

**113-1 GEC 140601 (R34n, 教 314)**  
**Classic Works of Sociology**

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**This is a tentative version.**

**Please ask for an updated copy in the first class meeting.**

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The last part of the course will introduce theories of sexuality in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

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 book (電子書): 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. 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. Please consult the professor if you have questions in referencing.
2. Wikipedia/ Baidu/ knews are not reliable sources. Do not cite them.
3. Late submission of work will result in a deduction of grades. You will be responsible for any late submission and should notify the professor beforehand.
4. Upload your written reports to Turnitin (文章剽竊檢測工具). No email submission!
5. Register a Turnitin account here: <https://learning.site.nthu.edu.tw/p/412-1319-6168.php?Lang=zh-tw>
6. 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.
7. Generative AI is prohibited from being used in any course assignment.

## COURSE ASSESSMENT

### Class participation (5%)

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.

### Documentary film report (5%)

Length: no less than 500 words in English, or no less than 900 words in Chinese. Please provide a word count at the end of your paper.

Submit the report to Turnitin

### Reading reports (@30%x2 = 60%)

Select two pieces of reading from the weekly schedule (one piece 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 any piece of 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 a phenomenon 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: 1,000-2,000 words in English; 1,800-4,000 words in Chinese. Provide a word count at the end of the report.
- Upload the reports to **Turnitin**.
- Suggestions:
  - In the concept part, you can provide direct quotations that you draw from the assigned text. Remember to cite page numbers for every direct quotation. If you provide quotes, please mind that the length of the quotes should be limited to 3 to 4 sentences because long quotes with too brief explanations will not bring you a good grade.

### Group presentation (30%)

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 a 10-minute 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 you submitted it.
3. Each group hand in one written report (no less than 3,000 words in English) and upload it to **Turnitin** within 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.

#### **Suggestions:**

1. **Originality:** try to think innovatively about the topic and the ways to collect data. Simply drawing materials from Wikipedia will not bring you a good grade.
2. **Diligence:** The phenomenon should be supported with facts and data. Try to collect data from different reliable sources, which will give you different perspectives to think through the phenomenon.
3. **Make good use of PPT:** Please put key points with explanations in the PPT. It will

help the audience to follow.

4. **Teamwork spirit:** Help each other out in the Q/A session.

#### **Reminders:**

1. Points will be heavily deducted if the written report is not properly referenced. The facts and data of the phenomenon should be supported by external references. Therefore, please make sure the written report includes both in-text citations and a bibliography.
2. Check the similarity rate (under 10%) after uploading it to Turnitin.

Assessment breakdown: Group presentation with PPT slides 20% + Group report 10% (total 30%).

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1: Introduction**

- Course requirements

### **Week 2: Development of Sociology; what is society?**

- Social changes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Major theorists and theoretical debates

## **PART A**

### **Week 3: Durkheim**

(\*Must come to class. Going to form groups for group project.)

- Division of labor and solidarity
- Writing and presentation guidelines

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

### **Week 4: Marx**

- Capitalism and Alienation
- Turnitin registration

**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: No class**

### **Week 7: Weber**

- Relationship between religion and capitalism

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

### **Week 8: Weber**

Bureaucracy; democracy and election

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

### **Week 9: Goffman**

- Dramaturgy
- Self and society

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

**Week 10: No Class. The professor will attend an overseas conference.**

### **Week 11: Foucault**

- Post-structuralism
- Discipline and surveillance

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

### **Week 12: Foucault**

- Sexuality
- Governmentality

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

### **Week 13-15: Group presentations**

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