

Development of Sociology

This course will focus on three classical theorists who have had a major impact on the development of sociology: Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber. The key objectives of the course are: (1) To understand the meaning and broader implications of some of the most basic and widely used concepts of sociology – e.g., alienation (Marx), anomie (Durkheim), and bureaucracy (Weber); (2) To creatively apply these concepts to concrete social issues in contemporary society; (3) To distinguish and be able to critically evaluate the different explanatory strategies that social theorists use in trying to explain the underlying causes of social phenomena; and (4) To grasp the contrasting political implications of these different theoretical perspectives.

Class attendance is mandatory and essential to receiving a passing grade in the course. Evaluation will be based on three in-class essay exams (20% each), five or more pop quizzes (20% total), and a take-home essay assignment (20%). Exams are scheduled for April 20, May 6, and May 27. Make-up exams will not be given unless you have a written medical excuse. The essay assignment will be distributed on May 11 and is due on June 11. The final assignment must be submitted online via Blackboard. Email attachments or hard copies of the assignment will not be accepted. There will be no final exam.

The main required text for the course is Richard W. Hadden, *Sociological Theory*. Other required readings will be available as PDF documents on electronic reserve, accessed through Blackboard. Please note: we will be making very limited use of Blackboard – mainly for access to the online readings, occasional announcements, and submission of the final assignment. The primary online home for the class will be the course website: <http://pages.uoregon.edu/vburris/soc310/>. There you will find the syllabus, lecture notes, study guides, and links to other course materials and resources.

Course Outline:

March 30: Introduction

Richard W. Hadden, *Sociological Theory*, chapter 1.

April 1, 6, 8, 13, 15: Karl Marx

Richard W. Hadden, *Sociological Theory*, chapter 2.

Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, Section on “Estranged Labour.” **Discuss 4/1.**

Karl Marx, “Marx on the History of His Opinions” (Preface to *Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*). **Discuss 4/6.**

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The German Ideology*, Part I (excerpts). **Discuss 4/8.**

Karl Marx, *Wage Labour and Capital* (excerpts). **Discuss 4/13.**

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, Parts I and II. **Discuss 4/15.**

April 20: First exam

April 22, 27, 29, May 4: Emile Durkheim

Richard W. Hadden, *Sociological Theory*, chapter 3.

Emile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, Chapters 2-3. **Discuss 4/22, 4/27.**

Emile Durkheim, *Suicide*, Book II, Chapters 2, 3, 5 (excerpts). **Discuss 4/27, 4/29.**

Emile Durkheim, *Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (excerpts). **Discuss 5/4.**

May 6: Second exam

Essay assignment posted on course website May 11

May 11, 13, 18, 20: Max Weber

Richard W. Hadden, *Sociological Theory*, chapter 4.

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Chapter 2. **Discuss 5/11, 5/13.**

Max Weber, *Economy and Society*, chapter 8 on "Bureaucracy." **Discuss 5/18.**

Max Weber, *Economy and Society*, chapter 7 on "Class, Status, Party" (see also the one-page summary, "Marxist versus Weberian Theories of Class," on the course website). **Discuss 5/20.**

May 25: Memorial Day Holiday (no class)

May 27: Third exam

June 1, 3: Summary and Comparison of Theorists

No new readings, but review and be prepared to discuss the one-page summary, "Comparison of Marx, Durkheim, and Weber," on the course website.

The final essay assignment should be submitted via Blackboard no later than 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, June 11.

Teaching assistant:

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