

Spring 2013

**Sociology 306**

## SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

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Office Hours: Thursday 11:00 - 12:00  
1808 Chicago Avenue, #103  
(or by appointment)

Monday 9:00-11:00  
Crown Café

**Course Description**

This course seeks to provide a thorough understanding of the central ideas of the three “classical” social thinkers whose work has been foundational for sociological analysis: Emile Durkheim (1858-1917), Karl Marx (1818-1883), and Max Weber (1864-1920). Class sessions will explore each thinker’s major concepts, the larger arguments that he builds from those concepts, and the distinctive manner in which he proposes to analyze the social world.

**Grading**

Course grades are determined on a 100-point basis. The sources of these points are as follows.

- Midterm exam: in-class short-answer exam, given on Thursday, May 2.  
*Possible points: 35.*
- Final exam: in-class short-answer-plus-essay exam, cumulative in coverage. (Thursday, June 13, 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.) *Possible points: 50.*
- Participation: Contribution to analysis and discussion of assigned readings.  
*Possible points: 15.*

At the end of the quarter, the instructor will add up the total score for each student, plot the class distribution of total scores, and use the resulting curve to assign a final letter grade.

**Readings**

All reading assignments are from the following seven books, which are available at the Norris Center Bookstore.

Emile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*. Translation by W.D.Halls.  
(Hereafter cited as *DOL*)

Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Translation by Karen E. Fields. (Hereafter *EF*)

(continued)

Emile Durkheim, *The Rules of Sociological Method and Selected Texts on Sociology and its Method*. Edited by Steven Lukes. (Hereafter *RSM*)

Karl Marx, *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*. Second Edition. Edited by David McLellan. (Hereafter *KM*)

Max Weber, *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Edited by H. H. Gerth and C. W. Mills. (Hereafter *FMW*)

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Routledge edition. (Hereafter *PE*)

Max Weber, *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*. Edited by Talcott Parsons. (Hereafter *EAS*)

### SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

April 4 Introduction

April 9-April 30 **Emile Durkheim**

- Assignment: for April 9:  
*DOL*, pp. xxv-xxx, 1-2, 11-87
- Assignment for April 11:  
*DOL*, pp. 88-100, 118-139, 149-165, 172-186, 200-217, 242-245
- Assignment for April 18:  
*DOL*, pp. 291-341
- Assignment for April 23:  
*RSM*, pp. 31-72, 119-142
- Assignment for April 25:  
*EF*, pp. 1-44
- Assignment for April 30:  
*EF*, pp. 207-241, 418-448

May 2 **Midterm Exam**

May 7-May 16 **Karl Marx**

- Assignment for May 7:  
*KM*, pp. 71-72, 83-95, 163-208, 245-262, 424-427, 452-458

May 21-June 4

**Max Weber**

- Assignment for May 21:  
*PE*, pp. xxvii-80
- Assignment for May 23:  
*PE*, pp. 102-125
- Assignment for May 28:  
*FMW*, pp. 129-156
- Assignment for May 30:  
*EAS*, pp. 87-120
- Assignment for June 4:  
*EAS*, pp. 324-329, 341-345 and *FMW*, pp. 196-252

June 13

**Final Exam** (12 noon – 2:00 p.m.)