

CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (ITV)
SOC371-005-011, FALL 2009
WED 4-6:30 PM, DSH 134

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Christine Rack
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READINGS FROM E-RESERVES: <http://ereserves.unm.edu/default.asp> Choose Sociology then SOC 371
+ section # (or search by “adele”)
Password: study371

DESCRIPTION

This course explores 19th and early 20th century sociological theory, with particular emphasis on Marx, Durkheim, Weber and Simmel. We will examine the conditions giving rise to western sociology as an academic discipline and the ways theorists sought to explain the patterns they observed. Reading both original and interpretive texts, we will seek to understand social theory generation and its underlying assumptions. We will compare classical theorists with each other and consider the ways these conceptualizations differ from the social theory arising from everyday attempts to explain what happens. Finally, we will apply classical theoretical insights to contemporary social patterns and problems.

OBJECTIVES

- **INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF MAJOR CLASSICAL THEORISTS**

Most sociology students have already been introduced to the major theorists. This course will deepen your understanding of the core paradigms used in sociological research and practice.

- **ABILITY TO COMPARE SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES**

To understand the differences among the major theorists, we will compare their ideas using a typology constructed along two dimensions offered by Edles & Applerouth. These two dimensions (how action is motivated and how order is maintained) will allow us to compare the underlying assumptions in different sociological theories.

- **CAPACITY TO APPLY CLASSICAL THEORY TO CONTEMPORARY QUESTIONS**

This course will consider a small selection of contemporary social issues applying classical theories to their analysis.

- **DEVELOPMENT AS A SOCIOLOGICAL THINKER**

Students will have opportunities to apply classical sociological concepts to contemporary issues relevant to their own lives and will thus enhance their sociological imagination.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hurst, Charles E. (2005). *Living Theory: The Application of Social Theory to Contemporary Life*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon/Pearson (Second Edition).

Edles, Laura Desfor & Scott Applerouth (2005). *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings*. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press. (E & A on the syllabus schedule)

E-reserve readings are noted on the syllabus with an *.

Additional required readings may be sent by email.

REQUIREMENTS

1. **READ, ATTEND, PARTICIPATE & CONTRIBUTE:** Reading in advance means that we can more intelligently discuss the material in class. Therefore, all students are required to read the assigned material BEFORE the class during which it is scheduled for discussion. Class attendance is required by the university and absences will be reflected in the participation portion of your grade. The reason for missing class will not affect the grading, that is, we will not discriminate between classes missed for a “good” reason from “mental health” absences. Attendance in the classes in which you are the designated “reporting” student is especially

important. On-line presence is also critical and contributes to the participation grade. Students are expected to *read a number of RF reports on WebCT each week* and to *respond to at least one of them*. Humor is valued and off-topic commentary welcomed in the class BLOG.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE FOR BOTH MAIN CAMPUS AND DISTANCE STUDENTS—Arriving late and/or leaving early are rude to the class and a disservice to the student's learning—students are asked to explain these discourtesies to the teacher and possibly to the class and to note them as a partial absence on the attendance sheet. For similar reasons, use of electronic devices for non-class reasons during our class-time is prohibited. Students violating either of these etiquette rules may be asked to leave the class for the current session. Repeated violations may be cause for disenrollment.

Side conversations that are not part of classroom discussion also disturb the attentiveness of other students, Please direct any discussion to the entire class.

2. **IN-CLASS GROUP WORK**: In-class discussions will occur on current topics and as time permits. This is a credit activity, which depends on your presence in class. **10%**
3. **READING REPORTS**: Students are required to complete 10 (of 12 total) RF (reading form) Reports. Half of the class, whose last names begin with the letters A-K are designated group A. Students with last names beginning L-Z are designated group B. Note the RF designations that correspond. These reports must be pasted (not uploaded as an attachment) into the WebCT course "discussion" page before 3 pm on the day the report is designated. Students are also required to bring a hard copy to the relevant class meeting. The report should be titled by the same designation as on the syllabus—**RF-1, RF-2**, etc. Students should be prepared to speak about the reading or be ready to participate in discussion groups about the reading. **20%**
 - The RF Report will use the format available for download on WebCT. It includes thoughtful consideration of the designated questions or constructing and answering 2 questions suitable for use in your small group discussions. These questions can be of two kinds: 1) thinking / content questions concerning the material; 2) open-ended questions intended to promote dialogue.
 - All reports will be open to the entire class for comment and response on WebCt and in the classroom.
 - Students can fulfill one half of this assignment by posting the RF to WebCT, but may sacrifice in-class credit by missing class or failing to bring a hard copy.
 - Students should attend class whether or not they have completed the RF Report for that class.
4. **THEORY APPLICATION EXERCISES**: There are five planned exercises, which will count for the bulk of your grade. We will determine which of these could be done with other class members. They may require interviews, observation of social phenomena, the creation of a research instrument, and/or specific application to your own life. They will always include specific references to the topic/theorist being applied. Specific instructions will be posted on WebCT in a timely manner. **50%**
5. **PROJECT/PRESENTATION**: Students will choose a specific aspect of modern society through which they will apply classical theory. It is important that the focal aspect be well-defined, and that your analysis applies relevant concepts in specific ways. Students will write a short paper and prepare a short (6 minute) presentation for the class. Students are encouraged to have visual materials, copies of the paper, and/or other relevant material for display/ distribution to the audience members. Audience members who are also students in the class will evaluate the presenter's project presentation. **20%**

GRADING

20%	RF Reports and Reviews (based on 10 posted reports)
10%	Attendance, Participation & Contribution (Group Work)
50%	Theory Application Exercises (10% each)
20%	Project Presentation

There will be no in-class final for this course.

Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs. UNM will make every attempt to accommodate all qualified students with disabilities. For further information, contact Accessibility Service Center at (505) 277-3506.

Classical Sociological Theory FALL 2009

WEEK	THEME	TOPIC	READING AND ASSIGNMENT
1	INTRODUCTION MODERNITY	AUG 26 PRE-MODERNITY, MODERNITY AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION	HURST, CH. 1 E & A INTRODUCTION; PP.1-15 *BERMAN 1
2		SEPT. 2 RELEVANCE OF CLASSICAL THEORY INTEGRATION-DISINTEGRATION REVOLUTIONS	RF#1A HURST, CH. 1 Q'S HURST PG 20 RF#1B HURST CH 2 Q'S HURST PG 40 PREPARE EX # 1 FOR NEXT WEEK
3	MODERNITY INTRO MARX	SEPT. 9 COMPLETE ABOVE EX #1 DUE MARX CONCEPTS	*FISCHER ON MARX RF#2A ON FISCHER A & E MARX PP 17-29 RF#2B ON A & E ABOVE, Q'S 1,2 PG 78
4		SEPT 16 MARX ON THE ECONOMY MARX ON LABOR	HURST CH 6 RF#3A HURST Q'S 1, 2, AND 4 PG. 129 (CHOOSE 2) A & E PP 41-64 RF#3B ON A & E ABOVE, Q'S 3-5 PG 78 (CHOOSE 2)
5		SEPT 23 MARX ON EMANCIPATION AND RELIGION MARX ON POLITICS	* THE JEWISH QUESTION AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRITIQUE OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF RIGHT (IN THE SAME RESERVE FILE) RF#4A ON THE JEWISH QUESTION RF#4B ON CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRITIQUE ... PREPARE EX # 2 FOR NEXT WEEK
6	DURKHEIM	SEPT 30 COMPLETE MARX EX #2 DUE DURKHEIM CONCEPTS, ON SUICIDE	A & E PP 79-97, 109-121 RF#5A ABOVE HURST CH. 3 RF#5B HURST Q'S 1, 3 PP 59-60
7		OCT 7 DURKHEIM ON WORK AND CRIME DURKHEIM ON RELIGION	*DIVISION OF LABOUR, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT RF#6A ABOVE READING A & E PP 121-134 RF#6B A & E Q'S 4, 5 PG 134 PREPARE EX # 3 FOR NEXT WEEK
8	FALL BREAK OCT 15-17	OCT 14 EX #3 DUE COMPLETE DURKHEIM	HURST CH 5 RF#7A HURST Q'S 1, 2 PG 106 RF#7B HURST Q'S 1, 4 PG 106
9	WEBER	OCT 21 WEBER INTRO METHODS, RATIONALIZATION DOMINATION	A & E PP 135-147, 171-180 RF#8A ON ABOVE Q'S 1, 4 PG 191 *BERMAN 2 RF#8B ON ABOVE
10		OCT 28 WEBER BUREAUCRACY CLASS, STATUS AND POLITICS	A & E PP 161-174, 180-190 RF#9B ON ABOVE Q'S 3, 5, 6 PG 101 *BERMAN 3 RF#9A ON ABOVE BERMAN PREPARE EX #4 FOR NEXT WEEK
11		NOV. 4 WEBER ON RELIGION COMPLETE WEBER EX # 4 DUE	A & E PP 149-160 RF#10A ON ABOVE A&E Q 2 PG 191 *USURY RF#10B ON ABOVE USURY
12	SIMMEL	NOV 11 INTRO SIMMEL MODERN INDIVIDUAL MODERN LIFE	A & E PP 241-267 RF#11A ON ABOVE Q'S 1, 4 A & E PP 267-299 RF#11B ON ABOVE Q'S 2, 3
13		NOV 18 SIMMEL ON THE MODERN WORLD POSTMODERNITY?	HURST CH. 4 RF#12A Q'S 1-4 (CHOOSE 2) *GIDDENS RF#12B ON GIDDENS
14	THANKSGIVING BREAK NOV 27-29	NOV 26 NO CLASS MEETING DO EXERCISE #5	
15	PRESENTATIONS	DEC. 2 EX # 5 DUE	PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
16		DEC 9	PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
17	FINAL EXAM WEEK	NO EXAM	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

