

Classical Sociological Theory

Spring 2017
Department of Sociology
University of South Florida

Classic Sociological Theory

SYA 3110

Fall 2016

Monday and Wednesday

Hours: 9:30 am - 10:45am

Room: BSN 2200

Instructor: Hadi Khoshnevis

Office: CPR 220

Office hours: By appointment

Email: hadi1@mail.usf.edu

- * Required text: Classical Sociological Theory; Edited by Calhoun, Gerteis, Moody, Pfaff, and Virk.
- * Additional Readings are posted on Canvas.



Students are responsible for reading and understanding the syllabus. Students are encouraged to ask questions to ensure that they understand the course policies and requirements.

Check canvas for announcements regularly.

Respecting others' opinions is the first and foremost ethical requirement for this class.

I reserve the right to revise the readings and assignments as I see appropriate. Students will always be involved in any changes.

Course Description

Have you ever:

- ◉ felt that you do not like your job but you still have to do it?
- ◉ been in a situation where you think that you work but somebody else gets rich?
- ◉ wished to have safety, security, and peace at the expense of freedom?
- ◉ been in a situation in which you have to suppress your anger, even if it is justified?
- ◉ felt trapped in a lengthy bureaucratic process?
- ◉ wanted to make a decision for yourself but something outside your control stopped you?
- ◉ been in a situation where you felt uncertain about what is moral and what is immoral?
- ◉ felt singled out for having abnormal or deviant behavior or thoughts?
- ◉ wondered why the majority of people in power in the US are white men?
- ◉ heard somebody saying that minorities are poor or criminals?

The theories that we learn in our course will provide some answers to these questions. They will help us understand that, despite the uniqueness of our personal experiences, there exist some regularities among our collective experiences, that we are the contributors to and also constructions of our societies. That is why, for instance, that when England is engulfed with civil war and chaos, Thomas Hobbes intransigently searches for and theorizes about law and order, or with the oppression of African Americans, Du Bois relentlessly studies race relations in the US. Hence, in this course, we will not strive to prove one theory right and the other one wrong. On the contrary, while remaining analytically critical, we will try to understand why these concepts and theories emerged, what they meant at their time, and what they mean to us today. To do so, we need to hone our skills to think critically and sharpen our analytical abilities to be able to understand and apply the theories. Also, we need to be well organized, respectful, and committed. This will not be an easy course. To succeed requires our constant collaboration. I will do my best to make the course as engaging and interactive as possible, and in return, you are required to be punctual, responsible, well organized, and communicative.

I suggest you to:

- ◉ have a notebook with you and take notes as you do the readings and listen to class discussions.
- ◉ write on the margins of your book, use sticky notes, and highlight sections.
- ◉ while reading, new ideas and insights may come to you. As soon as they occur to you, write them down.
- ◉ plan carefully and ahead of time to distribute the workload.

Course Objectives

- ❖ To introduce, discuss and apply core classical sociological theories and concepts.
- ❖ To improve students' abilities to *present* and *discuss* the concepts and theories succinctly.
- ❖ To provide opportunities for students to *analyze* social issues by using the concepts and theories.
- ❖ To enable students to *apply* the concepts and theories to current social issues.
- ❖ To enable students to *criticize* the concepts and theories and offer suggestions.
- ❖ To enable students to contextualize and analyze social issues from different theoretical standpoints.



Labour produces not only commodities; it produces itself and the worker as a *commodity*.

Karl Marx

Course Outcomes: Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ❖ Present, discuss, and contextualize the core sociological concepts and theories correctly.
- ❖ Analyze social issues by using the concepts and theories.
- ❖ To practically apply the theories and concepts to current social issues.
- ❖ To critically compare and contrast various sociological theories.

Every highly privileged group develops a myth of its... superiority. Under the conditions of stable distribution of power that myth is accepted by the negatively privileged strata.

Max Weber



Classroom Decorum

- ❖ Respecting each other's opinion, being tactful and culturally sensitive are the most important rules of our class.
- ❖ I expect you to never do the following in class: put your head down on the desk, sleep, talk or whisper to each other during class, or be disruptive or disrespectful. This includes the use of cell phones to make or receive calls or text messages, as well as using the internet on your laptop. These disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated. Upon occurrence, I will ask the student to leave the class and in case of repetition the student will lose participation points.
- ❖ If you have a question or a burning thought, just raise your hand. Give us the opportunity to learn from your insights!
- ❖ Delays and late arrivals should be avoided since it interrupts the classroom flow. Three late arrivals equate one absence.



The labor of women in the house, certainly, enables men to produce more than they otherwise could; and in this way women are economic factors in society. But so are horses.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Expectations and Requirements

- ❖ Read the syllabus thoroughly. This is YOUR responsibility. The course syllabus is a contract between teacher and student. However, due to increased interest in a particular subject, school cancellations, interest in applicable current events etc., I reserve the right to revise the readings and assignments as I see appropriate. Students will always be involved in any changes.
- ❖ Check announcements made on Canvas frequently. It is YOUR responsibility to remain updated.
- ❖ You can have maximum 3 justified absences. Justifying documents, like doctor's note, is required.
- ❖ You will lose three points for each unjustified absence.
- ❖ In the case that you miss more than five sessions, you will receive a failing grade.
- ❖ If you must miss class for some reason, it is your responsibility to obtain all missed material and catch up with the class. It will most likely be impossible for you to make up any in-class activity such as group exams or discussion that you may have missed.

- ⦿ Participation is mandatory. Mandatory participation means that your input is both welcomed and required.
- ⦿ Readings are to be completed prior to coming to class. Class discussions, in-class activities, exams, and essays will rely primarily on the reading material.
- ⦿ You should come to each class with at least two questions about the readings in mind. I may ask you to share your question(s) with the class. Your question may serve as the theme of the session.
- ⦿ Assignments must be completed according to the rubric and turned in on time on Canvas.
- ⦿ All students are required to attend the first day of class as per USF policy.

It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity.

W.E.B Du Boise



Policies

- ⦿ Academic Honesty: It is very important for you to adhere to the rules of academic honesty. You must mention explicitly any ideas or observation, sentences or sections, which are not your own. Plagiarism is literary theft and is a serious offense. This wrong deed is on rise, unfortunately, because of the abundance of available online sources. To avoid having problems consult with the college handbook or see me. Among citation styles, I require you to use ASA style which we will practice together early in the semester. Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated at all and disciplinary action will be taken at the discretion of the instructor. The penalty may range from zero on the assignment to F for the whole class.

It is criminal because it offends the common consciousness. We do not condemn it because it is a crime, but it is a crime because we condemn it.

Émile Durkheim



- ❖ USF maintains a contract with a plagiarism detection service, which allows instructors to submit students' assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized. As mentioned, academic dishonesty cannot be tolerated in the University community and is punishable.
- ❖ Deferrals should be avoided. If for valid reasons you need an extension, you must speak with me in person, at least three days before the due date. Otherwise, late assignments will not be accepted.
- ❖ Other Considerations: I am dedicated and committed to providing all students with equal opportunities to learn, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, ability, or legal status. If you have concerns, please advise me as early as possible. You can always reach me via my email or see me after our class meetings.
- ❖ Accommodations: Students with disabilities are required to visit the Office of Student Disability Services to arrange appropriate accommodations: call 974-4309 or visit their website: <http://sds.usf.edu/>. Please contact me as early as possible if are in need of any accommodations.
- ❖ If you know in advance of any absences, due to personal reasons, such as religious observances, please let me know by the second week of class.

Concerns and Complaints

- ❖ If anything bothers you in the class, or you have a concern you want to share with me, you can always email me to arrange an appointment.
- ❖ To discuss the issue, please bring a note with you when you come to my office. The note should briefly discuss the issue at hand, be it a frustrating experience or a concern. Before talking, I will read your note and then we will discuss it. The note will help you to reflect before our meeting and will give me a moment to think about the concern.



In Baxter's view the care for external goods should only lie on the shoulders of the "saint like a light cloak, which can be thrown aside at any moment. But fate decreed that the cloak should become an iron cloak.

Max Weber

Requirements

All assignments, like group exams and essays, and all activities, like documentary screening, come with a rubric. Rubrics will be uploaded on Canvas as we approach deadlines.

Class Participation (10 points)

- ❖ As mentioned in the requirements section, participation is mandatory. Mandatory participation means that your input is not only welcomed but also required. Obviously, well-planned and articulated questions and comments that you bring to class with you show your preparedness.
- ❖ Using your phone in the class, whispering, and other behaviors that violate class demeanor, will affect your participation grade.
- ❖ Biography presentation: Students, in groups of 2 or 3 should prepare and present biographical sketches of figures we study. All of you should present at least once. In the second session, I will hand out a list of figures and the dates. You should work with your group members to produce a Power Point file and email it to me before 6:00 p.m. on the day before your presentation. The presentation should be between 5-10 minutes.
- ❖ For a more detailed description of the assignment see the rubric.

Take-home Essays (3 essays, 50 points in total)

- ❖ There will be three take-home essays in this course. These essays should be a balanced mix of your own reflections and quotations from the readings. What matters most is your analytical voice supported by the reading material.
- ❖ Each essay has to be at least 1500 words, and uploaded to Canvas.
- ❖ The subject of each essay will be announced one week before it is due.
- ❖ For a more detailed description of the assignment see the rubric.

In-class Group Exams (2, 30 points in total)

- ❖ There will be two in-class group exams with essay questions.
- ❖ In groups of 3, students will craft their group response to the questions and upload the answer sheet on Canvas.
- ❖ For a more detailed description of the assignment see the rubric.

Documentary screening (4 documentaries, 10 points in total)

- ❖ In four different sessions we will watch documentaries. The documentaries are carefully chosen to summarize our discussions. Before the designated session, viewing guides will be uploaded on Canvas. Go over them. While watching the documentaries, try to answer the questions listed on viewing guides. Upload the viewing guides on Canvas before the mid-night of the viewing date.

Assignment Table			
Assignment	Dates	Points	Accumulative Total
Exam 1	February 13, 2017 - M	15	15
Exam 2	April 19, 2017 - W	15	30
Essay 1	February 27, 2017 - M	15	45
Essay 2	April 3, 2017 - M	15	60
Final Essay	May 2, 2017 - T	20	80
Documentaries	4 sessions	10	90
Presentation	Assigned dates	5	95
Participation	Throughout the semester	5	100
Total	100	100	100

Grading Scale	
Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	97-100
A	94-97
A-	90-94
B+	87-90
B	84-87
B-	80-84
C+	77-80
C	74-77
C-	70-74
D+	67-70
D	64-67
D-	60-64
F	0-60

Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
January, 9 2017 - M	Introduction to the course and to one another.	Read the syllabus thoroughly	We will sing the syllabus as our contract
January, 11 2017 - W	Sociological Theory	The Promise. Canvas	
January, 16 2017 - M	MLK Day	No Reading	
January, 18 2017 - W	Sociological Theory	Textbook Pp. 1-17	
January, 23 2017 - M	Thomas Hobbes	Textbook Pp. 30-37	
January, 25 2017 - W	John Locke	Canvas	
January, 30 2017 - M	Montesquieu	Canvas	
February, 1 2017 - W	Jean-Jaques Rousseau	Textbook Pp. 38-49	
February, 6 2017 - M	Adam Smith	Textbook Pp. 55-81	
February, 8 2017 - W	Documentary: Life and Debt	Viewing Guide will be provided	
February, 13 2017 - M	Exam 1	Exam 1	Exam 1
February, 15 2017 - W	Karl Marx	Textbook Pp. 135-145 Textbook Pp. 146-155	
February, 20 2017 - M	Karl Marx	Textbook Pp. 156-171	
February, 22 2017 - W	Karl Marx	Textbook Pp. 182-191	
February, 27 2017 - M	Documentary: Dogtown Redemption	Viewing Guide will be provided	Essay 1
March 1, 2017 - W	Max Weber	Textbook: Pp. 267-272 and Pp. 280-290	
March 6, 2017 - M	Max Weber	Textbook Pp. 291-309	
March 8, 2017 - W	Max Weber	Textbook Pp. 310-327	
March 13, 2017 - M	Spring Break	No Reading	
March 15, 2017 - W	Spring Break	No Reading	
March 20, 2017 - M	Durkheim	Textbook Pp. 195-200 and Pp. 220-242	
March 22, 2017 - W	Durkheim	Textbook Pp. 255-264	
March 27, 2017 - M	Durkheim	Textbook Pp. 243-254	
March 29, 2017 - W	Documentary: Fixing the System	Viewing Guide will be provided	

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
April 3, 2017 - M	Nietzsche	Canvas	Essay 2
April 5, 2017 - W	Sigmund Freud	Textbook Pp. 396-403	
April 10, 2017 - M	Charlotte Perkins Gilman	Canvas	
April 12, 2017 - W	W.E.B Du Bois	Textbook Pp. 404-409 + Canvas	
April 17, 2017 - M	Documentary: Crips and Bloods	Viewing Guide will be provided	
April 19, 2017 - W	Exam 2	Exam 2	Exam 2
April 24, 2017 - M	Discussion Session		
April 26, 2017 - W	Wrapping up the semester		
May 2, 2017 - Tuesday	Final Essay Deadline		

* In the Discussion Session students will form discussion groups in which they will present and receive feedback on their essay topics and approach to it. I will go around and join groups. Please, bring a smart device on this date. We will do the course online evaluations in this session.

Detach this page and return it on the second session, Wednesday 11, 2017.

This syllabus is a binding contract. By signing below, you acknowledge that you comprehend and agree with the class schedule, guidelines, and assignment expectations.

Course: Classical Sociological Theory, Spring 2017

Instructor: Hadi Khoshnevis

Print Your name (Write in CAPS)

Sign

Date
