

Sociological Theory

Course Description:

An examination of several of the founders of sociological theory: Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, Emile Durkheim, and George Herbert Mead. We will concentrate on their substantive analyses regarding the growth of industrialism or capitalism, the emergence of democracy and new role and structure of the state, and the new forms of social relations and value systems under these conditions. Thus, our approach will be historical and comparative, attempting to relate the theories to concrete developments rather than to abstract structures or philosophical considerations. Certain methodological questions will also be discussed concerning theory construction and the character of a sociological account.

Course Requirements:

The course will consist partly of lectures and partly of discussion. Students should always have read the assignments and come prepared for discussion.

Read the assignments in the texts:

- Lewis A. Coser, Masters of Sociological Thought, Ideas in Historical and Social Context, Second Edition (Long Grove, IL, 1977) ISBN 978-1-57766-307-2 or 1-57766-307-1.
- Laura D. (Desfor) Edles and Scott A. Appelrouth, Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings, 3rd edition (Sage Publications, 2015, ISBN-13: 978-1452203614, ISBN-10: 145220361X)
- *Suggested:* Randall Collins, Four Sociological Traditions, Rev edition (Oxford University Press, 1994), ISBN 9780195082081 or 978-0195082081.

Regular attendance at lectures. There may be several unannounced quizzes that account for up to 10% of the grade.

A midterm exam and a final exam.

Grade Scale:

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 & below	F

Note: Updates to the syllabus and/or scheduling information will be posted on my website: www.fweil.com, under the link for Sociology 3101. Students are responsible for staying informed of that information. My lecture notes and other helpful materials are available on my website. The lecture notes are optional, but attendance at lectures is still required.

Sociology 3101: Sociological Theory

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1. Introductory Lectures. *Suggested: Collins.*

Week 2. Introductory Lectures. *Suggested: Collins.*

Week 3. Herbert Spencer. Read chapter on Spencer in Coser.

Week 4. Karl Marx. Read chapter on Marx in Coser, and chapter 2 in Edles/Appelrouth.

Week 5. Karl Marx. Read chapter on Marx in Coser, and chapter 2 in Edles/Appelrouth.

Week 6. Karl Marx. Read chapter on Marx in Coser, and chapter 2 in Edles/Appelrouth.

Week 7. Max Weber. Read chapter on Weber in Coser, and chapter 4 in Edles/Appelrouth.

Week 8. Max Weber. Read chapter on Weber in Coser, and chapter 4 in Edles/Appelrouth.

Week 9. Max Weber. Read chapter on Weber in Coser, and chapter 4 in Edles/Appelrouth.

Week 10. Emile Durkheim. Read chapter on Durkheim in Coser, and chapter 3 in Edles/Appelrouth.

Week 11. Emile Durkheim. Read chapter on Durkheim in Coser, and chapter 3 in Edles/Appelrouth.

Week 12. Georg Simmel. Read chapter on Simmel in Coser, and chapter 6 in Edles/Appelrouth.

Week 13. George Herbert Mead. Read chapter on Mead in Coser, and chapter 8 in Edles/Appelrouth.