

SOCIAL THEORY

Sociology 230.213

Fall 2009

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11:45

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Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the classical sociological theories of Marx, Weber and Durkheim. The goals are to become familiar with important theories about how society works *and* to apply them to analyzing current social issues.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Attend every class session and participate in the discussion. This is a seminar; participation in class discussions is very important.
- 2) Write six memos reflecting on the week's readings (3 double-spaced pages). Some of the readings are difficult; please take the time to read carefully and analytically. Each week I will provide questions to guide your reading and your memos. You should offer criticisms of the readings, but before you do, first note their strong points. Memos must be turned in during the first class meeting every week; late memos will be graded down. Do not write memos for weeks 1, 9, 13, and 14.
- 3) Write three short essays (5-6 double-spaced pages each) and one final essay (10-11 pages). In the first three essays you will use ideas developed by Marx, Weber, or Durkheim to analyze a current event recounted in a newspaper article (or articles). In the final essay, you will use the ideas of two theorists to analyze a current event, and then compare the resulting analyses.
- 4) Schedule four individual meetings with the instructor or the TA to discuss your essay proposals.
- 5) Read the *New York Times* daily. Consider current events in light of the social theories introduced in this course (this will be necessary in order to write the essays). To get a student subscription (\$2.40/week for Monday-Saturday) call 800-NYTIMES. The newspaper cannot be delivered to Hopkins student dormitories. The *New York Times* will send headlines (linked to the newspaper's website) to your email account daily. To register: nytimes.com/regi.

Grading

Reading memos:	24%
Three short essays:	17% each (for a total of 51%)
Final essay:	25%
Attendance:	For every time you miss class after three absences (for whatever reason), your final grade will be reduced by 0.20 (on a 4.0 scale). For example, if you miss four classes (including the first three without penalty) and you have a 3.67 (A-) average for your essays and memos, your final grade will drop to 3.47 (B+). Perfect attendance will be rewarded by increasing your grade by 0.20.
Participation:	Final course grades may be adjusted up or down one notch (e.g., from B+ to A-) based on your participation in class.

Cell phones and notebook computers

Please turn off cell phones in class and use notebook computers *only* for taking notes.

Ethics

Cheating is wrong. Cheating hurts our community by undermining academic integrity, creating mistrust, and fostering unfair competition. The university will punish cheaters with failure on an assignment, failure in a course, permanent transcript notation, suspension, and/or expulsion. Offenses may be reported to medical, law or other professional or graduate schools when a cheater applies. Violations can include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments without permission, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse. For more information, see the guide on "Academic Ethics for Undergraduates" and the Ethics Board web site (<http://ethics.jhu.edu>).

Please note: In your memos and papers, when you refer to the ideas, data, and analysis of others, they must always be properly cited. You are encouraged to consult with other students about the content of your papers and to seek help in the library and the writing center, but, of course, *all writing must be your own*. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism or improper collaboration, please ask the instructor.

Readings:

Most of the readings are in the following books (available for purchase in the JHU Bookstore):

- 1) Robert Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Second Edition (NY: W. W. Norton, 1972)
- 2) Gerth and Mills, eds., *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (NY: Oxford, 1958)
- 3) Kenneth Thompson, ed., *Readings from Emile Durkheim* (London: Routledge, 1985)
- 4) John Hughes, Peter Martin, and W.W. Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology: Marx, Weber, and Durkheim* (London: Sage Publications, 1995)

A few readings (marked with an * in the reading list below) are available on e-reserves at the MSE library website. The password is and213.

Reading List and Schedule:

Week 1: September 3. Introduction (no memo)

Week 2: September 8-10. Marx

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 1-63

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The Manifesto of the Communist Party," in Tucker, pp. 469-500

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The German Ideology," in Tucker, pp. 146-163

Friedrich Engels, "Letters on Historical Materialism," in Tucker, pp. 760-765

Week 3: September 15-17. Marx

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 63-78

Karl Marx, "Wage Labor and Capital," in Tucker, pp. 203-218

Karl Marx, "Capital," in Tucker, pp 294-312, 319-329, 344-367

Karl Marx, "The Coming Upheaval," in Tucker, pp 218-219

Week 4: September 22-24. Marx

Karl Marx, "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte" in Tucker, pp. 594-617

Friedrich Engels, "The Origin of Family, Private Property and the State," in Tucker, pp. 734-759

Meetings to discuss first essay topics

Week 5: September 29-October 1. Marx

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 78-85

Friedrich Engels, "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific (Section 3)," in Tucker, pp. 700-717

ESSAY NO. 1 DUE MONDAY OCTOBER 5

(Please place essays in my mailbox in the Sociology Department office, Mergenthaler 533)

Week 6: October 6-8. Weber

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 87-110

Max Weber, "Class, Status and Party," in Gerth and Mills, pp. 180-195

Max Weber, "Capitalism and Rural Society in Germany," in Gerth and Mills, pp. 363-385

*Max Weber, "Open and closed social relationships," "The economic relationships of organized groups" in *Economy and Society, Volumes One and Two* (1978), pp. 43-46, 339-348.

*Max Weber, "The Development of Caste," in Bendix and Lipset, eds., *Class, Status and Power* (New York: The Free Press, 1966), pp. 28-36.

Week 7: October 13-15. Weber

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 110-119

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation" (part) in Gerth and Mills, p. 77 to the top of p. 83

Max Weber, "Bureaucracy" (parts 6 thru 14) in Gerth and Mills, pp. 214-244

Max Weber, "The Sociology of Charismatic Authority," in Gerth and Mills, pp. 245-252

*Max Weber, "The expropriation of workers from the means of production," in *Economy and Society, Volumes One and Two* (University of California Press, 1978), pp. 137-140.

Week 8: October 20-22. Weber

Max Weber, "Structures of Power," in Gerth and Mills, pp. 159-179

Max Weber, "The Social Psychology of the World's Religions," in Gerth and Mills, pp. 267-301

Meetings to discuss second essay topic

Week 9: October 27-29. Weber (no memo)

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 119-144

Gerth and Mills, "Political Concerns" and "Intellectual Orientations," in Gerth and Mills, pp. 32-74

ESSAY NO. 2 DUE MONDAY NOVEMBER 2

Week 10: November 3-5. Durkheim

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 145-170

Emile Durkheim, "The Rules of Sociological Method," in Thompson, pp. 53-79

Emile Durkheim, "The Division of Labor in Society," and "Two Laws of Penal Evolution" in Thompson, pp. 23-52

Week 11: November 10-12. Durkheim

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 180-194

Emile Durkheim, "The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life" and "Primitive Classification" in Thompson, pp. 107-128

Emile Durkheim, "Professional Ethics and Civic Morals" and "Socialism" in Thompson, pp. 129-156

Emile Durkheim, "The Evolution of Educational Thought" and "Moral Education," in Thompson, pp. 157-170

Week 12: November 17-19. Durkheim

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 170-180

Emile Durkheim, "Suicide" in Thompson, pp. 81-105

Meetings to discuss third essay

Week 13: November 24. Durkheim (no memo)

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 194-201

ESSAY NO. 3 DUE ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 30

Week 14: December 1-3. Comparing the Theories of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim (no memo)

Hughes, Martin, and Sharrock, *Understanding Classical Sociology*, pp. 203-234

Meetings to discuss final essay topic

FINAL ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 11