

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.)