

**CLASSICAL THEORY
Sociology 3001
Spring Semester 2018**

**Rachel Rinaldo
Department of Sociology
University of Colorado Boulder**

Class Hours

Tuesday and Thursday: 2:00 – 2:50 pm
HLMS 199

Professor's Office Hours:

Wednesday 1 pm – 3 pm, Ketchum 266

Email for an appointment at other times: Rachel.Rinaldo@Colorado.Edu

Teaching Assistant: Derek Lee: Derek.Lee@Colorado.Edu

Teaching Assistant Office Hours: Wednesday 10 am – noon, Ketchum 261

This course is an introduction to the “classics” of sociological theory. It is designed for students majoring or minoring in sociology, and presents an overview of the main thinkers and themes in the discipline, with most emphasis on the writings of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber. Many contemporary debates in sociology build on – or at the very least are informed by – the ideas, concepts, methods, and approaches of these theorists. We will primarily read original sources and foundational texts, and use these to investigate the development of social thought in the 19th and early 20th century as well as to consider what potential such ideas may have for explaining social life in the 21st century. The course will focus on the themes of freedom, the individual and society, inequality, rationality, solidarity, and social change.

The following books have been ordered for this class and will be available at the bookstore. Articles will be posted on the Canvas site. Make sure to check the Canvas site regularly, as I will sometimes post changes to the reading or supplementary readings, as well as other important announcements.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Michael Kimmel. *Classical Sociological Theory*

Robert C. Tucker. *The Marx/Engels Reader*

Anthony Giddens. *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*

H.H. Gerth and C.W. Mills. *From Max Weber*

Lengermann and Niebrugge. *The Women Founders*

Max Weber. *Theory of Social and Economic Organizations* (edited by Talcott Parsons)

Requirements for this class:

Students are expected to attend each class meeting. Students are also required to attend and participate in recitations. Completing the required readings and participation are very important for this class. I expect that you will come to class having **already** read the assigned texts. You should be prepared to ask questions or make comments about them in class.

All written work should be double spaced and use an 11 or 12 point font. Late work will only be accepted if you have talked to your TA first, and it will be marked down a full letter grade per 24 hour period. All work should comply with the Honor Code.

Grades for this class will be based on the following:**1. Class Attendance and Participation in Recitations. 10%**

It will be very difficult to do well in this class if you do not regularly attend. The readings are often difficult and abstract. Attendance will be taken in the recitations. Missing more than two recitations will result in a lower grade unless you have a documentation for an excused absence. See absence policy below. Attendance will be taken in the lectures on several occasions (not announced) during the semester. Students who are not absent for any of these occasions will receive an extra point on their attendance grade.

2. Four Reading Responses. 20%. Over the course of the semester, you will write four short papers (maximum 2 pages) responding to the readings for that week. Some weeks you are free to decide the topic, for others a topic has been assigned. The purpose of these reading responses is to help you engage critically with the assigned texts, develop a more thorough understanding of the issues, and be prepared to contribute to discussions. The format and other logistics of the memos will be discussed by your TA in the first recitation. These will be graded 100 for a response that is excellent, 90 for a response that is adequate, 80 or less for a response that is not adequate. Students who receive less than an 80 may request to do an additional response in order to improve their grade.**3. Quiz. 10%.** There will be a short quiz in class on Thursday, February 15. It will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Questions will be based on reading and lectures. There will not be a study guide for this quiz.**4. Midterm. 30%.** There will be an in-class midterm on Thursday, March 15. It will consist of short answer, multiple choice, and true/false questions. A study guide will be available.**5. Final Exam. 30%.** The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8. It will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions and it will be cumulative. A study guide will be available.

Policies:

1. Laptops will be allowed in this lecture, but you should keep in mind that a growing body of research has shown that students learn better when taking notes by hand, and that multitasking tends to dilute your focus and results in lower grades. If I find you to be texting, playing games, posting on social media, or doing other activities on your device during class, I may ask you to leave the classroom. Similarly, cell phone ringers should be turned off for class. These activities are not only inconsiderate to me, but they are also distracting to your fellow students.
2. Arrive on time for class and discussion sections. It is very disruptive to have students arrive after the lecture has begun, and you may miss important announcements or other information. Those who arrive late will have to sign in. If you make a practice of arriving late, I will deduct points from your grade.
3. Attendance will be taken in recitations. You may have 2 absences from recitation for any reason. You do not need to contact your TA about these two absences. Unless they are excused, more than 2 absences will negatively impact your final grade, as follows: 3-4 absences: 10% reduction of attendance grade; 5-6 absences: 20% reduction of attendance grade; 7-8 absences: 30% reduction of attendance grade; 9-10 absences: 40% reduction of attendance grade; More than 10 absences may result in failure of the course.
4. Excused absences: Absences from recitation can only be excused for participation in university athletics, major religious observance, or serious illness. I will require an email or letter from your coach, athletic director, doctor, or other documentation of a legitimate emergency. If one of these situations requires you to miss an assignment, you must get in touch with your TA as soon as possible to discuss when you will turn in the completed assignment. If we don't hear from you within 48 hours of the original due date, you will not be able to make it up.
5. If you miss an in-class exam or quiz, you will not be able to make it up unless you have a valid reason for the absence. You should make every effort to contact me before missing the class, and if you are not able to do so, you must contact me within 48 hours if you need to make up an exam or assignment. Oversleeping or simply not feeling well are not valid reasons for missing an exam.
6. You are responsible for getting lecture materials from missed classes. Do not contact the professor to get these materials. I sometimes show videos and other multimedia materials in this class. The links will usually be on the Powerpoint slides. If you miss a class, you should talk to your classmates and TA to find out what materials may have been shown so that you can try to track them down.
7. Slides will be posted after the lectures. These slides will be helpful as a study guide for exams. However, they do not contain all the information covered in the lecture, so you should not rely solely on them.
8. You are welcome to send me emails and I try to reply quickly. Please put Sociology 3001 in the subject line. I strongly prefer to be addressed as Professor Rinaldo. I do have a life outside campus, so I may not respond right away to emails sent after 6 pm on weekdays or on weekends. Thus, if you have questions relating to an exam or an assignment, you should make sure to send your email ahead of time.
9. As this is a large class, it is difficult for me to get to know students personally. You are encouraged to come to my office hours, whether it is just to say hello or to discuss something related to the class.

10. If you have any schedule conflicts with the final exam, you must let me know by April 1. I will need to see evidence such as syllabi from your other classes. If you have time conflicts with other tests, due dates, or known absences let me know by e-mail as soon as possible. Exams can only be rescheduled for valid reasons such as an athletic event or hospitalization. Needing to leave for vacation is not a valid reason. Please also note the university's policy on exams: "When students have three or more final examinations on the same day, they are entitled to arrange an alternative examination time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. When students have two final exams scheduled to meet at the same time, they are entitled to arrange an alternative examination time for the later course offered that day or week. Such arrangements must be made by the deadline to drop a course without dean and instructor's permission in the tenth week of the semester. Students should make arrangements with the instructor of the affected course and are expected to provide evidence of these situations to qualify for exceptions."
11. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in this classroom or during recitations. This includes talking while I am lecturing or while other students are asking questions or making comments. Students who engage in disruptive behavior may be asked to leave. I ask you to maintain a sense of respect for others. Disagree with ideas rather than people. Please raise your hand to speak. If I am in the middle of a lecture, I may not call on you until I have reached a stopping point.
12. Please email me if you have a preferred pronoun or wish to be called something different from how you are listed on the registration.

Honor Code

I expect that all work in this course will comply with the Honor Code. Plagiarism and all forms of cheating will be taken very seriously. You should make sure you understand the definition of plagiarism. Summarizing without citation is a form of plagiarism, as is copying from the lecture slides.

Required and Recommended Readings.

Required readings will be on exams, while recommended readings will not. However, if you want to excel in this class, you should read at least some of the recommended readings, and demonstrate to me and your TA that you have done so through incorporating them into your comments and your reading responses.

GRADING POLICY.

Final grades are not negotiable. I do not change grades unless there has been a mistake. This course uses the following standard grade thresholds:

A+	100				
A	94-99	C+	77-79	D-	60-63
A-	90-93	C	74-76	F	Below 60
B+	87-89	C-	70-73		
B	84-86	D+	67-69		
B-	80-83	D	64-66		

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introduction

Tuesday, January 16

Introduction to the class, administrative details

Thursday, January 18

Thomas Hobbes. Selections from *Leviathan*. Introduction, chapters 13, 14, and 17. (In *Classical Sociological Theory*)

WEEK 2: Early Modern Theories of Society

Tuesday, January 23

John Locke. Selections from *Two Treatises on Government*.

Jean Jacques Rousseau. Selections from *The Social Contract*.
(both in *Classical Sociological Theory*)

Thursday, January 25

Adam Smith. Selections from *The Wealth of Nations* (in *Classical Sociological Theory*)

Alexis de Tocqueville. Selections from *Democracy in America* (Full text can be found here: http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/toc_indx.html.)

Volume 2, Part 2:

Chapter 4 (How Americans Combat the Effects of Individualism by Free Institutions),
chapter 5 (The Use Americans Make of Public Associations in Civil Life).

RESPONSE MEMO TOPIC: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Smith express different ideas about the nature of humankind which are linked to their different conceptions of creating social order through government. Whose ideas about human nature do you most agree with, and why?

WEEK 3: Early Women Social Theorists

Tuesday, January 30

Mary Wollstonecraft. Selections from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (in *Classical Sociological Theory*)

Thursday, February 1

Harriet Martineau. Chapter 2 in *The Women Founders*

RESPONSE MEMO TOPIC: Alexis de Tocqueville and Harriet Martineau wrote books about America in which they analyzed American society and politics. Which was a more accurate depiction (in your opinion) and why?

WEEK 4: KARL MARX

Tuesday, February 6

Karl Marx. *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* (Tucker pages 70-93).

Thursday, February 8

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*. (Tucker)

RESPONSE MEMO TOPIC: Does Marx's theory of alienation still apply in our society? Can you describe any examples? Or if not, what do you think has changed?

WEEK 5: MARX

Tuesday, February 13

Karl Marx. Selections from *Capital* (Tucker 302-343)

Thursday, February 15

Short quiz

Karl Marx. Selections from *Capital* (TBA).

Readings on Inequality in the 21st century:

<https://hbr.org/2014/04/pikettys-capital-in-a-lot-less-than-696-pages>

<https://inequality.stanford.edu/publications/20-facts-about-us-inequality-everyone-should-know>

RESPONSE MEMO TOPIC: Do the categories of proletariat and bourgeoisie still apply in the 21st century? How might you define them now? Are there newer class categories that are relevant now?

WEEK 6: EMILE DURKHEIM

Tuesday, February 20

Emile Durkheim. *Methodological Problems in Sociology* (Giddens chapters 1 and 3)

Thursday, February 22

Emile Durkheim. *The Theory of Modern Society*. (Giddens chapters 5 and 6)

WEEK 7: EMILE DURKHEIM

Tuesday, February 27

Study Session

Thursday, March 1

Emile Durkheim. *The Sociology of Religion and Knowledge* (Giddens chapters 11 and 13)

WEEK 8: MAX WEBER

Tuesday, March 6

Robert N. Bellah. 1967. "Civil Religion in America." *Daedalus* 96/1, pp. 1-21.

Thursday, March 8

Max Weber. *Theory of Social and Economic Organizations*.

Part I: The Fundamental Concepts of Sociology (pages 87-143)

WEEK 9: WEBER

Tuesday, March 13

Max Weber. *Theory of Social and Economic Organizations*.

The Types of Authority and Imperative Coordination (pages 324-386)

Thursday, March 15

MIDTERM (in-class)

WEEK 10: MAX WEBER

Tuesday, March 20

Max Weber. "Politics as a Vocation" (Gerth and Mills)

Max Weber. "Discipline and Charisma" (Gerth and Mills)

Thursday, March 22

March 19

Max Weber. "Class, Status, and Party" (Gerth and Mills)

RESPONSE MEMO TOPIC: Can you think of an example of traditional or charismatic authority in our society? Explain what makes this example traditional or charismatic, in terms of how authority is legitimated and administered.

WEEK 11: SPRING BREAK

March 25 – April 1

WEEK 12: WEBER

Tuesday, April 3

Max Weber. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Part I (chapters 1 and 2).

Thursday, April 5

Protestant Ethic Part II (chapter 4, Introduction and Section A, chapter 5).

RESPONSE MEMO TOPIC: Weber argues that the Protestant Ethic helped to legitimize capitalism in 17th century Europe. Does this ethic, or something similar, still exist in our society? Provide an example to back up your opinion.

WEEK 13: Weber's Significance

Tuesday, April 10

George Ritzer. 2005. "The Weberian Theory of Rationalization and the McDonaldization of Contemporary Society." In Peter Kivisto (ed.) *Illuminating social life: Classical and contemporary theory revisited*. (Available at http://atgstg01.pineforge.com/upm-data/16567_Chapter_2.pdf)

Thursday, April 12

S.N. Eisenstadt. 2000. "Multiple Modernities." *Daedalus* 129/1, pp. 1-29.

WEEK 14: GEORG SIMMEL

Tuesday, April 17

Georg Simmel. "The Metropolis and Mental Life"

Georg Simmel. "The Stranger"

Thursday, April 19

Georg Simmel. "Fashion."

RESPONSE MEMO TOPIC: Simmel argues that fashion is driven by a dynamic of class differentiation. Is this still the case? Explain, using an example from contemporary life.

WEEK 15: EARLY FEMINIST SOCIOLOGY

Tuesday, April 24

The Women Founders. Chapter 3 (Jane Addams)

Thursday, April 26

The Women Founders. Chapter 5 (Anna Julia Cooper and Ida B. Wells-Barnett)

WEEK 16: W.E.B. DUBOIS AND THE SOCIOLOGY OF RACE/ETHNICITY

Tuesday, May 1

W.E.B. DuBois, "The Souls of Black Folk."

Thursday, May 3

Craig Calhoun. 2007. "Sociology in America: An Introduction." *Sociology in America*.

Q & A Session

FINAL EXAM
Tuesday, May 8
4:30 – 7:00 pm

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students) (www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). 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 and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious Holidays

I aim to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please let me know well ahead of time if this is the case for you.

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](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed,

religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the [OIEC website](#).

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to [the academic integrity policy](#). Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).