generally speaking they will be **short 3-4 page essays** due one week after announced. They should be written and formatted like formal essays and include a bibliography. They will assume knowledge of all relevant course texts and literacy in English.

The main purpose of the second "optional" mini-report is to help out people who are quiet or shy. It can be used to replace either (a) a specific quiz grade, or (b) the 10% assigned to participation in the course. Write or type on the cover what the report replaces – a quiz or the participation grade. Note that these are not "free marks": if written poorly or not well researched, your grade will reflect that. They must be printed out, not emailed. Late penalty = 20% per day.

Participation and Digital Addictions

I'll hand out your participation grades according to the following schema:

- 0: You never speak OR you text/talk on your cell phone, read the newspaper, play video games, or check Facebook during lecture. If you are addicted to your cell phone or Facebook and can't resist using them during lecture, please don't come to class.
- 1-2: You make brief relevant comments in one or two classes.
- 3-4: You make brief relevant comments in three or four classes.
- 5: You make brief relevant comments in half the classes.
- 6: You make relevant comments in over half the classes and seem to know the texts.
- 7: You participate in all but one or two classes, and seem to know the texts.
- 8: You participate in every class, and know the texts.
- 9-10: You make interesting comments informed by class readings in every class, challenge your classmates when appropriate, and miss no classes.

Important: To encourage students to pay attention, take their studies seriously and show respect to the lecturer, there will be an automatic **1% penalty** assessed on your **participation grade** each time you are seen using your cell phone, social networking, playing video games or reading a newspaper during lecture. No **warning** or **notification** will be given of this penalty, and it is **irretrievable**. It also applies to a **mini-report grade** used to replace the participation grade. Moral of the story: *please* turn your gadgets off for 45 minutes during lecture! Don't worry, you'll get ample texting breaks each night.

If you have a *very* important phone call to make or take, just quietly leave the lecture for a few minutes and do it in the hallway. A piece of advice: most of my best former students came to class with just pens, paper and the courseware or textbooks, leaving their computers at home and their cells in their bags. Students who sit at the back to text or Facebook tend to get Cs, Ds, and Fs since they don't pay attention, don't participate and thus don't understand the course content. See my analysis of how to get good (and bad) marks on my web page.

Quizzes

There will be 6 quizzes in the course, with 5 counting. The purpose of the extra quiz is to cover ALL reasons for missing a class, including a brief illness, travel, social events, work, tornadoes, earthquakes and alien abductions. IF you do write all 6 quizzes, I'll count your top 5 marks. Each quiz will consist of a mixture of multiple-choice and/or short answer questions on basic issues in the readings and lectures, and will be announced one class in advance. They will take place at the end of class so I don't have to rush students or wait for late people. Their purpose is to encourage you to pay attention in class and to do the readings. There are no rewrites for *any* reason.

Class Attendance and Notes

All announcements having to do with work in the course will be given during class. You'll be tested on the lecture materials and class discussions, along with the readings. It's up to you to make sure you keep up to date on such things by attending class. I will post Power Point notes online (there's some in the reader), but these are NOT a textbook, just headings of what I will talk about in class: don't expect to pass the class if you skip the lectures and readings and study just from these. Please keep the background chatter down during lectures out of respect for both me and for those of your classmates who wish to listen to the lecture or participate in class discussions.

E-Mails

I would like to conduct as much of class business as possible in person to avoid misunderstandings and the ever-worsening problem of e-mail congestion. Please don't email me complex questions about your essays or assignments - it's far more efficient for both of us if you come to speak to me in person about this sort of thing during class breaks or by appointment outside of class. I don't mind brief friendly exchanges on course content or related issues, but don't expect replies to questions or complaints **concerning grades** - once again, present these in person! E-mailed requests for **extensions** will magically disappear – whoosh! The same standards of civility apply to electronic communication as apply to personal conversations. If I receive a rude or impolite e-mail I will block your e-mail address. Personal dialogue is far superior! *Kind words* are, of course, always welcome.

For all written assignments, make sure you look at my web page “How to Write a Good Social Theory Paper” at http://publish.uwo.ca/~dmann/good_papers_soc.htm

Standard Departmental Warnings

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in Sociology 1020 or Sociology 1021E.

Antirequisite(s): The former Sociology 230 or the current Sociology 2240E.

NOTE: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). [Professor's Note: If you can't do the time, don't do the crime!]

Missed Exams and Late Assignments

You should understand that academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. If, due to medical illness, you cannot write a test or exam, or submit an assignment by the due date, it is your responsibility to follow the University's **new** “Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness”. This policy can be accessed at: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

Compassionate Grounds

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.



Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.
