

SOCI 3003A
CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
FALL 2020

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Course Description

The foundations of sociological theory as laid by the classic thinkers at the turn of the 20th century are examined in the light of current sociological perspectives. Special emphasis is given to the works of Marx, Weber and Durkheim. Fundamental developments of theory and method are examined. A brief introduction to Parsons will be offered if time allows.

Learning Objectives

1. To understand the basic questions, concepts, and theoretical arguments of the classical sociological thinkers
2. To grasp the common themes of and the contrasting differences between the major theories
3. To critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of the different theoretical perspectives
4. To be able to use the theoretical perspectives of the classical thinkers to analyze and understand social issues today
5. To better understand the theoretical questions that remain unanswered and the future directions of sociological theory

Course Materials

The following reading materials and texts are on reserve in the university library:

Primary Reading Materials

Bailey Gordon and N. Gayle. (eds.). 2003. *Social Theory: Essential Readings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Tucker, Robert (ed.). 1978. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. London: W.W. Norton & Company.

McLellan, David (ed.). 1977. *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, edited. Oxford University Press.

H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills (ed.). 1946. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Weber, Max. 1958. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Weber, Max. 1968. *Economy and Society; An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. New York: Bedminster Press.

Kalberg, Stephen. 2005. *Max Weber: Readings and Commentary on Modernity*. MA: Blackwell Publishing.

- Durkheim, Emile. 1984. *The Division of Labor in Society*. New York: The Free Press.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1995. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York: Free Press.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1973. *On Morality and Society: Selected Writings*. Edited and with an introduction by Robert N. Bellah. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1985. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: Free Press.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1952. *Suicide; A Study in Sociology*. London: Routledge.
- Giddens, Anthony. (ed.). 1972. *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Secondary Reading Materials

- Aron, Raymond. 1968. *Main Currents in Sociological Thought*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books. Vol. I & II.
- Coser, Lewis. 1977. *Masters of Sociological Thought*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. UK: Cambridge University Press.
- McLellan, David. 1977. *Karl Marx: His Life and Thought*. New York: Harper Books.
- Bendix, Reinhard. 1977. *Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Kasler, Dirk. 1988. *Max Weber: An Introduction to His Life and Work*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Turner, Bryan S. 1992. *Max Weber: From History to Modernity*. London: Routledge.
- Mitzman, Arthur. 1985. *The Iron Cage: An Historical Interpretation of Max Weber*. New Brunswick and Oxford: Transaction Books.
- Giddens, Anthony. 1978. *Emile Durkheim*. Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England: Penguin Books.
- Lukes, Steven. 1973. *Emile Durkheim: His Life and Work*. London: Allen Lane.

The following books are for reference only and are NOT on reserve in the CU library:

- H. Stuart Hughes 著; 李豐斌譯 〈意識與社會: 1890 年至 1930 年間歐洲社會思想的新取向 = Consciousness and society: the reorientation of European social thought, 1890-1930〉. 台北: 聯經出版事業公司, 民國 70 年[1981]。
- 蘇國勳 〈理性化及其限制 – 韋伯思想引論〉. 上海: 人民出版社, 1988 年。
- 洪鏞德 〈馬克思與社會學〉. 台北: 遠景出版事業公司, 1983 年。

朱元發 〈涂爾幹社會學引論〉. 香港：三聯書店，1988 年。

高承恕 〈理性化與資本主義〉. 臺北：聯經，1988 年。

Course Requirements and Assessments

1. Participation and Presentation in Tutorials (30%)

Presentation (20%) Students will have to form their own groups for tutorial presentation and discussion. In the presentation, 3 major tasks should be covered. Students should be able to (i) present a summary (main ideas) of the reading, (ii) delineate major and significant arguments of the article, and (iii) lead the discussion by preparing relevant and specific questions. Your TA will give you the details.

Attendance and Participation (10%) The tutorial hour is YOUR time: this is where you pick apart the readings, clarify lecture material, discuss problems and offer your insights. You will benefit from the tutorials only if you come, and come fully prepared.

2. Writing Assignments (30%)

You will need to write two short papers for this course. Each should be restricted to not more than 3 double-space typed pages. The papers should demonstrate a capacity to integrate the readings and thoughtful analysis of real life phenomena. (More detailed guidelines will be given during the course.) Tentative due dates: the first paper due in week 6, the second in week 10.

3. Final Take-Home Essay (40%)

The final take-home essay should be around 5-6 double spaced pages in length. In the paper, a systematic, sociological argument that is closely integrated with course materials should be constructed. Special attention should be given to underlying assumptions, clarity of argument, and effective use of supporting evidence. (More detailed guidelines will be given later.)

Grade Descriptors

A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
B	Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
C	Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirement.

Code of Conduct

1. Late papers will NOT be accepted unless an advance notice is given and is supported with justifications such as a doctor's note.
2. University regulations and penalties on plagiarism are strictly enforced. All references, including

original and secondary work, citations, quotes, or content from the internet must be properly attributed to its original source. If in doubt, ask your TA or consult *Short Guide to Writing about Social Science* by Lee J. Cuba, New York: Longman, 2002.

3. Please set your mobile phone to the “silent” mode during lectures.

Academic Honesty

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at:

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via the plagiarism detection engine VeriGuide, the declaration, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: Readings marked with ** are required. Those with * are strongly recommended. Others are recommended.

Week 1 (Sept. 10)

Introduction

- ** Weber, Max. 1946. "Science as a Vocation," the later part, pp. 140-156, in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* / Translated by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.
- ** Alexander, Jeffrey. 1987. "What is Theory," pp 1-21, in *Twenty Lectures: Sociological Theory since World War II*. NY: Columbia University Press.

WEEK 2 – WEEK 4: KARL MARX

McLellan, David. 1977. *Karl Marx: His Life and Thought*. NY: Harper Books.

Berlin, Isaiah. 1996. *Karl Marx: His Life and Environment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 2 (Sept. 17)

Historical Materialism: The Nature of Man and of History

- ** Marx, Karl. 1977. "Preface to A Critique of Political Economy." pp. 424 – 427 in *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, edited by David McLellan. Oxford University Press.
- ** Marx, Karl. 1978. "The German Ideology." sections on "History" and "The Real Basis of Ideology" pp. 155-163, 176-200 in *The Marx-Engels Reader (second edition)*, edited by Robert Tucker. London: W.W. Norton & Company.
- ** Marx, Karl. 1977. "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts." pp. 83-104 in *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, edited by David McLellan. Oxford University Press.
- * Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge, University Press. pp. 1-34
- * Coser, Lewis. 1977. *Masters of Sociological Thought*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. pp. 58-68

Week 3 (Sept. 24)

Social Action, Social Relations, Class and Class Struggles

- ** Marx, Karl. 1978. "Manifesto of the Communist Party." pp. 473-500 in *The Marx-Engels Reader (second edition)*, edited by Robert Tucker. London: W.W. Norton & Company.
- ** Marx, Karl. 1978. "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte." pp. 594-617 in *The Marx-Engels Reader (second edition)*, edited by Robert Tucker. London: W.W. Norton & Company.
- * Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge, University Press. pp. 35-46.

Oct. 1 No Class (National Day Holiday)

Week 4 (Oct. 8)

The Dynamics of Capitalism, Ideas Regarding Communism

- ** Marx, Karl. 1978. "Capital." sections on "The Two-fold Character of the Labour," "The Form of Value," and "Cooperation," pp. 308-329 and 384-403 in *The Marx-Engels Reader (second edition)*, edited by Robert Tucker. London: W.W. Norton & Company.
- * Marx, Karl. 1978. "Critique of the Gotha Program." pp.525-541 in *The Marx-Engels Reader (second edition)*, edited by Robert Tucker. London: W.W. Norton & Company.
- * Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge, University Press. pp. 46-64.

WEEK 5 – WEEK 8: MAX WEBER

Bendix, Reinhard. 1977. *Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Kasler, Dirk. 1988. *Max Weber: An Introduction to His Life and Work*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Week 5 (Oct. 15)

Rationality, Religion and Capitalism (I)

- ** Weber, Max. 1958. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* / Translated by Talcott Parsons. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. (Chapters 1, 2 and 5)
- * Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge, University Press. pp. 119-132.

Weber, Max. 1958. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* / Translated by Talcott Parsons. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. (Chapters 3 and 4)

Week 6 (Oct. 22)

Rationality, Religion and Capitalism (II)

- ** Weber, Max. 1946. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* / Translated by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.
 - "The Social Psychology of the World Religions," pp. 267-301.
 - "Religious Rejections of the World and Their Directions," pp. 323-359.
- * Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge, University Press. pp. 169-184.

Bendix, Reinhard. 1977. *Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- "Society and Religion in China," pp. 98-141.
- "Society and Religion in India," pp. 142-199.

Week 7 (Oct. 29)

Conception of Sociology and Methodological Issues

- ** Weber, Marx. 1968. "Basic Sociological Terms," pp. 3-56 in *Economy and Society; An Outline of Interpretive Sociology* Vol. I, edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. New York: Bedminster Press.
- * Aron, Raymond. 1967. *Main Currents in Sociological Thought. Vol. 1.* Harmondsworth, UK: Penguin Books. pp. 232-237.
- * Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory.* Cambridge, University Press. pp. 133-154.
- Kiser E, and Hechter M. 1998. "The Debate on Historical Sociology: Rational Choice Theory and Its Critics." *American Journal of Sociology* 104:785–816.

Week 8 (Nov. 5)

Social Grouping, Domination, and Bureaucracy

- ** Weber, Max. "Class, Status, Party," pp. 180-195 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology /* Translated by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press. 1946.
- ** Weber, Max. 1968. "The Types of Legitimate Domination," pp.212-254 in *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology* Vol. I, edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. New York: Bedminster Press.
- ** Weber, Max. 1946. "Bureaucracy," pp. 196-244 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology /* Translated by H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.
- * Aron, Raymond. 1967. *Main Currents in Sociological Thought (2).* Harmondsworth, UK: Penguin Books. pp. 237-246.

WEEK 9 – WEEK 11: EMILE DURKHEIM

Lukes, Steven. 1973. *Emile Durkheim: His Life and Work.* London: Allen Lane.

Giddens, Anthony. 1978. *Emile Durkheim.* Harmonds-worth, Middlesex, England: Penguin Books.

Week 9 (Nov. 12)

Social Order and Complex Society: *The Division of Labour in Society*

- ** Durkheim, Emile, "The Division of Labour in Society" pp. 115-126 in *Social Theory: Essential Readings*, edited by Bailey Gordon and N. Gayle. UK: Oxford University Press. 2003.
- ** Craib, Ian. 1997. *Classical Social Theory.* Oxford, Oxford University Press. pp. 64-69.
- * Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory.* Cambridge University Press. pp. 65 – 81.
- * Aron, Raymond. 1968. *Main Currents in Sociological Thought (2).* Harmondsworth: Penguin Books. Pp. 21-33.

- Durkheim, Emile. 1964 (or 1984). *The Division of Labor in Society*. New York: Free Press.
- Preface to the First Edition
 - Book One, Chapter One to Three; Chapter Six, part 4; Chapter Seven
 - Book Two, Chapter Three; Chapter Five; Conclusion
 - Preface to the Second Edition

Week 10 (Nov. 19)

Conception of Sociology and Sociological Method: *The Rules of Sociological Method* and the Study of *Suicide*

- ** Durkheim, Emile. "Sociological Method" and "Egoistic and Anomic Suicide" pp. 126-168 in *Social Theory: Essential Readings*, edited by Bailey Gordon and N. Gayle. UK: Oxford University Press. 2003
- ** Craib, Ian. 1997. *Classical Social Theory*, edited by. UK: Oxford University Press. 1997. pp. 25-34
- * Coser, Lewis. 1977. *Masters of Sociological Thought*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. Pp. 129-136.
- * Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge, University Press. pp. 82 – 94.

Durkheim, Emile. 1985. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: Free Press. pp. 1-4, 10-14, 23-49, 55-67, 79-84, 90-114

Durkheim, Emile. 1952. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. /Translated by John A. Spaulding and George Simpson; edited with an introduction by George Simpson. London: Routledge. pp. 46-51, 153-, 158-165, 171-202, 208 -258, 279 -81

Week 11 (Nov. 26)

Religion and Moral Order: *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*

- ** Durkheim, Emile. 1995. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, translated by Karen Fields. New York: Free Press. pp. 21- 44, 207-225.
- ** Durkheim, Emile. 1973. "The Dualism of Human Nature" pp. 149-163 in *On Morality and Society: Selected Writings* , edited by Robert N. Bellah. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- * Bellah, Robert. 1973. "Introduction" in *On Morality and Society: Selected Writings*, edited by Robert N. Bellah. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- * Giddens, Anthony. 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge, University Press. pp. 105-118

WEEK 12: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO TALCOTT PARSONS AND CONCLUSION

Week 12 (Dec. 3)

The Parsonian Synthesis and Structural Functionalism

- ** Parsons, Talcott. 1951. *The Social System*. New York: The Free Press. pp. 3-58.
- * Alexander, Jeffrey. 1987. *Twenty Lectures: Sociological Theory Since World War II*. NY: Columbia University Press.
- "Parsons' First Synthesis," pp. 22-35,
 - "Structural-Functionalism," pp. 36-51,
 - "Structural-Functionalism in Its Middle Phase," pp. 52-72,
 - "Parsons' Later Theory," pp. 89-110
- * Ritzer, George and Douglas J. Goodman. *Classical Sociological Theory*. Boston: McGraw-Hill. pp. 429 - 451.
- Parsons, Talcott. 1937. *The Structure of Social Action*. New York: Free Press.
- "The Theory of Action," pp. 43-86.
 - "Some Phases of the Historical Development of Individualistic Positivism in the Theory of Action," pp. 87-128.