

## **Classical Sociological Theory**

SOCI 455: Fall 2017

Liberal Arts 308

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am

### **Teaching team information**

Instructor: Dustin Satterfield, M.A. (she/her/hers pronouns)

Office: Social Sciences 319

Email: [dustin.satterfield@umontana.edu](mailto:dustin.satterfield@umontana.edu)

Office hours: Tuesday 10:30 – 11:30 am, Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00 pm or by appointment

Preceptor:

Office: Social Sciences \_\_\_\_\_

Email:

Office hours:

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. Changes will be announced in class and posted on the Moodle page.

### **Course description**

The purpose of this class is to familiarize you with the language, epistemologies, and key insights of sociology's "classical" period, as well as give you a chance to position yourself within the diverse theoretical frameworks of the American sociological tradition. To this end, we will interpret dense texts written in an increasingly unfamiliar historical context and (attempt to) apply the ideas we find there to contemporary social life. This class is about learning to read classical sociological theory both on the page and in the world around us.

This is a difficult and demanding course, I will be working as hard as I expect you to.

### **Learning outcomes**

By the end of this course, the successful student will:

- Articulate what theory is and how it is used.
- Explain how classical theory is still used today.
- Demonstrate ability to analyze original source material by classical thinkers (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Gilman, DuBois and Mead) from the 19th century to the early-20th century.
- Apply key classical social theories to current social problems and issues and be able to theorize about the social world in a coherent and meaningful way

### **Required readings**

Edles, Laura Desfor and Scott Appelrouth. 2015. *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings*. Third Edition. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

You are welcome to use other editions of this textbook with the understanding that the content may vary. Other assigned readings will be available on Moodle. Please bring the readings for the day to class electronically, as a hard copy, or in your textbook for each class meeting.

## **Quizzes**

There will be at least seven unannounced reading quizzes in this course. Only five will count towards your grade, allowing you to drop two quizzes due to low scores or absences from class. They will be worth five points each, contributing 25 total points toward your final grade. Make up quizzes are not available. If you miss a quiz for any reason, it will be one of your two drops.

## **Assignments**

Assignments must be uploaded to Moodle 15 minutes before the beginning of class. There will be a few exceptions noted on the schedule where you will be required to bring a hard copy to class. Feedback and grades will be provided electronically through the Moodle page. Writing assignments should be polished when you turn them in. Take the time to proofread your assignment for typos and clarity before turning them in.

Late assignments will be docked points. If you miss an assignment deadline you must contact me and receive permission via email to turn in a late assignment. Assignments or papers turned in under my office door or via e-mail without prior discussion will not be accepted. The value of assignments varies.

Our last class meeting will take place during our finals meeting time: Thursday, December 14 8:00 – 10:00 am.

## **Course guidelines and policies**

### **Academic honesty**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#), which is available for review online.

Make sure that your work is your own. Students are encouraged to discuss assignments with classmates to facilitate your learning. However, students must turn in their own separate homework. Don't get confused by what is acceptable and what is not. Discussion of ideas is permitted, and encouraged among classmates in and out of the classroom. Students should be careful not to work directly from a classmate's notes, not to copy another's paper and appropriately cite all sources in your writing. Turning in a homework assignment that you did not personally complete is plagiarism.

If this is unclear, please ask.

### **Attendance**

You are expected to attend class. It will be difficult to do well if you do not attend regularly. I will not provide notes or schedule special meeting times to go over material that is missed due to a non-university sanctioned absence. You will be responsible for any material you missed; I recommend that you meet with a classmate to discuss topics that you have missed and to exchange notes.

You are expected to come to class on time, prepared to learn, and to attend until the end of class. If you need to leave early, please inform me ahead of time and sit near the exit as to minimally disrupt other students.

## **Classroom etiquette**

Please treat each other and each other's ideas respectfully. Keep in mind that the University of Montana forbids discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. If you violate this policy I will ask you to leave.

## **Disability modifications**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lomasson Center 154 or call 406-243-2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

## **Email policy**

I will check and respond to emails during business hours for one hour daily Monday – Friday, and during my office hours. When I answer questions that students have emailed me during class, I consider the question answered. Do not email me after 10 pm the night before an assignment is due. I will not respond.

I encourage students to ask questions in class, attend office hours, or make an appointment if you need assistance.

## **Grading policy**

There will be five quizzes, up to 12 reading assignments, and a final paper that will comprise the total points for the semester. Final grades will be determined based on your average score out of the total points possible. At any point, you can calculate your grade by adding the number of points to date, dividing by the total number of points possible to date, and obtaining your percentage grade to date. Your grades will be available on Moodle.

Good engagement and attendance can raise a borderline grade.

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: 59% or below

## **Name and pronouns**

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you go by a different name than what is on the class roster, let me know. I will respect your name and your pronouns.

### **Office hours**

Please make generous use of the teaching team's office hours. We are here to talk about your difficulties, your successes, your grades, and your thoughts. Making use of office hours will be critical to your success. Attending office hours indicates your engagement with the material and gives me a chance to get to know you.

### **Personal device policy**

The use of cell phones in class is a distraction to yourself, your classmates, and your instructor. Please do not use your phones for the time that you are attending class. It is acceptable to use laptops and tablets to assist with note-taking and to refer to the readings, please limit use of these devices to that alone.

### **Writing assistance**

The Writing Center is a resource available to all students to assist with all steps of the writing process. Set up an appointment or learn more at [The Writing Center's website](#).

### **Class reading schedule**

This schedule is tentative. Reading assignments and deadlines may change as we see that we need to spend more or less time on a particular topic. It is your responsibility to keep up with the schedule by attending class regularly, checking the Moodle page and your student email frequently, and doing the readings and assignments. Many of the readings listed below are from our textbook. Any additional readings will be available on Moodle, indicated on the schedule with [M].

The reading listed is what you need to have read PRIOR to the class meeting time.

Week of:	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
8/28	No class	No class	First day of class Syllabus
9/4	No class Labor Day	Burawoy, "Sociology as a Vocation" [M] (13 pages) and Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" [M] (approx. 5 pages)	Spencer, "A Society is an Organism"; "Social Structures"; and "Social Functions" [M] (approx. 19 pages)
9/11	Durkheim, <i>The Rules of Sociological Method</i> (8 pages)	Durkheim, <i>The Division of Labor in Society</i> (6 pages)	Durkheim, Suicide: A Study in Sociology (12 pages)
9/18	Durkheim, <i>The Elementary Forms of Religious Life</i> (14 pages)	Durkheim, <i>The Elementary Forms of Religious Life</i> (14 pages)	Merton, "Social Structure and Anomie" [M] (9 pages)
9/25	Marx, Introduction to <i>A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right</i> [M] (approx. 10 pages) and "Theses on Feuerbach" [M] (3 pages)	Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i> (8 pages)	Marx, <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> (9 pages)
10/2	Marx, selections from <i>Capital</i> (11 pages)	Marx, "The Buying and Selling of Labour-Power" [M] (approx. 6 pages)	Sweezy, "The Triumph of Financial Capital" [M] (5 pages)
10/9	German Idealism Dilthey, "The Rise of Hermeneutics" [M] (14 pages)	Dilthey, "The Rise of Hermeneutics" [M] (14 pages)	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> (11 pages)
10/16	Weber, "The Distribution of Power Within the Political Community: Class, Status, Party" (8 pages)	Weber, "The Types of Legitimate Domination" and "Bureaucracy" (14 pages)	Weber, "The Types of Legitimate Domination" and "Bureaucracy" (14 pages)
10/23	Weber, "Science as a Vocation" [M] (16 pages)	Weber, "Science as a Vocation" [M] (16 pages)	Mills, "The Promise" [M] (6 pages)

10/30	Dewey, “The Development of American Pragmatism” [M] (9 pages) and “Social Science and Social Control” [M] (3 pages)	Addams, “Problems of Municipal Administration” [M] (19 pages)	Addams, “Problems of Municipal Administration” [M] (19 pages)
11/6	Mead, “Mind” (8 pages)	Mead, “Self” (12 pages)	No class Veterans Day
11/13	Mead, “Society” (8 pages)	Du Bois, <i>The Philadelphia Negro</i> (6 pages)	Du Bois, <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> (14 pages)
11/20	Du Bois, “The Souls of White Folk” (3 pages)	No class Thanksgiving Break	No class Thanksgiving Break
11/27	Gilman, “Women and Economics” Part I (approx. 10 pages)	Gilman, “Women and Economics” Part II (approx. 13 pages)	Gilman, “Women and Economics” Part II (approx. 13 pages)
12/4	Polanyi, “The Self-Regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Labor, Land, and Money” [M]	Polanyi, “The Self-Regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Labor, Land, and Money” [M]	Bourdieu, <i>Reproduction in Education, Society and Culture</i> [M]
12/11	Catch up day	Finals Week 12/12 - 12/20 Final meeting: Thursday, December 14 8:00 – 10:00 am.	