

Sociology 3001-100

Classical Social Theory

Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Mike Haffey
Office hrs.: T&R 11am-12pm

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Welcome. I consider this course one of the most important you will take during your sociology undergraduate career. Sociological theory - a logical explanation of how a given empirical phenomenon works - serves as the ideational foundation for all sociological investigation past, present, future, and across all areas of substantive interest. As sociologists, theories provide us the necessary interpretive schema's by which to make sense of the empirical world.

Social theory encourages us to look beyond individual psychology and unique events to the predictable, broad patterns and regular occurrences of social life that influence individual destinies. It frames our understanding and conceptualization of human nature, human behavior, and human organization. Social theory enables us to see. It is an unusual form of vision.

I hope to encourage you to see the evolution of ideas, questions, and explanations that stand at the center of our discipline. What is society? What are its constituent parts and how are they related? How is the individual and society linked? How do societies retain their unity and continuity while undergoing change? What is the cause of social change? Why and how do vast social, political, and economic inequalities endure? In what ways do class, gender, and race intersect? How and where is culture created? To what ends? Such grand questions are the essence of classical sociological theory.

What is so exciting about these types of questions is that they are the very ones we need to grasp and interpret the complex and dynamic features of contemporary social life. Looking across the social landscape today - economic recession; and inequality, the process of globalization / development, technological change / mediated communication, consumerism, and matters of concern regarding race and gender - it seems most appropriate that we pursue our discipline's most fundamental concerns. The many sociological concepts and theories that we will study this semester provide us explanatory frameworks and powerful thinking tools to comprehend these most vital, contemporary concerns.

The textbook I have chosen for this course was written and designed to facilitate your understanding of a broad range of classical social thought. I think you will find this text quite engaging. The author has worked hard to make a number of complex ideas as understandable as possible. You must do a little work as well. You will be expected to have read and assimilated the required readings each week. The reading assignments should be done before the topic is discussed in class. The one required text for this course is:

Explorations in Classical Sociological Theory: Seeing the Social World (4th ed.) by Kenneth Allen and Sarah Daynes (2017).

Exams and Grading. Your final grade for this course will be based on the following criteria:

Recitation Grade (30%): The recitation portion of your final grade will be determined via class engagement, co-facilitation of course material and three (3) quizzes covering recitation material. You will be expected to have read the appropriate material for each recitation meeting and come ready to talk, share, apply, refine, and/or challenge the social theory of the day. Ms. Domingue will encourage frequent and informed participation. **Please bring your book to each recitation meeting.** Beyond two absences, your grade for engagement will be reduced by one-half letter grade for each subsequent absence, except in the case of high-holiday observance, family emergency or medical emergency.

Lecture Grade (70%): The lecture portion of your final grade will be determined via seven (7) examinations. You must take all seven exams. Each of these 50-minute, multi-format, examinations will cover material from our text, my lectures and recitation meetings. I do use the "+ -" grading system. **Exam dates:** 9/11, 9/25, 10/9, 10/23, 11/6, 11/20 and a final exam date & time to be determined. If you are going to miss an exam, it is vital that you notify me **prior** to

that exam. Each of these seven exams will consist of both objective (multiple-choice, listing, diagramming, etc.) and short answer essay questions, which will be drawn largely from the “study questions” and “discussion / reflection questions” at the end of each chapter. These questions will require you to develop a strong grasp of key concepts, to see the similarities and differences among sociological theories, and display some of the higher levels of thinking: synthesis, analysis, criticism, and creative application.

Technology in the classroom: Please, no phone use in the classroom during lectures or recitation. I ask that any computer use in the classroom be for note-taking purposes only. Our time together is brief and I ask for your full attention during class time. Special exceptions made for those with appropriate documentation from disability services.

Accommodation for Disabilities If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Classroom Behavior Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

Honor Code All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, anonymous reporting, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website. Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Religious Holidays Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, **please notify me so we can make necessary arrangements**. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

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Schedule of Topics and Readings

Spring 2019

Text: Explorations in Classical Sociological Theory (4th ed.) by Kenneth Allan and Sarah Daynes

Please read each of the following chapters for the assigned date(s).

Aug. 26 *Course - Topic Introduction*

Aug. 28 *Beginning to See: A sociological Core - chapter 1*

Sept. 2 *No class- Labor Day*

Sept. 4, 9 *Seeing Society for the First Time: Herbert Spencer – chapter 2*

Sept. 11 Exam 1

Sept. 16, 18, 23 *Class Inequality: Karl Marx – chapter 3*

Sept. 25 Exam 2

Sept. 30, Oct. 2, 7 *Diversity and Social Solidarity: Emile Durkheim – chapter 4*

Oct. 9 Exam 3

Oct. 14, 16, 21 *Rationality and Organization: Max Weber - chapter 5*

Oct. 23 Exam 4

Oct. 28, 30, Nov. 4 *The Modern Person: G.H. Mead and G. Simmel – chapter 6*

Nov.6 Exam 5

Nov. 11, 13, 18 *Seeing Gender: Harriet Martineau and Charlotte Perkins Gilman – chapter 7*

Nov. 20 Exam 6

Dec. 2, 4 *Seeing Race: Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Dubois – chapter 8*

Dec. 9, 11 *Seeing Ahead: Defining Moments in Twentieth Century Theory – chapter 9*

Dec. TBD Exam 7