Sociology 3030
Classical Sociological Theory

Instructor: Dr. Rob Reynolds
Office: WSU Ogden, Social Science Building 122
Office Phone: 801-626-6237
Email: rreynolds@weber.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course introduces students to classical social thought and to the lives and ideas of social theorists who lived and wrote in the classical era. In the early years of social science, the ideas covered in this course held an important position in people's understanding of their social world, culture, government, economy, power, social justice, and human nature. The early theorists posed questions they saw pertinent to the social world they lived in during their time, such as how to balance an individual's interests, rights, and responsibilities with those of the social group and how to resolve the contradictory pressures of maintaining social order and effecting social change. While some of these classic questions differ from those we ask today, many of the problems the early thinkers wrote about remain unresolved. Therefore, studying classical theory can get us thinking about the fundamental processes in society and help us see our own time (and the social issues and developments we grapple with) in their historical context. Of course, many of today's ideas originate from these early social theories. This course will first introduce the social conditions and cultural environment of the early social theorists, after which we will discuss the featured theorist(s).

Student Learning   Objectives

During this course, students will:
- learn the history of early sociology
- learn the basic tenets and the critiques of the main classical sociological theorists
- examine how classical social theory continues to inform sociological thinking today
- consider the ways in which historical events and social context shape social theorizing

Required Readings

Edles, Laura Desfor and Scott Appelrouth. 2015. *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings, 3rd Ed.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

Evaluation Procedures

1. Overall class attendance & participation ....10% of the final grade.
2. Class presentations...15% of the final grade.

3. Two midterm take home exams... 25% each (50%) of the final grade.
4. Final take home exam ....25% of the final grade.

Students with Disabilities
Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Academic Integrity
In addition to, but not instead of, assigned readings, you may wish to consult other sources. This is acceptable, but is not required. However, in all instances, you must do your own work and **credit must be given where credit is due**. There is no excuse for plagiarism -- submitting another's work, ideas, or wording, as your own. If you plagiarize, or otherwise cheat, on any assignment or exam you will receive a failing grade for the course, and your name will be forwarded to the Dean of Students. Any student who does not understand how to avoid plagiarism must request assistance form the instructor.

Emergency Closure
If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via Canvas. Look for announcements on Canvas and through email. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

Note: The following schedule represents the instructor's best guess about what we will be doing in this class this semester. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, the due dates of all readings and assignments are subject to change. All changes will be announced in advance in class. Each student is responsible for keeping track of all changes.

Schedule

DATE	THEORIST	READINGS, PRESENTATIONS, EXAMS
8/31	Introduction of classical theory – Historical background of classical theory; Types of social theory; Current debate on sociological theories.	Chapter 1
9/7	Comte and Spencer	Chapters on Comte and Spencer found on Canvas
9/14	Karl Marx	Chapter 2
9/21	Karl Marx	Chapter 2, Presentation, Pass out Exam 1
9/28	Emile Durkheim	Chapter 3
10/5	Emile Durkheim	Chapter 3, Presentation, Exam 1 Due
10/12	Friedrich Nietzsche	Chapter on Nietzsche found on Canvas, Presentation
10/19	Max Weber	Chapter 4
10/26	Max Weber	Chapter 4, Presentation
11/2	Charlotte Perkins Gilman	Chapter 5, Presentation, Pass out Exam 2
11/9	Georg Simmel	Chapter 6, Presentation, Exam 2 Due
11/16	W. E. B. Du Bois	Chapter 7
11/23	W. E. B. Du Bois	Chapter 7, Presentation
11/30	George Herbert Mead	Chapter 8, Pass out Final Exam
12/7	George Herbert Mead	Chapter 8, Presentation
12/14	Finals Week	Final Exam Due