

## Course Outline

**Course:** SOCY 221 The Development of Social Theory

**Prerequisite:** 60% or better in SOCY 122

**Term:** Fall 2007/Winter 2008

**Class:** **Class Time:** Wednesday 6:30-8:30

**Room:** Auditorium, Ethrington Hall

**Instructor:** Craig McFarlane

**Contact:** **Office:** Mackintosh-Corry D428

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 6:00-6:30 or by appointment

**Email:** teaching@theoria.ca

### Accommodations

### Calendar Description

A discussion of theories of society, starting with the thought of the Enlightenment, ending with a presentation of Weber's sociology.

This course is required for students enrolled in Sociology Minor, Major and Medial programs.

## **Course Overview**

The name of this course, “The Development of Social Theory,” is taken seriously and literally: this course is about the development, that is to say the emergence, of social theory out of earlier and opposing discourses. The first contention of this course is that there is a significant theoretical difference between ‘the social’ and ‘society.’ In some sense, people have always been aware that they live ‘in society.’ By way of contrast, an awareness of a distinct theoretical object called ‘the social’ did not arise until the eighteenth century during the early years of the French and Scottish Enlightenments. Consequently, sociology as ‘the science of the social’ emerged haphazardly out of the theorization of ‘the social.’ The first semester will be devoted ‘the development’ or ‘emergence’ of social theory, while the second semester will be devoted to the ‘founding fathers’ of sociology, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber.

To a large extent, most eighteenth century social theory up to the French Revolution (1792) is in response to the older discourse of the social contract. Because eighteenth century thought takes the concept of the social contract as a point of departure, the course will begin with an investigation of the classical formulations of the social contract in the work of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke. The response to Hobbes and Locke by such thinkers as Charles-Louis de Secondat (also known as Montesquieu), Adam Smith and Jean-Jacques Rousseau forms the initial development of social theory. Hence, the two Enlightenments (the French and Scottish) inaugurate the theoretical discourse on the social. However, while the theoretical discourse on the social is inaugurated in this period, it isn’t until much later - in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries - that social theory becomes institutionalized as the theoretical practice of the discipline of sociology. The hinge between eighteenth century and late nineteenth century social theory is found in the critical philosophy of the German Idealism (Immanuel Kant and G.W.F. Hegel) and in positivist philosophy (especially Auguste Comte). The first semester ends with a consideration of some of Friedrich Nietzsche’s work.

While the first semester deals with the development of social theory, the second semester turns to social theory proper through a close examination of the three ‘founding fathers’ sociology: Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. These three thinkers form the point of departure for ensuing attempts to institutionalize sociology as an autonomous discipline in European and North American universities in the mid-twentieth century and present the major points of departure for ensuing social theory during the same period. Hence, as founders of the theoretical discourse of sociology, these three thinkers present an exceptionally important and foundational moment in the history of sociology through their analyses of social reproduction and social class (Marx), the ontology of the social and the sociological method (Durkheim) and the analysis of social action and social structure (Weber).

### Required Texts

- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Edited by Robert C. Tucker. 2nd ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 1978. [ISBN: 039309040X]
- Durkheim, Emile. *Readings From Emile Durkheim*. Edited by Kenneth Thompson. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2004. [ISBN: 0415349133]
- Weber, Max. *Max Weber: Selections in Translation*. Edited by W.G. Runciman. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1978. [ISBN: 0521292689]
- All other readings available on WebCT.

### Evaluation

In Class Exams	2	×	20%
Term Papers	2	×	15%
Tutorials	2	×	10%
Commentaries	10	×	1%

- You **must** complete **each** component of the course in order to receive a passing grade.

### Course Components

**In Class Exams** (2 × 20%) - Possible questions for the in-class exams will be distributed and discussed the week prior to the exams. These are **not** 'open book' exams. Students will be asked to answer a number of definitional/conceptual questions, as well as a couple of longer essay-style questions.

**Term Papers** (2 × 15%) - The term paper assignments are intended to provide the student with the opportunity to critically engage with a thinker, set of ideas or debates within social theory in a long essay format. Assignments should be around ten pages long (approximately 2500-3000 words). Topics can be selected in consultation with your T.A. or from a list of suggested topics discussed in lecture. Term papers are due at the start of the last class of each semester (i.e., November 28 and April 2). The following should be kept in mind:

- Failure to do the reading and attend the lectures will make receiving a satisfactory mark quite difficult, if not impossible. The material is difficult and should be treated accordingly.
- No additional or secondary reading is required or expected. The point of the assignments is to engage with the assigned texts.
- Direct quotation is acceptable, but given the length of the papers, it should be kept to a minimum.
- Marking will take the following into account:

- Have you successfully demonstrated a basic knowledge of the readings and key concepts?
- Have you successfully identified the important points and arguments?
- Have you demonstrated a serious attempt to engage with the readings?
- Is the paper well structured and logically organized?

**Tutorials** (2 × 10%) - The division of marks for tutorial participation is at the discretion of the individual teaching assistant. Your T.A. will discuss this with you during your first tutorial. Marks may be based on participation, attendance, presentations, insights, and other factors.

**Commentaries** (10 × 1%) - Students are required to submit five short commentaries drawn from the readings in each semester (i.e., five in the Fall and five in the Winter), accordingly students have a degree of choice in which of the readings they will comment on. The commentaries *must* be submitted at the start of tutorials the week following when they were read (i.e., a commentary on the readings from Week 2 must be submitted at the start of tutorial on Week 3). *Late commentaries will not be read or marked and will receive a grade of zero.*

Generally,

- assignments should be short - no more than three pages long (these are, after all, *commentaries* and not *papers*);
- assignments should provide a brief overview of the readings;
- however, mere summary is not sufficient: commentaries are a place to raise unanswered/unasked questions, to reflect upon the topic, and to become familiar and comfortable with reading theoretical and philosophical texts.

## Course Rules

- Students are expected to have completed the readings prior to attending the lectures as the lectures presume students have arrived prepared.
- Students should be able to answer questions in class, not limited to identifying the important concepts, the arguments underlying the concepts, general questions about the historical circumstances discussed in the readings, and connections between the various concepts and readings.
- All assignments *must be* typed using 12pt Times New Roman or Helvetica fonts. Assignments should be double-spaced and there should be no extra spaces between paragraphs. Margins should be set at 1.25" all around the page.
- While you will not be marked on spelling, grammar or style, impressions do matter. This is especially important in borderline cases. Good writing can mean the difference between a B+ and an A-!
- Assignments will *not* be accepted via email - so don't bother asking!
- Unless otherwise stated, late assignments will be deducted one *grade point* per day (i.e., from B+ to B-).
- Plagiarism and other academic offenses will not be tolerated and *will* result in a failing grade.
- All email should be sent from an account that clearly identifies your first and last name (e.g., your Qlink account). Inappropriate email addresses should *not* be used (e.g., "sexxybunny69@hotmail.com" or "mack-daddy@gmail.com") under any circumstances! The course code should be indicated in the subject line.

## Fall Semester Schedule

- 12/09/07**     **Week 1 - What is and why study classical social theory?**  
No assigned readings.  
»     *No tutorials.*
- 19/09/07**     **Week 2 - Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) and John Locke (1632-1704)**  
Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*, edited by Edwin Curley, Chapters xiii-xiv, xvii-xxi, xxix. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994.  
Locke, John. "The Second Treatise of Government: An Essay Concerning the True Original, Extent, and End of Civil Government." In *John Locke: Two Treatises of Government*, edited by Peter Laslett, Chapters i-iii, vii-ix, xix. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1960.  
»     *No tutorials.*
- 26/09/07**     **Week 3 - Charles Louis de Secondat [Montesquieu] (1689-1755)**  
Montesquieu, Charles de Secondat. *The Spirit of the Laws*, edited by Anne M. Cohler, Basia Carolyn Miller, and Harold Samuel Stone, Books 1-3, 5, 19. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1989.  
»     *Tutorials begin.*
- 03/10/07**     **Week 4 - Adam Smith (1723-1790)**  
Smith, Adam. *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, edited by Knud Haakonssen, 11-32, 41-52, 60-77. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2002.  
Smith, Adam. *An Inquiry Into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, edited by R.H. Campbell, A.S. Skinner, and W.B. Todd, Books I.i-I.v, IV.i-IV.iii. 2 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976.
- 10/10/07**     **Week 5 - Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)**  
Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. "Discourse on the Origin of Inequality." In *Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Basic Political Writings*, edited by Donald A. Cress, 25-109. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1987.  
Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. "On the Social Contract." In *Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Basic Political Writings*, edited by Donald A. Cress, 141-53. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1987.

**17/10/07 Week 6 - Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)**

Kant, Immanuel. "An Answer to the Question: 'What is Enlightenment?'" In *Kant: Political Writings*, edited by H.S. Reiss, 54-60. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1970.

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason*, edited by Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood, 136-52. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1998.

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Practical Reason*, edited by Mary Gregor, 17-37. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1997.

Kant, Immanuel. *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, edited by Mary Gregor, 1-5. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1997.

**24/10/07 Week 7 - G.W.F. Hegel (1770-1831)**

Hegel, G.W.F. *Phenomenology of Spirit*, §§166-230, 582-95. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1977.

**31/10/07 Week 8 - G.W.F. Hegel (1770-1831) Continued**

Hegel, G.W.F. "Preface." In *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, edited by Allen W. Wood, 9-23. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991.

Hegel, G.W.F. *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, edited by Allen W. Wood, §§182-208, 230-56, 341-60. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991.

Hegel, G.W.F. "Lectures on the Philosophy of History (1827-1831), Part IV, Section 3: The New Age." In *Hegel: Political Writings*, edited by Laurence Dickey and H.B. Nisbet, 198-224. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999.

**07/11/07 Week 9 - Auguste Comte (1798-1857)**

Comte, Auguste. "Plan of the Scientific Operations Necessary for Reorganizing Society (1822)." In *Auguste Comte and Positivism: The Essential Writings*, edited by Gertrude Lenzer, 9-67. New Brunswick: Transaction, 1998.

**14/11/07 Week 10 - In Class Exam**

No assigned readings.

» *No tutorials.*

**21/11/07 Week 11 - Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)**

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Genealogy of Morality: A Polemic*, edited by Keith Ansell-Pearson, 11-71. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1994.

**28/11/07 Week 12 - Karl Marx (1818-1883) - Early Writings**

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker, 16-125. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 1978.

» *Term paper due.*

## **Winter Semester Schedule**

**09/01/08 Week 13 - Karl Marx (1818-1883) - Historical Materialism**

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker, 143-200, 222-46. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 1978.

» *No tutorials.*

**16/01/08 Week 14 - Karl Marx (1818-1883) - Politics and Social Change**

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker, 3-6, 469-500, 586-652. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 1978.

» *Tutorials begin.*

**23/01/08 Week 15 - Karl Marx (1818-1883) - Capitalism and Capitalist Society**

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker, 203-17, 294-438. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 1978.

**30/01/08 Week 16 - Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) - The Basis and Method of Sociology**

Durkheim, Emile. *Readings From Emile Durkheim*, edited by Kenneth Thompson, 11-22, 53-80. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2004.

**06/02/08 Week 17 - Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) - Crime, Suicide and the Social Division of Labour**

Durkheim, Emile. *Readings From Emile Durkheim*, edited by Kenneth Thompson, 23-52, 81-106. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2004.

**13/02/08 Week 18 - Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) - Religion, Knowledge and the Origin of Society**

Durkheim, Emile. *Readings From Emile Durkheim*, edited by Kenneth Thompson, 107-28. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2004.

**20/02/08 Reading Week - No Class**

**27/02/08 Week 19 - Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) - Politics**

Durkheim, Emile. *Readings From Emile Durkheim*, edited by Kenneth Thompson, 129-56. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2004.

Durkheim, Emile. "Preface to the Second Edition." In *The Division of Labor in Society*, xxxv-lix. New York: The Free Press, 1984.

**05/03/08 Week 20 - Max Weber (1864-1920) - Foundations of Sociology**

Weber, Max. "Science as a Vocation." In *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by H.H. Gerth, and C. Wright Mills, 129-56. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1946.

Weber, Max. *Max Weber: Selections in Translation*, 7-61. Edited by W.G. Runciman. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1978.

**12/03/08 Week 21 - Max Weber (1864-1920) - The Methodology of Sociology**

Weber, Max. *Max Weber: Selections in Translation*, 65-131. Edited by W.G. Runciman. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1978.

**19/03/08 Week 22 - In Class Exam**

No assigned readings.

» *No tutorials.*

**26/03/08 Week 23 - Max Weber (1864-1920) - Capitalism and Religion**

Weber, Max. *Max Weber: Selections in Translation*, 138-205, 331-53. Edited by W.G. Runciman. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1978.

**02/04/08 Week 24 - Max Weber (1864-1920) - Politics and Domination**

Weber, Max. *Max Weber: Selections in Translation*, 212-84. Edited by W.G. Runciman. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1978.

Weber, Max. "The Types of Legitimate Domination." In *Economy and Society*, edited by Guenther Roth, and Claus Wittich, 212-16. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1968.

» *Term paper due.*