Sociological Classics (Sociology 15)

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Course Information:
TR, 10-11:50, 108 Kemeny Hall
X-period: Wednesday 3-3:50
Office hours: TR 1-2, or by appointment

Course Description:
This course offers an introduction to sociological theory through the works of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber, three seminal writers whose ideas are still of enormous significance in shaping perspective and framing terms of argument among many major contemporary social and political thinkers. It fulfills the theory requirement for majors in the Department of Sociology. Among specific subjects to be covered are the following: sources of social and political order; conflict and inequality; social networks and social integration; and questions of how shared ideals or divisive interests affect not just the study of human society, but the course of history itself.

Evaluation:
Grades are based on participation and group work, weekly writing, and three essays. The composition of final grades and grading scale are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Group Work</td>
<td>A  93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Writing</td>
<td>A- 90-92.99</td>
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<td>Three exams – 25% each</td>
<td>B+ 87-89.99</td>
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<td>B  83-86.99</td>
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<td>B- 80-82.99</td>
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<td>C+ 77-79.99</td>
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<td>C  73-76.99</td>
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<td>Etc.</td>
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1-Class Participation and Group Work: While I will lecture on certain materials, students are expected to attend and be active participants throughout the course. Participation is assessed in a number of ways. Over the quarter I will call on each one of you at least once to contribute on a various reading or topic. More often I will have in-class assignments for your theory group (groups are assigned the first week of class) that relate to the day’s topic.

2-Weekly Writing: Beginning in week two, students are required to submit a commentary on the week’s topics with a focus on the readings for our Thursday class session. The commentaries must be submitted to the course blackboard site prior to our Thursday meeting (commentaries must be posted by 7AM on Thursdays). These can take many forms, but should convey what you thought were the take-home (big picture) points of the material, key questions or problems that remain unresolved, and what you found most compelling or wanting. You should also include a particular question/issue from the readings that you want to pursue further in class. Note: commentaries will not be accepted if the student does not attend
and participate in class that day. Students must submit commentaries for six of the eight regular Thursday class sessions between weeks two and nine. Late commentaries are not accepted.

3-Essays: Students will write three essays that correspond to the major themes of the course. The essays are due at the end of each course section: 10/8, 10/29, and 11/25 respectively. I will hand out essay guidelines five days in advance. Essays are open book, but you will not be permitted to discuss them with anyone else. Note: A final requirement is that you attend class on the day essays are due and are prepared to discuss your argument. Essays will be graded for an integration and deep understanding of course material, coherent and well-reasoned arguments, and professional writing skills.

**Required Readings:**
Students will want to purchase the following books available at the Dartmouth bookstore.


Optional: A copy will be on reserve at the library.


**Blackboard:** Several required readings are posted on the course blackboard site. It is your responsibility to check the site at the beginning of each week.

**A note on the readings:** It is expected that you will have done the reading by the time class meets on the date for which the assignment is due. These are original works and are often difficult to get through on the first try. *It is in your interest to keep up.* I will help put these works in context and there are several texts with additional materials on individual theorists that you may find useful. The following are on reserve at Baker Library:


**Course Policies:**
**Honor Principle:** Essays and assignments will be conducted in accord with the principles of academic honor detailed in the Dartmouth Organization, Regulations and Courses. Students should read Dartmouth’s statement on Sources and Citations: [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/sources/](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/sources/)

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities enrolled in this course and who may need disability-related classroom accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.
All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Accessibility Services office may be consulted to discuss appropriate implementation of any accommodation requested.

**Religious Holidays:** Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Please take care to avoid tinkering with phones, laptops and the like. They are a formidable distraction. You are welcome to take notes on your laptop or tablet, but if you are spending time on the internet your class participation grade will suffer considerably. Finally, always show up to class on time and be courteous to all class participants.

**Course Schedule & Assigned Readings:**
The following is an outline. I will occasionally update readings or place other documents and announcements on Blackboard for your edification. It is your responsibility to check the blackboard course site at the beginning of each week.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Assigned Readings</th>
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<td><strong>Foundations</strong></td>
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| 9-17  | *Course Introduction and Overview*  
Craig Calhoun, “What Passes for Theory in Sociology?”  
Charles Lemert, “Social Theory: Its Uses and Pleasures”  |
| 9-19  | **1. What do we mean by Sociological Theory? And why go back to the ‘Classics?’**  
Jeffery Alexander, “The Centrality of the Classics” (see especially pp. 12-32)  
Gabriel Abend, “The Meaning of ‘Theory’” (see especially through p.181)  
**2. Some Precursors to Sociological Theory: Excerpts from Montesquieu’s *Spirit of the Laws* and Rousseau’s *Social Contract***  |
|       | Optional Readings:  
C. Wright Mills, Excerpt from *The Sociological Imagination*  |
Karl Marx, Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*, pp.3-6  
Begin *Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts*, pp.66-105  |
| 9-26  | Finish *Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts*  
Arlie Hochschild, excerpts from *The Managed Heart* (see especially, pp.1-12, 17-23)  
*The Communist Manifesto*, pp.469-500  |
| 10-1  | Karl Marx, *Thesis on Feuerbach*, pp.143-45  
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The German Ideology*, pp.146-200  
Friedrich Engels, *The Origin of Family, Private Property and the State*, pp.734-751  |
|       | Optional: Excerpts from *Capital*, pp.302-308; 319-29  |
| 10-3  | Marx on Commodity Fetishism, pp. 319-29  
Antonio Gramsci, excerpts from the *Prison Notebooks*  |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
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<tr>
<td>10-8</td>
<td>Essay #1 Due—Group Discussion on Critical Theory</td>
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| 10-10 | Excerpt from Durkheim’s *The Division of Labor*  
Alexis de Tocqueville, excerpt from *Democracy in America*  
Begin the following excerpts from Durkheim’s *Rules of Sociological Method*  
“What is a Social Fact?”  
“Rules for the Observation of Social Facts” |
| 10-15 | Finish excerpts from *Rules of Sociological Method*  
Appendix to Shamus Kahn’s *Privilege*  
*Suicide* (skim book 1; focus on his attempts to rule out common explanations of suicide, Chapters 1, 3 & 4) |
| 10-17 | *Suicide*, through book 2  
Chaeyoon Lim and Robert Putnam, “Religion, Social Networks, and Life Satisfaction”  
Robert Merton, “Social Structure and Anomie”  
Optional: Gabriel Tarde, “The Laws of Imitation” |
| 10-22 | Suicide, Book 3, Chapter 1  
Robert D. Baller and Kelly Richardson, “Social Integration, Imitation and the Geographic Patterning of Suicide.”  
David Maimon and Danielle Kuhl, "Social Control and Youth Suicidality: Situating Durkheim's Ideas in a Multi-Level Framework." |
| 10-23 | X-Hour: Robert Putnam, excerpt from *Bowling Alone*  
Peter Hart-Brinson, “New Ways of Bowling Together”  
Essay Guidelines Handed Out in Class |
| 10-24 | No Class Meeting |
| 10-29 | Essay #2 Due—Group Discussion on Social Integration and Social Capital |
| 10-31 | Max Weber, “Basic Sociological Terms” (focus on pp.3-26)  
“Class, Status, and Party”  
Skim Kalberg’s introduction to *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*  
Optional: Max Weber, “Science as a Vocation” |
| 11-5 | *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Through Part I and Begin Part II. |
| 11-7 | *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Part II (Chapter IV, especially
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>Max Weber, “The Types of Legitimate Domination”</td>
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<td>Jack Goldstone, “The Rise of the West—Or Not?”</td>
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<td>Ann Swidler, “Culture in Action”</td>
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<td>11-13</td>
<td>Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life”</td>
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<td>Kalberg introduction to Part 2, &quot;The Protestant Sects in America...&quot; (pp.163-184)</td>
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<td>Max Weber, &quot;Churches' and 'Sects' in North America.&quot; (pp.200-204)</td>
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<td>William Whyte, excerpts from <em>The Organization Man</em></td>
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<td>11-14</td>
<td>Robert Merton, “The Bureaucratic Personality”</td>
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<td>A. Aneesh, “Global Labor”</td>
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<td>Andrew Martin et al., “Bureaucratic Rule Breaking”</td>
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<td>11-19</td>
<td>No Class Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-25</td>
<td><em><strong>Essay Due by 5 PM</strong></em></td>
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Optional:
- *Robert Garner on American Sociology at the Turn of 20th Century*
- Excerpts from W.E.B Du Bois and George Herbert Mead
- Essay Guidelines Handed Out in Class