

SOCIOLOGY 105A: CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
University of California, Santa Cruz
Summer 2014 – Session 1 – MWF 9am-11:30am
Instructor: Megan McNamara

Office Hours: by appointment, before or after class as needed

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TA: Laura Harrison (lsharris@ucsc.edu) Tutor: Isabella Garcia (itgarcia@ucsc.edu)

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.

ATTENDANCE QUIZZES (25 points; 25% of total 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 1½ days of class during the regular school year. Five short quizzes will be administered randomly during the course, and will account for a full 25% of your grade. These quizzes will test comprehension of lecture and/or the readings assigned for that class session.

IN-CLASS EXAMS (30 points for midterm, 35 points for final exam; 65% of total grade)

There will be two in-class blue book exams, each lasting approximately two hours. They will take place on the Wednesday of Week 3 (July 9) and on the final day of class, Friday, July 25. They will involve a combination of short answers and/or a longer essay. Comprehensive study guides will be provided. You may use one 8.5” x 11” page of hand-written notes (one side only) during the exams. Exams should be written in ink (not pencil).

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES:

I will offer two opportunities to get extra credit, which add up to a 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, you will receive one point toward your final grade. This offer expires on Monday, June 30 at noon.
2. An extra credit paper approximately 3-4 pages in length will be due on the last day of lecture (Wednesday, July 23), 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: due dates subject to change)

MONDAY, JUNE 23

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

Lecture: Introduction to the course; What is theory about and why you should care?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Readings: Polanyi, Chapters 3, 7, and 8; Federici pp. 21-59

Lecture: 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

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Readings: Tucker pp. 149-155, 473-478, 431-438; Federici pp. 61-131.

Lecture: Marx's Theories of History, Social Change, and the Transition to Modernity; Women in the Transition to Modernity

MONDAY, JUNE 30

Readings: Tucker, pp. 70-81, 87-90, 101-105, 204-205, 367-376, 403-411, 579-585; 133-135, 172-173, 192-193, 443-465, 478-483, 716-717.

Lecture: Marx's Critique of Modernity; Crisis; Possibility of (and impediments to) Further Historical Change

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

Readings: 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: Basic Concepts from Weber; Modern vs. Traditional Societies

Midterm study guide will be distributed today!

****** NO CLASS ON FRIDAY, JULY 4 ******

MONDAY, JULY 7

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Readings: NONE – Study for Exam

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

*****EXAM #1*** Please bring 2 blue books and a pen (not pencil) to class.**

FRIDAY, JULY 11

Readings: Bierstadt on the Enlightenment and French social thought (pp. 3-22 in Bottomore and Nisbet, A History of Sociological Analysis); Zeitlin on post-revolutionary conservative reaction, pp. 45-64; Hobsbawm, Chapter 3

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

MONDAY, JULY 14

Readings: Durkheim, The Division of Labor in Society, pp. 1-44, 53-61, 68-72, 77-86, 126-141, 172-174, 200-205, 269-287; 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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

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

Lecture: Freud and the “Left” Freudians

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Readings: W.E.B Du Bois, “Double Consciousness and the Veil,” in Lemert, pp. 162-168; Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” and “Women and Economics,” in Lemert, pp. 168-174; Anna Julia Cooper, “The Colored Woman’s Office,” in Lemert, pp. 174-180 (all on ecommons)

Lecture: Silenced Voices in Classical Sociology: A VERY Brief Introduction

MONDAY, JULY 21

Readings: Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, Chapters 4-6

Lecture: Other Theories of Transition

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

Readings: Selected analyses of Sociology at the University of Chicago (Faris, pp. 64-87; Bulmer, pp. 45-63); Veblen, Theory of the Leisure Class, pp. 68-101, 167-187; Martineau, selection from *Autobiography* (on ecommons)

Lecture: Early American Sociology on the Problems of Modernity

FRIDAY, JULY 25

Readings: NONE. Study for Exam #2!

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

THEORY BUDDIES:

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

1.

2.

3.

4.