

Sociology 303: Early Modern Social Thought
St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory
Office Hours: Tues. 12:00-1:00;
Wed. 12:00-4:00; Thurs. 11:00-12:00
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Lecture Schedule

T1 and T2, Tuesday and Thursday 3:45-5:00

Course Description

In this course you will be invited to read some of the foundational texts of early social thought. As we read the classical texts of early social theory we will pay particular attention to the way early modern ideas prepared the way for the emergence of sociology in the nineteenth century. We will consider how sociology both developed out of the ideas of the early modern theorists and, in some cases, how sociology reacted against them. As we consider the details of the arguments of the different writers, we will pay close attention to their main contribution, the development of the idea of “the social” itself.

Required Texts Available at the Campus Store

1. Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. 2009. [original 1755]. *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*. New York: Oxford Press.
2. Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. 1968 [original 1762]. *The Social Contract*. Toronto: Penguin.
3. Tocqueville, Alexis de. 2003 [original 1835/1840]. *Democracy in America*. New York: Penguin.
4. Wollstonecraft, Mary. 2010 [original 1792]. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. New York: Verso.

All other readings are available at the circulation desk of the MacDonald Library.

Course Evaluation

Mid-term Quiz	15%
Essay	30%
Final Exam	35%
3 Pop-Quizzes	15% (each at 5%)
Class Participation	5%

Essay:

There will be one short essay assignment. A handout will be distributed during lecture. Completed papers will be around 8-10 pages in length (250 words per page, 12 point standard font, double spaced). It will be due no later than **Thursday, November 27**.

Mid-term Quiz:

There will be a short in-class quiz on **Thursday, October 16**. The purpose of the quiz is to give you feedback on your progress in the course.

Exam:

An exam will be scheduled during the regular examination period. It will be closed book and consist of essay questions.

Class Participation:

A high level of participation is a requirement for this class. Your grade for participation will take into account attendance, demonstrated grasp of the weekly reading, participation in small group discussions and participation in lectures. Please bring the readings to class, and be prepared to offer your questions and insights.

3 Pop-Quizzes:

Three classes will begin with a pop quiz. These 20-minute quizzes will consist of short questions on the readings assigned for the week of the quiz and the previous week. The dates of these quizzes will not be announced. Their purpose is to ensure that students actively engage the readings before coming to class. If you are late to a class, you will have less time to do a pop quiz. If you miss a class on a date when there is a pop quiz and you do not have a legitimate reason, then you will receive a grade of zero for the quiz. If you must miss a class for a valid reason, please speak with me ahead of time.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Late Policy

Late papers submitted without prior permission will incur a late penalty of 5% of the total assignment per day, including weekends.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Since this course requires you to complete a written assignment, you should familiarize yourself with standards for proper referencing of all materials cited (i.e. books, journals, newspaper articles, internet resources etc.). Students who attempt to pass off someone else's work as their own (plagiarism) will be dealt with through the university policy on academic honesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 in the calendar).

Class Attendance

Since the grades for this course involve three pop-quizzes, you are advised not to miss class. If you must miss a class for a legitimate reason, please speak with me as soon as possible, preferably before the class.

Special Accommodations

If you develop a prolonged illness or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your participation in the course, please contact me as soon as the problem becomes apparent. Your best strategy for dealing with anything that may prevent you from completing the course in a way that is satisfactory to you is to discuss your concerns with me as soon as they become apparent so that we can work out a way of responding to them.

Other Accommodations

If you are a student with physical, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require reasonable accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, you should speak with me early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

That's all for now – Welcome to the Course!

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Sept 4 What is Social Theory? Why Study the Classics?

Overview of the course and syllabus

Sept 9 & 11 Rousseau's Critique of Modern Society

Rousseau. *Discourse on Inequality*. Pages 14-54.

Sept 16 & 18 Rousseau and Hobbes on Human Nature

Tuesday:

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *Discourse on Inequality*. Pages 55-85.

Thursday:

Hobbes, Thomas. 1996 [original 1651]. *Leviathan*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read Chapter 13, "Of the Natural Condition of Mankind."

Sept 23 and 25 Rousseau's Social Contract

Tuesday:

Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. Book One.

Thursday:

Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. Book Two.

Sept 30 and Oct 2 Locke on the State of Nature, Contract and Property

Locke, John. 1998 [original 1690]. "Selections from *Two Treatise on Government*." Pp. 24-31 in *Social and Political Theory: Classical Readings*, edited by M. Kimmel and C. Stephen. Toronto: Allyn and Bacon.

Macpherson, C.B. 1980. "Editor's Introduction." Pp. vii-xxi in *Second Treatise of Government* by John Locke, edited by C.B. Macpherson. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Oct 7 and 9 Sociological Critiques of Contract Theory

Tuesday:

Durkheim, Emile. 1997 [original. 1893]. *The Division of Labor in Society*. New York: The Free Press. Read: Book 1, Chapter VII: "Organic Solidarity and Contractual Solidarity."

Thursday:

Ferguson, Adam. [original. 1776]. *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*. Read Part 1, Sections I, II and III.

Oct 14 and 16* Edmund Burke and Modern Conservative Thought

Burke, Edmund. 2007. [Original 1790]. "Selections from *Reflections on the Revolution in France*." Pp. 62-74 in *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd edition, edited by M. Kimmel with M. Mahler. New York: Oxford.

*In class quiz, Thursday, October 16.

- Oct 21 & 23** **Tocqueville: An Early Political Sociologist?**
- Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*. Pp. 11-26, 58-71, 287-305.
- Recommended Reading:
Kramnick, "Introduction." Pp ix-xlvi in *Democracy in America*.
- Oct 28 & 30*** **Tocqueville on Individualism and Equality**
- Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*. Pp. 498-503, 521-523, 587-589, 591-600, 609-613, 662-671, 677-683, 700-702, 803-809.
- October 31, last day to drop course
- Nov 4 & 6** **Mary Wollstonecraft on Women, Friendship and Equality**
- Wollstonecraft. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Pages 9-49.
- Recommended Reading:
Rowbotham, Shelia. "Introduction." Pp vii-xxix in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.
- Nov 11* & 13** **Mary Wollstonecraft on Inequality between Men and Women**
- Wollstonecraft. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Pp 50-103, 156-163.
- *Remembrance Day -- no class
- Nov 18 & 20** **Adam Smith on Sympathy and Civil Society**
- Smith, Adam. 1986 [Original 1790]. "*The Theory of Moral Sentiments*" [Selections]. Pp. 57-88 in *The Essential Adam Smith*, edited by R. L. Heilbroner. New York: Norton.
- Nov 25 & 27*** **Adam Smith's Economic Thought**
- Smith, Adam. 2002 [original 1776]. "The Wealth of Nations" [Selections]. Pp. 633-651 in *Classics of Political Philosophy*, edited by S. M. Cahn. New York: Oxford UP.

*Essays due in class

Dec 2

Review Class