

Development of Sociological Thought
SOC301-004 Fall 2020
MWF 12:00-12:50pm – Clark C 251 and Online

Instructor: Nefratiri Weeks

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Office Hours:

Zoom: Mon. and Wed. 10:30 -11:30 am

& by Appointment

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to classical sociological theory with a focus on the work of Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, and Max Weber. In addition, we will look briefly at the classical roots of symbolic interactionism through the work of Mead and Simmel. Classical theories provide important insight into the current processes and structure of the social world and provide the foundation for theories used by contemporary sociologists in their understanding of society and its modern social problems.

This course is designed to lay a foundation for your understanding of sociological theory, the contexts in which social theory emerged, and emphasize the continuing importance of classical theory. We will focus on a variety of themes in each theorist's work, including the relationship between the individual and society, the structure and form of contemporary economic and political systems, the causes of social order and social change, modernity and its social implications, and the function of religion. By the end of the course, you should be able to:

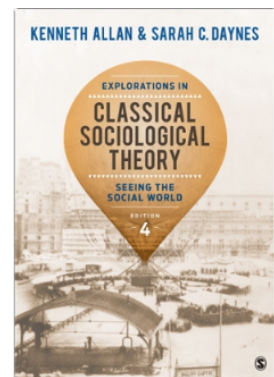
- Understand the historical context, key arguments, and main concepts of each theorist
- Compare the theories on a key topic
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of each theory
- Identify some key assumptions within each theory
- Understand how the theories differ from and relate to one another
- Identify and explain the contemporary significance of each theory

Required Text

- Allan, Kenneth & Daynes, Sarah C. (2017). *Explorations in Classical Sociological Theory, Fourth Edition*. Sage Publications, Inc.

ISBN-13: 978-1483356693

- Other readings indicated in the syllabus under the Course Schedule are available on Canvas.



Course Format

This course is lecture and discussion based. On most Mondays and Wednesdays, we will have a lecture; Friday's is typically a class-wide discussion. Important and complex concepts will be covered in the readings and lectures, but some concepts covered in lecture are not in the readings, and vice-versa. We will use our discussion days to pull these concepts together to gain a holistic understanding of the theory. To succeed in this course, come to the lecture having read the assigned materials, take detailed notes, and participate in discussions. Some of the course readings are dense and difficult, take notes as you read, and note any unclear concepts.

Hybrid Class Structure: Due to physical distancing requirements, this class will operate as hybrid, meaning lectures and discussions will be available both online and in class. In order to physically come to class, I will provide a sign-up sheet on Canvas. We will limit the number of people in class according to University Guidelines. Discussions will also be available both in class and online and you will be able to opt in to either format.

Assignments and Grades

1. **Discussions:** Almost every Friday, we will conduct the class in a discussion format. See the Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus for discussion dates and topics. You will sign up to bring one discussion question in the semester. I will pass out a discussion question sign-up form so you can choose your discussion. Discussions are worth **25%** of your overall grade; points will be dependent on attendance, contributions, and engagement with the material.
 - Be up-to-date on assigned reading and ready to discuss the material.
 - Bring a question to class that emerged during your reading of the material. Questions can pertain to central themes, something that did not make sense, contradictions in the text, something you found interesting, something you disagree with, or just something you would like to talk about with the class.
 - Provide answers for questions and add to the discussion by drawing from your notes from the text, from the primary readings, or from class lecture.

2. **Exams:** We will have four hand-written exams (including the final) that will be in short-answer format. The first 3 exams will be worth **10%** of your grade. The final exam will be worth **20%** of your grade and will be comprehensive (meaning it will cover material from the entire course). In all, the exams will be worth **50%** of your grade. The final exam will be held during Finals Week: **Wednesday, December 16, 4:10-6:10 pm**. I will make arrangements for exams taken outside of class.

3. **Paper:** You will write one paper over the course of the semester where you will compare Durkheim, Marx, and Weber on a key social theme of your choosing. Possible topics include the origin of structure, the causes of inequality, the division of labor, social struggle, capitalism, religion, etc. We will discuss the requirements of the paper in class and I will provide a rubric. The paper is due **December 9** and will be worth **25%** of your overall grade.

Course Evaluation		Grading Scale			
Discussion	= 25%	A+	99-100+	C+	77-79
Exam 1	= 10%	A	93-98	C	73-76
Exam 2	= 10%	A-	90-92	C-	70-72
Exam 3	= 10%	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
Exam 4 (Final)	= 20%	B	83-86	D	63-66
Paper	<u>= 25%</u>	B-	80-82	D-	60-62
	100%			F	59 and lower

Late Policy

Because this course revolves around lectures and group discussions, completing the reading on time is very important. Please come to class on time and turn in all course work by the due date.

In order to submit work late, you will need to contact me and let me know your situation. If you are in sports, provide a letter from your coach letting me know when you will miss class. If you have a university-approved reason for missing class or being late on an assignment, please provide the proper forms. **Refer to this page for university-approved absences:** <http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/academic-standards/academic-policies/#attendance-regulations>

Academic Resources

If you need additional assistance outside of class, please email me and/or visit me during office hours (see contact and office information at the top of the syllabus).

Writing@CSU provides all CSU students with a wide range of instructional and writing resources. Refer to their website at: <https://writing.colostate.edu>.

For proper citation format for your final paper, use ASA format style: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/formatting_in_sociology_asa_style/references_page_formatting.html

How to be successful in this class:

Come to class: Arrive on time, stay for the entire class, and silence and put away your cell phone for the duration of the class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get any notes or information covered in class from another student.

Take Notes: I will not provide my PowerPoint slides to you. I expect that you will come to class having read the material, taken notes on that material, and that you will take notes during class. Note taking is a proven way to improve your learning experience and helps you remember the material. It will also help with our discussions and make them more meaningful.

Actively engage with the material. Pay attention in class, keep up with course readings and lectures, raise substantive questions and thoughtfully contribute in class and especially during our discussions.

Ask for clarification when needed. If something is unclear or if you have a question during lecture, let me know. Depending on the issue, we can address these questions in class, or during office hours.

Work outside of class. This is a 3-credit class, so you should spend 2 hours outside of class for each hour of classroom time on course related work including studying, reading assigned readings, and doing writing assignments.

Be respectful in class. Everyone should feel comfortable participating in class discussions and asking questions. Everyone is expected to exhibit respect for one another, and I insist that in-class discussions and activities are accompanied with civility, critical self-reflection, and knowledge that you draw from the course materials. Laptops/tablets are only permitted for class related tasks, if you are texting, surfing the web, etc., I will ask you to put your device away. The goal is to create and maintain an optimum learning environment for the *entire class*.

Class and University Policies:

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct: *This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and Student Conduct Code.* Students should have

knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in relation to academic integrity, codes of conduct, and expected classroom behavior as defined by the university—please see <http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/policies/students-responsibilities/> for additional information. Academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, cheating, or falsification of pertinent information, may be grounds for university dismissal.

In accordance with the academic integrity policy, please include the following on your paper: “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance”.

Important information for Students: All students should fill out a student-specific symptom checker each day before coming to class (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/daily-symptom-checker/>). In addition, please utilize the symptom checker to report symptoms, if you have a positive test, or exposed to a known COVID contact. If you know or believe you have been exposed or are symptomatic, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you report it through this checker. You will not be in trouble or penalized in any way for reporting. If you report symptoms or a positive test, you will receive immediate instructions on what to do and CSU’s Public Health Office will be notified. Once notified, that office will contact you and most likely conduct contact tracing, initiate any necessary public health requirements and/or recommendations and notify you if you need to take any steps. For the latest information about the University’s response, please visit the **CSU COVID-19 site** (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/>).

Disabilities: Colorado State University adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, contact the office of Student Disability Center for support and further information (970) 491-6385 or <https://disabilitycenter.colostate.edu>.

Harassment and Discrimination: Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. The University complies with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, related Executive Orders 11246 and 11375, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 402 of the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and all civil rights laws of the State of Colorado. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity ("OEOD") at 101 Student Services Building at (970) 491-5836 and/or visit their web site at: <https://oeo.colostate.edu>

Any student who may be the victim of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking or retaliation is encouraged to report to CSU through one or more of the following resources:

Emergency Response: 911

Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Office of Support and Safety Assessment: (970) 491-1350

Colorado State University Police Department (non-emergency): (970) 491-6425

For counseling support and assistance, please see the CSU Health Network (<https://health.colostate.edu>), which provides a variety of counseling services. In addition, the Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team (<https://wgac.colostate.edu>) is a confidential student resource that does not have a reporting requirement and can be of great help if you’ve experienced sexual assault.

SOC301-004: Course Schedule

Readings should be completed before the lecture on the date indicated
All readings except the text are on Canvas under 'Modules'

<p>Week 1: Aug. 24-28</p>	<p>Syllabus; Introductions; Requirements of the Course; The History and Context of Social Theory; What is Theory; Meet our Theorists; Types of Social Theory: Positivism, Critical Theory, Interpretivism; Comte and Positivism</p> <p>Reading: Aug. 28: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 1, p. 1-18</p>
<p>Week 2: Aug. 31-Sep. 4</p>	<p>Levels of Social Theory: Micro, Meso, Macro; Historical Roots of Social Theory; Social Systems as Organisms; Functionalism: Structure, Differentiation and Specialization; Introduction: Ontology, Epistemology, and Axiology</p> <p>Reading: Sept. 2: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 2, p. 19-46</p> <p>Discussion 1: Sept. 4: Any topic from Week 1 and Week 2 you found interesting</p>
<p>Week 3: Sep. 7-11</p>	<p>Durkheim: Introduction; Positivism; Structural Functionalism; Division of Labor; Modernization; Social Facts; Mechanical and Organic Solidarity; Anomie</p> <p>Reading: Sep. 7: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 4, p. 97-109 and 120-131</p> <p>Discussion 2: Sep. 11: Durkheim, <i>The Division of Labor in Society</i>, p. 37-66</p>
<p>Week 4: Sep. 14-18</p>	<p>Durkheim: Culture; The Social Elements of Religion; Collective Consciousness</p> <p>Reading: Sep. 14: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 4, p. 109-120</p> <p>Discussion 3: Sep. 18: Durkheim, <i>The Elementary Forms of Religious Life</i>, p. 126-139</p>
<p>Week 5: Sep. 21-25</p>	<p>Durkheim: Suicide: Individualism, Group Attachment, Cult of the Individual Review for Exam</p> <p>Reading: Sep. 21: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 4, p. 131-139</p> <p>Exam 1: Sep. 25 – Introduction to Theory and Emile Durkheim</p>
<p>Week 6: Sep. 28-Oct. 2</p>	<p>Marx: Introduction; Marx's Positionality; Critical Theory; Historiography of Sociology; History as Linear or Dialectic; Intellectual Influences</p> <p>Reading: Sep. 30: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 3, p. 47-62</p>
<p>Week 7: Oct. 5-9</p>	<p>Marx: Species Being; Historical Materialism and Social Change; Marx's Vocabulary: Mode of Life, Mode of Production, Means of Production, German Ideology</p> <p>Reading: Oct. 5: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 3, p. 63-68</p> <p>Discussion 4: Oct. 9: Marx, <i>The German Ideology</i>, p. 37-45</p>
<p>Week 8: Oct. 12-16</p>	<p>Marx: Labor Theory of Value; Fetishism of Commodities; Structure of Capitalism; Laws of Motion of the Capitalist System; The Contradictions of Capitalism; Socialism and Communism; Critique of Capitalism; Primitive Accumulation</p> <p>Reading: Oct. 12: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 3, p. 68-78</p> <p>Discussion 5: Oct. 16: Marx, <i>Manifesto of the Communist Party</i>, p. 70-83</p>

<p>Week 9: Oct. 19-23</p>	<p>Marx: Consciousness; Ideology; False Consciousness and Religion; Class Consciousness; Alienation Review for Exam 2</p> <p>Reading: Oct. 19: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 3, p. 78-93</p> <p>Exam 2: Oct 23 – Karl Marx</p>
<p>Week 10: Oct. 26-30</p>	<p>Weber: Introduction; Interpretivism; Weber’s Positionality; Methodology; Ideal Types; Types of Social Action; Rationalization; Axiology; Verstehen; Teleology</p> <p>Reading: Oct. 26: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 5, p. 143-166</p> <p>Discussion 6: Oct. 30: Weber, <i>Definitions of Sociology and Social Action</i>, p. 157-164</p>
<p>Week 11: Nov. 2-6</p>	<p>Weber: The Evolution of Religion; The Rise of Capitalism; Relationship of Religion and Social Action; Types of Authority, The Protestant Ethic</p> <p>Reading: Nov. 2: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 5, p. 166-178</p> <p>Discussion 7: Nov. 6: Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism</i>, p. 115-133</p>
<p>Week 12: Nov. 9-13</p>	<p>Weber: Power and Legitimate Authority; Class, Status, and Party; Economically Determined Power; Class Struggle</p> <p>Reading: Nov. 9: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 5, p. 178-197</p> <p>Discussion 8: Nov. 13: Weber, <i>Class, Status, Party</i>, p. 132-141</p>
<p>Week 13: Nov. 16-20</p>	<p>Weber: Bureaucracy; Legitimate Domination</p> <p>Exam Review</p> <p>Reading: Nov. 16: Weber, <i>Legitimacy and Authority</i>, 165-174 and <i>Bureaucracy</i>, p. 142-153</p> <p>Exam 3: Nov. 20 – Max Weber</p>
<p>Week 14 Nov. 23-27</p>	<p>Fall Break</p>
<p>Week 15: Nov. 30-Dec 4</p>	<p>Symbolic Interaction: George Herbert Mead and Georg Simmel; Microsociology; The Individual; Social Behavior; Pragmatism; Meaning and Interaction</p> <p>Reading: Nov. 30: Allan & Daynes, Chapter 6, p. 201-245</p> <p>Discussion 9: Dec. 4: Any topic in Symbolic Interaction you found interesting</p>
<p>Week 16: Dec. 7-11</p>	<p>Bringing it all together: Contemporary Relevance of Classical Theory; Review</p> <p>Review for Final Exam</p> <p>Theory Paper: Due Friday, December 11 at start of class. Upload on Canvas.</p>
<p>Final’s Week</p>	<p>Final Exam: Wednesday, December 16, 4:10-6:10pm in our classroom and online.</p>

Please Note: I may change this schedule as we proceed through the material. I will make these changes known in class and through announcements on Canvas. Be sure to regularly check your University Email.