

St. Francis Xavier University
SOC 301.10, Classical Sociological Theory
Fall, 2011

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Office hours: Monday: 11:15-1:15, Tuesday: 9:10-11:00, Friday: 10:10-12:15.

Overview:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the work of the early sociological thinkers. Together we will explore the rise of sociological thought in the 19th century and discuss its connection to European and American thought and social conditions. Themes discussed in this course will include progress, science, evolutionary theory, reason (rationality), industrialization, modernity and historical change. We will focus on five thinkers: Durkheim, Weber, Marx, Engels and Du Bois.

Class Format:

Most students will find the assigned readings challenging. It is extremely important, therefore, that you come to class *having read the assigned texts for that day*, as failure to do so could well result in confusion and frustration. Your participation grade will be based on your preparation to discuss the assigned readings. If you are ill for a number of classes you may make up participation grades with a written assignment (with doctor's note).

Evaluation:

Participation	15%
Mid-term exam (Oct. 25)	20%
Essay (Nov.15 for extensive comments, Nov. 29 for fewer comments)	15%
Final exam	50%

Required Texts:

Bailey, Gordon and Noga Gayle. Social Theory: Essential Readings. Second Edition.
(Plus Du Bois on line.)

Required Reading

- Durkheim: “The Division of Labour in Society” from The Division of Labor in Society (1893), pp.115-126.
- “Sociological Method” from The Rules of Sociological Method (1895), pp. 126-140.
- “Egoistic and Anomic Suicide” from Suicide (1897), pp. 140-168.
- “Religion as a Collective Force” from The Elementary Forms of Religious Life (1912), pp.169-183.
- Weber: “Science as a Vocation” (speech, 1918), pp. 199-204.
- “The Definitions of Sociology and of Social Action” from Economy and Society (posthumous, 1922), pp. 204-216.
- “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism” from The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (1904), pp.228-237.
- Marx: “The German Ideology” from The German Ideology (1845-6), pp.55-62.
- “Alienated Labour” from The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 or “Paris Manuscripts”, pp.47-55.
- “The Manifesto of the Communist Party” (1848), pp.65-73.
- Engels: “The Overthrow of the Mother-Right and Monogamous Marriage” from The Origin of Family, Private Property and the State (1884), pp. 77-100.
- Du Bois: “Forethought” and “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” from The Souls of Black Folk (1903).
- http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/dubois_01.asp
- “The Souls of White Folk” from Darkwater (1920)
- http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15210/15210-h/15210-h.htm#Chapter_II