

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: SO 3260 CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

(Updated Spring 2022)

UK LEVEL: 5
UK CREDITS: 15
US CREDITS: 3/0/3

PREREQUISITES:

SO 1000 Introduction to Sociology
 SO 1001 Sociology of Modern Life

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Origin and development of sociological thought Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, Mead. Examination of intellectual currents and social processes during the formative years of the discipline.

RATIONALE:

Tracing and evaluating the theoretical corpus of the major sociologists is necessary for all students in sociology. This course will allow them to grasp the historical context of 19th and early 20th century sociological thought. Familiarity with the contributions of the great 19th-century scholars (Comte, Marx), as well as with the founding classics of scientific sociology in the 20th century (Durkheim, Weber, Simmel), should be the cornerstone of every student's education in sociology. The course aims at having a broader appeal to undergraduates in other social sciences and in the humanities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- As a result of taking this course, student should be able to:
1. Develop a deeper understanding of the historical circumstances in which sociology emerged as a potent scientific discipline in the nineteenth century.
 2. Analyze ideas and key concepts among the major classical founders of sociology (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel and Mead).
 3. Analyze key texts of the main founders of the discipline.
 4. Discover the continuing relevance of sociological classics.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:

In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures, discussions of selected issues, showing of video documentaries and in-class illustrations of various issues.
- Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can address issues and ask questions pertinent to the course material.
- Use of a blackboard site, where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.

ASSESSMENT:

Summative:	
First assessment: 24-hrs mid-term take-home	50

examination (unseen text interpretation/informative/critical answer with choice involved) 1,500 +/-10% words)- summative	
Final assessment: Term paper (2,500 +/-10% words) - summative	50

Formative:

Interpretive homework on selected texts- formative	0

The formative assignments test Learning outcomes 2, 3, 4 with emphasis on 5.

The first assessment (24-hr take-home mid-term examination) tests Learning outcomes 1,2,3

The final assessment (term paper) tests Learning outcomes 2, 3, 4

Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.

INDICATIVE READING:

Required material:

1.Morrison, K. (2006), *Marx, Durkheim, Weber: formations, of modern social thought*. London: Sage.

On Reserve Status in the JSB Library (required):

1.Durkheim, E. ([1893] 1960), *The Division of Labour in Society*, New York: The Free Press.

2.Frisby, D. (1981), *Sociological Impressionism: A Reassessment of Georg Simmel's Social Theory*. London: Routledge.

3.Joas, H. (1997), *G.H. Mead: A Contemporary Re-examination of his Thought*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.

4.Lukes, S. ([1973] 1985), *Emile Durkheim: His Life and Thought*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

5.Mead, G.H. (1913), 'The Social Self', *The Journal of Philosophy, Psychology and Scientific Methods* 10(4): 374-80.

6.Marx, K. ([1844]), *Early Writings*. London: Penguin Books.

7.Ollman, B. ([1971] 1996), *Alienation: Marx's Concept of Man in Capitalist Society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

8.Simmel, G (1991), 'Special Issue on Georg Simmel', *Theory, Culture and Society*, 8(3).

9.Stedman Jones, S. (2001), *Durkheim Reconsidered*. Cambridge: Polity.

10.Weber, M (1980), *Basic Concepts in Sociology*. Setaucus, NJ: The Citadel Press.

Recommended Material:**Marx****primary:**

1. Marx, K. ([1867] 1990), *Capital. Vol. 1*. London: Penguin.

secondary:

1. Avineri, S. ([1968] 1996), *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2. Cohen, G.A. (1978), *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defense*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

3. Postone, M. (1993), *Time, Labor and Social Domination: A Reinterpretation of Marx's Critical Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

4. Smith, T. (1990), *The Logic of Marx's 'Capital': Replies to Hegelian Criticisms*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

Durkheim**primary:**

1. Durkheim, E. (1895), *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press.

2. Durkheim, E. (1973), *On Morality and Society*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

3. Durkheim, E. (1970) *Suicide*. London: Routledge.

secondary:

1. Challenger, D. (1994), *Durkheim Through the Lens of Aristotle: Durkheimian, Postmodernist, and Communitarian Responses to the Enlightenment*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield.

2. Cladis, M. (1992), *A Communitarian Defense of Liberalism: Emile Durkheim and Contemporary Social Theory*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

3. Gangas, S. (2007), 'Social Ethics and Logic: Rethinking Durkheim Through Hegel', *Journal of Classical Sociology*, 7(3): 315-338.

4. Riley, A. (2014), *The Social Thought of Emile Durkheim*. London: Sage.

5. Rawls, A.W., (2011), 'Durkheim's Treatment of Practice: Concrete Practice vs. Representations as the Foundation of Reason', *Journal of Classical Sociology* 1(1): 33-68.

6. Watts-Miller, W. (1993), *Durkheim, Morals and Modernity*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Weber**primary:**

1. Weber, M. (1947), *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*. New York: The Free Press.

2. Weber, M ([1948] 1991), *From Max Weber*. London: Routledge.

3. Weber, M. (1968), *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of*

Capitalism. London: Unwin University Books.

secondary:

1. Bruun, H.H. (2007), *Science, Values and Politics in Max Weber's Methodology*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
2. Käsler, D. (1988), *Max Weber: An Introduction to his Life and Work*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
3. Scaff, L. (1989), *Fleeing the Iron Cage. Culture, Politics and Modernity in the Thought of Max Weber*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: The University of California Press.
4. Schluchter, W. (1985), *The Rise of Western Rationalism: Max Weber's Developmental History*. Stanford, CA: University of California Press.

Simmel

primary:

1. Simmel, G. (1950), *The Sociology of Georg Simmel* (ed. Kurt Wolff). New York: The Free Press of Glencoe.
2. Simmel, G. (1971), *On Individuality and Social Forms* (ed. D. Levine). Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
3. Simmel, G. (1997), *Simmel on Culture* (ed. D. Frisby and M. Featherstone). London: Sage.

secondary:

1. Frisby, D. (1992), *Simmel and Since: Essays on Georg Simmel's Social Theory*. London: Routledge.
2. Oakes, G. (1985), 'Theoretical Rationality and the Problem of Radical Value Conflicts: Remarks on Simmel, Rickert and Weber', *State, Culture and Society* 1(2): 175-199.
3. Poggi, G. (1993), *Money and the Modern Mind: Georg Simmel's 'Philosophy of Money'*. Berkeley, LA: University of California Press.
4. Shermer, H. and Jarry, D. (2013). *Form and Dialectic in Georg Simmel's Sociology: A New Interpretation*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave, Macmillan.

Other:

1. Bhabra, G. and J. Holmwood (2021) *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity.
2. Buck-Morrs, S. (2009) *Hegel, Haiti and Universal History*. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: University of Pittsburgh Press.
3. Camic, C. (ed). (1997) *Reclaiming the Sociological Classics: The State of Scholarship*. Oxford: Blackwell.
4. Carreira, F (2007) *George Herbert Mead: A Critical Introduction*. Cambridge: Polity.
5. Chernilo, D. (2007), 'A Quest for Universalism: Reassessing Classical Social Theory's Cosmopolitanism', *European Journal of Social Theory* 10(1): 17-35.
6. Craib, I (1997), *Classical Social Theory*. Oxford: Oxford

	<p>University Press.</p> <p>7. McCarthy, G. (2003), <i>Classical Horizons: The Origins of Sociology in Ancient Greece</i>. New York: State University of New York Press.</p>
<p>INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</p>	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL: N/A</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: N/A</p>
<p>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>Verbal skills using academic / professional English.</p>
<p>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>Word, ppts</p>
<p>WWW RESOURCES:</p>	<p>Useful specialized journals include:</p> <p>http://jcs.sagepub.com/ http://csf.colorado.edu:80/psn/marx/index.html http://www.lang.uiuc.edu/Relst/Durkheim/DurkheimHome.html http://www.socioweb.com</p>
<p>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</p>	<p>1. <i>A historical sketch of Sociological theory: The early years</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Subject Matter of Sociological Theory b. Roots in political philosophy, ethics, and epistemology <p>2. <i>Auguste Comte and Herbert Spencer: Founding Arguments</i></p> <p>3. Karl Marx</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Historical Context of Karl Marx's Work b. <i>The German Ideology</i> c. Marx's Economic Works: 1850-1867 d. <i>Capital</i>, Vol. 1: Economic and Social Elements of Capitalism e. <i>Capital</i>, Vol. 1: The Theory of Value and Surplus Value f. <i>Capital</i>, Vol. 1: The Genesis of Capitalism g. Theory of Alienation h. Marx's Political Writings i. Marx's Dialectical View of History: The Theory of Development <p>4. <i>Emile Durkheim</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Historical Context of Emile Durkheim's Work b. <i>The Division of Labor in Society</i> c. <i>The Rules of Sociological Method</i> d. Durkheim on <i>Suicide</i> e. <i>The Elementary Forms of Religious Life: Epistemological and Normative Arguments</i> <p>5. <i>Max Weber</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Historical Context of Max Weber's Work b. The Theme of Capitalism in Weber's Work c. Weber's Theory of Social Classes and Status Groups d. <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i>

- e. Weber's Methodology and the Theory of Knowledge: Values and Facts, Ideal Types
- f. Weber's Theory of Social Action
- g. The Theory of Legitimate Domination
- h. Weber's Study of Bureaucracy

6. Georg Simmel

- a. The Historical Context of Georg Simmel's Work
- b. Sociology of Forms and Social Differentiation
- c. *The Philosophy of Money*
- d. Metropolis, Culture and Mental Life

7. George Herbert Mead

- a. Mead and Pragmatism
- b. The Social Self: An Attempt at Theoretical Synthesis
- c. The Normative Foundations of Mead's Symbolic Interactionism
- d. Return to Mead: Contemporary Relevance

8. Revisiting the classics

- a. Colonialism and Classical Social Theory
- b. Neglected Social Theory and Contemporary Relevance