

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

**Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Fall Semester 2014**

**SOCLGY 3030
Classical Theory
T 5:30-8:15 p.m.
Classroom: SS 113**

**Dr. H. Wei-Arthus
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I. Course Description

This is the first part of sociology theory B classical theory. The purpose of this course is to help us understand our world better not only by compelling us to study theories in a systematic and scientific fashion, but also by inviting us to think through what we believe and why we hold the beliefs that we do about our society, our fellow citizens, human nature, and social justice. Although the classic tradition does not provide scientific answers to these questions, it can assist us understanding how these moral values are often intertwined with our thinking about society and its problems and help us to clarify our own thoughts about these matters. We will start with the origin of classic sociological theory, different types of theory, and then we will discuss most of the theorists one by one. In the middle of studying these sociological giants, we will pay special attention to the application of these theories to our modern day world.

II. Learning Objectives

- a. Have a basic knowledge of the history of sociology.**
- b. Master major theories of each sociological theorist and their explanation of social phenomena and issues.**
- c. Develop critical/analytical thinking and evaluation skills.**
- d. Have the capability to apply theories to reality and compare/contrast different theories.**

III. Course Requirements:

- 1. Overall class attendance & participation..... 15% of the final grade.
- 2. In-class writings 10% of the final grade.
- 3. *Class presentations 10% of the final grade.
- 4. Two midterm take home exams25% each (50%) of the final grade.
- 5. Final take home exam 15% of the final grade.

* Assignments of in-class presentation will be given out during the first week.

Attendance 15% + in-class writings 10% + Presentation 10% + Two midterm exams 50% + final exam 15% = 100%

Numbers to letters transfer Scale:

90-100	A	74-76	C+
87-89	A-	71-73	C
84-86	B+	68-70	C-
80-73	B	65-67	D+
77-79	B-	60-64	D

IV. Text Book

Classical Sociological Theory, Sixth edition, by George Ritzer

V. Students' Responsibility and Obligations

1. If a student is absent from the class, it is the personal responsibility to contact other students to obtain class notes. This professor does not give out her own class lecture notes.
2. No student is allowed to delay handing in the take-home exams, unless some unanticipated incident happened, or sickness. If this is the case, a legitimate document is required to present.
3. There is no extra credit, or curve grading policy in this class. All the exams are take-home exams. Everyone will have equal time to do the same work. You are strongly encouraged to use the professor's office hours for your doubts and questions.
4. In-class presentation is a good showcase for your own understanding and analysis. Original work is required and students need to fully prepare the presentation and hand in your presentation scripts. Detailed requirements and a list of in-class presentation will be given out during the first week of the semester.
5. Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 or the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.
6. Please follow proper classroom etiquette when you are in the classroom. Turn off your cell phone ring tones and **no text messaging** in the class. **Laptop is allowed for taking notes only. If I find out students are browsing the internets, I reserve the right to stop students from bringing the computer to class.**
7. **Academic Dishonesty: As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is "the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person's or group's ideas or work." Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or, in more serious cases, failure of the entire course.**
8. **Emergency Closure: If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via e-mail or Canvas. Look for announcements on Weber e-mail or text message. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.**

9. If you have disagreement with the course content in the lecture or the textbook, you have the right to reserve your own belief and opinion. But, at the same time, keep an open mind and respect others' beliefs and opinions as well. A respective and open intellectual environment is more productive.

V. Course Schedule

(Because the class lectures are arranged by introducing each sociologist, not by chapters, some of the sociologist needs more than a week to cover, therefore, no time line is given in the schedule. Yet, the instructor will announce the schedule one week ahead of time. Pay attention to those announcements.)

****The recommended readings are for those of you who want to know more about the subject and to satisfy your intellectual curiosity. But they are not mandatory.**

**1. Introduction of classical theory B Historical background of classical theory;
Types of social theory; Current debate on sociological theories.**

Readings: Chapter 1 & 2

2. Alexis de Tocqueville

Readings: Chapter 3

3. Auguste Comte

Readings: Chapter 4

Recommended readings: G. Lenzer (ed) Auguste Comte and Positivism, pp 218-32, & pp. 239-53

4. Herbert Spencer

Readings: Chapter 5

Recommended readings: Spencer, The Study of Sociology, pp. 43-59;

R. Carneiro (ed) The Evolution of Society, pp. 1-27, 48-62, 214-17

Class presentations

5. Karl Marx B

Readings: Chapter 6

Recommended readings: The Marx-Engels Reader, pp. 148-75, 302-29, 473-83.

Class presentation on Marx

GIVING ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FIRST MIDTERM EXAM

6. Emile Durkheim B

Readings: Chapter 7

Recommended readings: Durkheim: The Rules of Sociological Method, pp. 50-83, 97-104

Class presentation on Durkheim

7. Friedrich Nietzsche B

Readings: Handouts

Class presentation on Nietzsche

8. Max Weber B

Readings: Chapter 8

Recommended readings: Weber: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, pp. 13-31, 47-92, 98-128, 166-83

The Methodology of Social Sciences, pp. 59-93

Class presentation on Weber

9. Georg Simmel B

Readings: Chapter 6

Recommended readings: Kurt Woff (ed): The Sociology of Georg Simmel
Simmel: Conflict and the Web of Group Affiliations

Class presentation on Simmel

GIVING ASSIGNMENT FOR THE SECOND MIDTERM EXAM.

10. Women Sociologists and Their Theories

Readings: Chapter 10

Class presentations:

11. W. E. B. Du Bois

Readings: Chapter 11

Class presentation on Du Bois

- 12. Thorstein Veblen**
Readings: Chapter 12

GIVING ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FINAL EXAM.

- 13. George Herbert Mead B**
Readings: Chapter 15
Recommended readings: Mead: Mind, Self, and Society

FINAL EXAM DUE ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CLASS

The End