

2022-2023 Academic Year (Spring Semester)

111-2 GEC 140601 (教 116)

Classic Works of Sociology

(This is a tentative version.)

Please ask the professor for an updated version in the first class meeting)

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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 firstly introduce major sociologists and their social theory throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The last part of the course will introduce the works of sociologists on sexuality studies in the 21st century.

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

- Readings are available on eLearn. Most of the readings are taken from the book *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory: Text and Readings*, written by Appelrouth and Edles (2008), Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press.
- Electronic reference: Delaney, Tim. 2014. *Classical and Contemporary Social Theory: Investigation and Application*. London: Routledge.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

- Lectures and PPT slides will be in English.
- Please use English during class discussion and group presentation.
- Individual written works can be written in either Chinese or English.

COURSEWORK REGULATIONS

1. Late submission of work will result in deduction of grades. You will be responsible for any late submission and are required to notify the professor beforehand.
2. Upload your written reports to **Turnitin** (文章剽竊檢測工具):
<https://learning.site.nthu.edu.tw/p/412-1319-6168.php?Lang=zh-tw>
3. Turnitin will show a similarity rate after submission. Please check the similarity rate, which should be below 10%. The only way to lower the similarity rate is to use your own words in your writing.
4. Written reports must include **both in-text citations** (文中引用) **and bibliography** (參考書目) whenever you have borrowed ideas from any website, book or newspaper. Written works without proper referencing will be considered as plagiarized and will receive a failing grade.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Class participation (10%)

Your participation in class will be evaluated. Both attitudes and quality of content will be counted. If you are unable to attend the class, you need to notify the professor and provide reasons by email beforehand.

Reading reports (@25%x2 = 50%)

Select two pieces of reading from the weekly schedule (one from part A and another from part B). The piece must be different from the theorist that you work on for the group presentation. For example, if your group presentation is going to work on Marx, you must not select Marx for the reading report. Otherwise, you will receive no mark.

- In the report, you should identify and discuss the core concepts (at least two concepts) at the beginning, and then apply the concepts to explain your life experience or an incident that you find most relevant.
- The part on identifying and discussing concepts should be around a half of the report, and the application should be the remaining half.
- Length of each report: no less than 1,000 words in English; no less than 1,500 words in Chinese.
- Upload the reading reports to **Turnitin**.
- Due date of 1st reading note: 3/26 (Sunday), 23:59
- Due date of 2nd reading note: 5/14 (Sunday), 23:59

Group presentation (40%)

Students in a group will be responsible for a presentation. Your group will work on a piece of reading and apply the core ideas to analyze a social phenomenon. The presentation will consist of two parts: (i) identify a social phenomenon that is relevant to the reading, and provide facts and data about the phenomenon (~15 minutes), and (ii) analyze the social phenomenon with the concepts of the reading (at least two concepts). You need to explain the concepts before analyzing the phenomenon (~20 minutes).

Due dates:

1. Week 13-15: Deliver a presentation around 35 minutes, plus 15 minutes for Q&A. Each group member must take part in the oral presentation.
2. A day (24 hours) **before** your presentation, upload your PPT to **eLearn** platform. You will use this set of slides for presentation. Don't change anything after your submission.
3. Each group hand in one written report (no less than 3,000 words) and upload it to **Turnitin** a week **after** your presentation. You must take my comments in the written report. Therefore, be prepared to work with your groupmates on the written report after the presentation.

Assessment breakdown: Group presentation with PPT slides 25% + Group report 10% + In-group evaluation by groupmates 5% (total 40%).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

- Course requirements

Week 2: Development of Sociology; what is society?

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

PART A

Week 3: Durkheim

- Division of labor and solidarity

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

Week 4: Marx (*Must come to class. Going to form groups for group project.)

- ****Turnitin registration; Writing and presentation guidelines**
- Capitalism and Alienation

Read: Marx (1844), Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts (p.47-55)

Week 5: Marx

- Historical materialism
- Class theory

Read: Marx and Engels (1848), Manifesto of the Communist Party (p.72-83)

PART B

Week 6: Weber

- Rationalization
- Relationship between religion and capitalism

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

Week 7: Weber

- Bureaucracy; Iron cage

Read: Weber (1925), Bureaucracy (p.186-194)

Week 8: NO CLASS

Week 9: Goffman

- Dramaturgy
- Self and society

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

Week 10: Foucault

- Development of post-structuralism
- Discipline and surveillance

Read: Foucault (1975), Discipline and Punish (p.648-664)

Week 11: Foucault

- Discursive practices and formation of self
- Sexual discourse

Read: Foucault (1978), The History of Sexuality (p.3-35)

Week 12: Queer studies

- Sinophone critique

Read: Wen Liu (2022), Boundless China and Backward Asians: Hegemonic Confucianism as Epistemological Violence in Queer Psychology

Week 13-15: Group presentation

Week 16: NO CLASS

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