

Classical Sociological Theory

SOCI 455

Spring 2016

Your Instructors:

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Introduction:

Welcome to Classical Sociological Theory. I know some of you are nervous about this class, but you don't really need to be. You may find that theory speaks to a very deep part of you, and helps you to understand and become engaged with sociology in new ways. Yes, we will be reading some pretty dense material, and it might not seem to make sense at first, but you'll find that as the semester progresses, it becomes easier.

Learning Objectives:

- Articulate what theory is and how it is used.
- Explain how classical theory is still used today.
- Demonstrate ability to analyze original source material in the form of monographs and articles by classical thinkers (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Gilman, DuBois and Mead) from the 19th century to the early-20th century.
- Apply key classical social theories to current social problems and issues.

Assessment:

Quizzes: There will be fairly frequent, unannounced quizzes—eight to ten—and we will count the best five. Multiple choice, true/false, short answer. The purpose of these quizzes is to ensure that you are keeping up in class and to facilitate your learning:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/21/science/21memory.html?src=me&ref=homepage>

There will be no make-ups because we use the best five.

Portfolio: You are required to upload a portfolio consisting of three topical essays and a cover summary essay no later than the time assigned for the final exam. Five topical essays will be assigned, each with a specified due date. Topical essays turned in by the due date will be assessed, with helpful comments on how to improve them for final submission. At the end of the semester, you will turn in three essays in as your portfolio along with a cover summary essay of approximately two pages comparing and contrasting the essays. (Instructions will follow). Therefore, it is helpful for you to keep on top of your assignments, and rewrite them as soon as possible to make for a painless ending of your semester. Then all you need to do is turn in your best three at the end of the semester (by Friday the

last week of classes). NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED. If you need to turn in your portfolio late, please contact me ahead of time.

Good participation and attendance can raise a borderline grade

Grading

Quizzes	5 @ 10 points each	50 points
Portfolio	3 essays @ 20 points each	60 points
	Cover essay	10 points
	Total	120 points

We will use the +/- system for grading, with the following as the breakdown for grades:

92-100%	A	88-89.9%	B+	78-79.9%	C+	68-69.9%	D+	< 60%	F
90-91.9%	A-	82-87.9%	B	72-77.9%	C	62-67.9%	D		
		80-81.9%	B-	70-71.9%	C-	60-61.9%	D-		

Reading

Lectures and discussions will assume that you have done the assigned reading. If you run short of time, at least please skim the materials so you have a rough familiarity with the contents.

Edles, Laura Desfor and Scott Appelrouth. 2015. *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings*. Third Edition. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Supplementary readings on Moodle as announced.

Housekeeping:

Disabilities: Students have the right to equal opportunities for education and participation in University activities. Students must meet or exceed the essential requirements of the University of Montana with or without modifications. Students initiate the request for modifications and/or services in a timely manner, communicate with faculty regarding modifications and work with their disability services coordinators as needed..

Office Hours: Please make generous use of office hours. We are here to talk about your difficulties, your successes, your grades, your thoughts, and your plans for the future.

Moodle: Updated syllabi, required readings, supplemental materials and quiz scores will be available on Moodle. All assignments will be posted on Blackboard, and your completed papers must be uploaded onto the assignment link.

Missed classes, late assignments: Late topical essays will not be accepted for assessment. There will be no makeups on the quizzes; we will have so many opportunities for success that this will not be necessary. The final portfolio is due on the assigned final exam date, Monday, May 9, at 3:00 p.m. on Moodle. Late portfolios will lose 5 points each day that they are late.

Drop deadlines: February 12 is the last day to drop by Cyberbear and March 28 is the deadline to drop classes with a drop-slip signed by instructor and advisor. Classes may be dropped by petition until May 6.

Incompletes: Please see the University Catalog for the University policy on incompletes.

<http://www.umt.edu/catalog/academics/academic-policy-procedure2.php>

Plagiarism and other problems: Please see the Student Conduct Code

<http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/documents/Student%20Conduct%20Code%20PDF-%20FINAL%208-27-13.pdf>

It is expected that students will treat one another with respect. I will call upon the Dean of Students to assist with any student conduct problems.

Calendar

Classical Sociological Theory

Spring 2016

Note: Essay questions will be posted on Moodle before each theorist is introduced.

Week 1, January 26-28: Introduction to Classical Sociological Theory

Read: Chapter 1, pp 1-19

Week 2, February 2-4: Durkheim

Read: Chapter 3, 101-108

Read: Division of Labor, 110-119

Week 3, February 9-11: Durkheim, cont.

Read: Rules of Sociological Method (119-129), Suicide (129-144)

Week 4, February 16-18:

Read: Elementary Forms of Religious Life (145-162)

Essay 1 due February 23 on Moodle

Week 5, February 23-25: Marx

Read: Chapter 2, 20-36

Week 6, March 1-3: Marx, cont.

Read: Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts (47-57)

Read: The Communist Manifesto (57-71)

Week 7, March 8-10: Marx, cont.

Read: Capital (71-87)

Read: More Capital (Moodle)

Essay 2 due March 15 on Moodle

Week 8, March 15-17: Weber

Read: Chapter 4, pp 165-181

Read: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (181-192)

Read: The Social Psychology of World Religions (193-204)

Week 9, March 22-24: Weber, cont.

Read: The Distribution of Power within the Political Community (206-214)

Read: The Types of Legitimate Domination (214-223)

Week 10, March 29-31:

Read: Bureaucracy (223-233)

Read: Bohm, McJustice (Moodle)

Essay 3 due April 12 on Moodle

Week 11, April 5-7—Spring Break

Week 12, April 12-14: Gilman

Read: Chapter 5 (235-249; 258-261)

Recommended: The entire chapter

Week 13, April 19-21: Du Bois

Read: Chapter 7 (345-359;365-386)

Recommended: The entire chapter

Essay 4 due April 26 on Moodle

Week 14, April 26-28: Mead

Read: Chapter 8, pp. 392-401

Read: Mind (402-411)

Read: Self (411-427)

Essay 5 due May 3 on Moodle

Week 15, May 3-5

Review and Discussion

Portfolios are due no later than May 9, 3 p.m.