

10810GEC140600 (W789)
Classic Works of Sociology

社會學經典名著

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is the relationship between individual and society? What is the nature of social order? Do we simply follow existing structural arrangements, or we live upon meanings that we generate in our everyday life? Since the 19th century, sociologists have been developing perspectives and theories to answer the above questions. The course will introduce major sociologists and their social theory throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. By reading the original texts of Émile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Erving Goffman, and Michel Foucault, students will learn how the theorists understand the relationship between self and society, social organization, the formation of self, and social change.

Why read original text? Students might find reading the original text challenging. However, it is the only way to learn what have been said by the leading theorists without simplification because the original text is never the same as the secondary text. To help students to appreciate and understand the original text, lectures will cover the key ideas of the original works and provide application of concepts to students.

Upon finishing the course, students will be able to:

1. grasp the development of sociological theories;
2. understand the essence and major concepts of the original works; and
3. apply the sociological concepts to understand human behaviors and the relationship between individual and collective.

READINGS on iLMS

- There are 9 pieces of required readings, mainly taken out from: Appelrouth, Scott, and Laura D. Edles. 2008. *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory: Text and Readings*. Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press.
- Electronic reference: Delaney, Tim. 2014. *Classical and Contemporary Social Theory: Investigation and Application*. London: Routledge.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Class participation (10%)

Your participation in class will be evaluated. Both attitudes and quality of content will be counted.

Reading report (30%)

Select a piece of reading from the weekly schedule. The piece must be different from the one that you work for the group presentation. For example, if your group presentation is going to work on Durkheim, you must not select Durkheim's piece for the reading report. Otherwise, you will be considered as self-plagiarized and will receive no mark.

- In the reading report, you should identify and discuss the core concepts (at least two), then apply them to explain your life experience or an incident you find most relevant.
- Length of your report: no less than 1,000 words in Chinese; no less than 700 words in English.
- Upload the report to **Turnitin** any time before Jan 3 (week 17). No late submissions will be accepted.

Final exam (30%)

An in-class exam be held in week 18. Exam format will be in short questions. No make-up exam will be offered unless you are sick and have documents for medical proof.

Group presentation (30%)

Students in a group (6-7 students/group) will be responsible for a group presentation. Your group will work on a piece of required reading and apply the core ideas to analyze a social phenomenon. The project consists of two parts: (i) explain the core ideas (at least two ideas) of the selected text (~15 minutes), and (ii) apply the ideas to analyze a social phenomenon (~15 minutes).

Due date:

1. Week 14-16: Deliver a presentation around 30 minutes, plus 10 minutes for Q&A. Upload your set of ppt slides to iLMS a day (24 hours) before your presentation. .
2. A week after your presentation: turn your ppt to become a written report. Upload the report to Turnitin. Make sure you take my comments in the report.

Assessment breakdown: Group presentation 20% + Assessed by classmates 5% + Group report 5% (total 30%).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

- What is sociology? Why is it relevant to me?

Week 2: Development of Sociology; what is society?

- Social change in the 19th century
- Main theorists and theoretical debates

Week 3: Durkheim

- His biography and intellectual influence
- Division of labor and solidarity

Week 4 Going to form groups for group presentation. Must come to class, please!

Week 4: Durkheim

- What types of people tend to commit suicide?
- Criticisms of Durkheim
- Discussion

Read: Durkheim (1893), The Division of Labor in Society (p.104-110)
Durkheim (1897), Suicide

Week 5: Marx

- His biography and intellectual influence
- Historical materialism; class conflict

Week 6: Marx

- Capital and labor
- Why feeling alienated?
- Criticisms of Marx
- Discussion

Read: Marx (1844), Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts (p.47-55)
Marx and Engels (1848), Manifesto of the Communist Party (p.72-83)

Week 7: Weber

- His biography and intellectual influence
- Social inequality; legitimate domination

Week 8: Weber

- Relationship between religion and capitalism
- Why people keep making money?
- Criticisms of Weber
- Discussion

Read: Weber (1904), The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (p.154-165)
Weber (1925), Bureaucracy (p.186-194)

Week 9: Symbolic interactionism

- Roots and development of microsociology
- How self and society (and the social reality) are created and re-created in daily interactions
- Goffman's dramaturgical approach to the study of social life and his idea of impression management

Read: Goffman (1959), The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life (p.492-506)

Week 10: No Class (Sports Day)

Week 11: No Class (Teacher is out of town for an academic conference)

Please work on your group presentation.

Week 12: Post-structuralism

- Development of post-structuralism: challenging sociological traditions for assuming social forces are outside of human agency.
- Foucault's notion of discourse, discursive practices and formation of self
- How self is produced by discipline and surveillance

Read: Foucault (1975), Discipline and Punish (p.648-664)
Foucault (1978), The History of Sexuality (p.3-35)

Week 13: Foucault

- Foucault's notion of sexuality: sexual discourse
- Discuss Foucault's influence on gender and LGBT studies

Week 14: Group presentation (3 groups)

Week 15: Group presentation (3 groups)

Week 16: Group presentation (3 groups)

Week 17: Conclusion of the course and review

Week 18: Final exam

NOTES ON MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

- Lectures and PPT slides will be in English.
- Students are encouraged to use English during class discussion and presentation.
- Exams and written assignments can be written in either Chinese or English.

NOTES ON PLAGIRISM

The University takes plagiarism seriously. Works found to have plagiarized will receive zero mark.

- Follow the style guide of in-text citations and bibliography on iLMS. Written works without proper referencing might be considered as plagiarized.
- Upload all of your written works to **Turnitin**.

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