

SOCIOLOGY 105A: CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
University of California, Santa Cruz
Summer 2016 – Session 1 – M/W 9am-12:30pm
Dr. Megan McNamara

Office Hours: generously by appointment (before or after class, or via Skype/phone on Tu/TH)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology 105a provides a perspective on the historical and theoretical foundations of Sociology, with emphasis on early British and Continental Sociology. This course will explore intersections between historical accounts of gender and class, and use source texts from the “classical” Sociological canon as a framework for understanding the profound changes wrought on the West by the shift from feudalism to modernity. We will extend our analysis by examining how classical theory helps us (or doesn’t help us) understand the contemporaneous social world. We will use both lectures and smaller group activities to “try on” some of the classical theories that have formed the basis for past and present sociological inquiry.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS (available at Bay Tree Bookstore)

Federici, Silvia. 2004. *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body, and Primitive Accumulation*. Brooklyn, NY: Autonomedia.

Tucker, Robert, ed. 1978. *The Marx-Engels Reader* (Second Edition).
New York: Norton.

Weber, Max. 2011. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
(Kalberg Translation). New York: Oxford University Press.

All other texts will be posted on ecommons. Readings should be read prior to the class date under which each is listed. This course moves extremely quickly, so keeping up on the readings is imperative to your success. If you get overwhelmed by the readings, PLEASE come talk to me so we can work out a strategy to support your learning. I am here to help you!

FOUR QUIZZES (5 points each for 20 points total; 20% of course grade)

Attendance at all lectures and section meetings is mandatory. Given the condensed time frame of the course, a single day’s absence is equal to missing a full week of class during the regular school year. Short quizzes will be administered each Monday during the course, and will account for 20% of your grade. These quizzes will test comprehension of lecture and/or the readings assigned for that class session. They are not designed to trick you; questions will be straightforward enough that you should be able to answer them easily as long as you were in present in the lecture.

FOUR PRÉCIS (5 points each for 20 points total; 20% of course grade)

Four times during the course, you will spend the final hour of class working in small groups in your sections. This will happen on Wednesdays, except for the last week, when it will happen on Monday. Your TAs and I will be present to assist you. Your goal in these sections will be to complete a group *précis* of assigned texts. You can find the handout on how to write a *précis* in ecommons. Each member of the group who is present and participating will receive credit for the assignment. There are four total *précis* and each is worth 5 points. You will receive full credit for the assignment as long as your groups' effort demonstrates a good faith attempt to grapple with the assigned text. You will need to have your assigned *précis* texts in section with you in printed form. Please make sure to print them before class and bring them with you.

IN-CLASS EXAMS (30 points each for the midterm and final exam; 60% of total grade)

There will be two in-class blue book exams, each lasting approximately two hours. They will take place during the second half of class on the Wednesday of Week 3 (July 6) and on the last Wednesday of class, July 20. The midterm will cover everything up through and including June 29. It will NOT include lecture material from July 6. The final exam will cover everything from July 6 through the end of class. It will NOT include lecture material from July 20. Exams will involve a combination of short answers and/or a longer essay. Comprehensive study guides will be provided for both exams. You may use one 8.5" x 11" page of hand-written notes (one side only) during the exams. No other materials are permitted. Exams should be written in ink (not pencil).

GRADING RUBRIC

97 and above: A+; 93.5 – 96.75: A; 90 – 92.75: A-; 87 – 89.5: B+; 83 – 86.75: B; 80 – 82.75: B-; 77 – 79.75: C+; 73 – 76.75: C; 70 – 72.75: C-; 65 – 69.75: D; below 65: F.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES:

I will offer two opportunities to get extra credit, which add up to a possible total of 5 points (5% of your total grade, or half a letter grade).

1. If you send me a detailed email (i.e., a solid couple of paragraphs) to introduce yourself and tell me what you're up to in life and what interests you outside of school, you will receive one point toward your final grade. This offer expires on Monday, June 27 at 9 a.m.
2. An extra credit paper approximately 3-4 pages in length will be due on the last day of lecture (Wednesday, July 20), and is worth a maximum of 4 points. Writing guidelines will be provided the week prior to the due date.

Note on Academic Integrity: I consider any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating on the exams or plagiarizing from the Web in your papers, to be a serious violation of the University's norms of conduct. Students who plagiarize or cheat on exams will receive an F in the course and will be reported to their College Provost or university administration (if other than UCSC) for further sanctions.

DRC STUDENTS: Please make me aware, by email and no later than the end of Week 1, of any accommodations you may have.

LECTURE TOPICS, READINGS, AND EXAMS (NOTE: dates subject to change)

MONDAY, JUNE 20

Readings: None due prior to the start of the course.

Lecture 1: Introduction to the course: what is theory about and why you should care? The Very Dead, White, Old Guys: Social Contract Theory and Precursors to Classical Sociological Theory; Women in Pre-Classical Social Theory; Historical Background: Feudalism, the Middle Ages, and Revolutions

Quiz #1

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

Readings: Federici pp. 21-131; Tucker pp. 149-155, 473-478, 431-438;

Lecture 2: Marx’s Theories of History and Social Change; Capitalism as a System; the Transition to Modernity; Women in the Transition to Modernity

Precis #1: Tucker pp. 475 (From “The bourgeoisie, wherever it has got the upper hand...” to middle of 477 (“...nations of peasants on nations of bourgeois, the East on the West.”))

MONDAY, JUNE 27

Readings: Tucker, pp. 70-81, 87-90, 101-105, 204-205, 403-411, 450-455, 716-717. Weber, Economy and Society, pp. 24-26, 226-227, 217-223, 53-54, 941-948, 31-38, 212-216 (on ecommons); “Class, Status and Party” (on ecommons)

Lecture 3: Marx’s Critique of Modernity; Crisis; Possibility of (and impediments to) Further Historical Change; Basic Concepts from Weber; Modern vs. Traditional Societies

Quiz #2

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

Readings: Weber, *Protestant Ethic*, Chapters II and IV

Lecture: The Protestant Ethic; The Transition from Traditional to Modern Society

Précis #2: from the Kalleberg translation of *Protestant Ethic*: middle of pg. 118 to top of pg. 120

Midterm study guide will be distributed today!

****** NO CLASS ON MONDAY, JULY 4 ******

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

Readings: NONE – Study for Exam

Lecture: (Short!) Critique of Modernity: Weber's Methodology

***** MIDTERM TODAY – SECOND HALF OF LECTURE *** Please bring 2 blue books and a pen (not pencil) to class.**

MONDAY, JULY 11

Readings: Bierstadt on the Enlightenment and French social thought (pp. 3-22 in Bottomore and Nisbet, *A History of Sociological Analysis*); Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. 1-44, 53-61, 68-72, 77-86, 126-141, 172-174, 200-205, 269-287

Lecture: The historical context for the emergence of Durkheim; Durkheim on the Transition to Modernity and Pathological States of Modernity

Quiz #3

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13

Readings: Durkheim, *Suicide*, pp. 241-258 (on ecommons); *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, pp. 21-33, 236-245, 462-496 (on ecommons)

Lecture: Durkheim's Most Important Legacies: Durkheim as Precursor to French Structuralism

Précis #3: Durkheim, *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, top of pg. 240 to top of pg. 242

***** Final Exam study guide will be handed out today *****

MONDAY, JULY 18

Readings: Selections from Freud, in Lemert, pp. 125-148; Marcuse; *Eros and Civilization*, pp. 3-49

Lecture: Freud and the "Left" Freudians

Quiz #4

Précis #4 (please note that this is NOT a Wednesday, but we are still doing a précis!): Freud, middle of pg. 128 to top of pg. 130

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

Readings: NONE - Study for Final Exam ☺

Lecture: TBD (Catch-up or early 20th Century American Sociology)

***** FINAL EXAM *** Please bring 2 blue books and a pen (not pencil) to class.**