

Sociology 475, Section 002  
Spring 2013  
Mon/Wed 4:00PM - 5:15 PM  
Classroom: 6232 Social Sciences

Professor Chad Alan Goldberg  
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Office hours: Monday 12:30 – 2:00  
(email in advance)

## CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

### Overview

De te fabula narratur.

Karl Marx, quoting the Roman poet Horace, in the preface  
to the first German edition of *Capital*, 1867

This course provides an introduction to three national traditions of social theory—French, German, and American—from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. This is typically described as the classical period of sociology, when the fundamental ideas of the discipline first took shape. We will examine each of these traditions through the works of key theorists who shaped it and exemplified its major concerns.

The course has two main objectives. The first is to investigate the nature and meaning of modernity. The chief task which classical sociology set for itself was to interpret and explain the modern world of which sociology itself was a product. What is distinctive about modern societies, the classical theorists asked, and what distinguishes the modern societies in which we now live from the pre-modern societies of the past? The second objective of the course is to familiarize you with some of the key sociological concepts that the classical theorists created or reformulated in order to answer these questions: democracy, bureaucracy, capitalism, and so forth. These concepts are important to learn because they still form part of the vocabulary of contemporary sociology today; it is difficult if not impossible to speak the language of sociology without them. To the extent that we still live in a modern society and still use the concepts developed by the classical sociological theorists to understand it, classical sociological theory remains relevant for us today.

*Note: This course will incorporate material from the instructor's forthcoming book (under contract) about the portrayal, symbolism, and meaning of the Jews and Judaism in French, German, and American social theory from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. The book's thesis is that in all three traditions sociological interest in the Jews stemmed from their symbolic function as a touchstone for defining what it meant to be modern and what it meant to be French, German, or American. Only part of the course covers subject matter related to Jewish Studies, but Jewish Studies students may nevertheless find it interesting and relevant. Students who take this course and write a final paper on a topic related to Jewish Studies can petition to receive Jewish Studies credit. For more information, please contact the Jewish Studies adviser. (This note pertains only to section 002 taught by Chad Alan Goldberg in Spring 2013, not to other sections of the course taught by other instructors.)*

### Course Requirements

1. **Regular assigned readings.** Sociology 475 involves intensive reading of primary sources. You are required to do a heavy amount of reading (roughly 80 pages per week) and to complete all required reading assignments before the class meeting in which we discuss them. To pass the course, you must be prepared to complete the reading assignments

consistently throughout the semester. *If you are unable or unwilling to do this much reading, you should drop the course now.* Since we will refer to the assigned readings in class, please bring them with you each day.

2. **Attendance and participation in class discussions.** The course will involve a combination of lecturing and discussion. You are expected to attend class regularly, arrive on time, be prepared to answer questions about the required readings assigned for that day, and participate actively and thoughtfully in class discussion based on the readings. I encourage you to raise questions about the texts (this counts as thoughtful participation). You do not need to explain or justify an occasional absence, but frequent tardiness, absences, lack of participation, or disruptive conduct will reduce your grade.
3. **Three exams.** You are required to take three closed-book in-class exams that focus on main concepts and arguments from the required reading assignments. The exam format is short-answer and essay questions. There is no final exam during exam week.
4. A 1-2 page **prospectus** for a term paper on a course-related topic of your choice is due no later than the beginning of class on **April 29**. Please submit your prospectus through Learn@UW. The prospectus must indicate the question your paper will address (worth up to 2 points), its thesis (worth up to 2 points), the sources of textual evidence you will likely use (3 points), and how you plan to organize your paper (3 points).
5. A **term paper** of 8-10 pages, following the plan of an approved prospectus, is due no later than **May 12 at 9:45 AM**. Your paper must be typed, double-spaced, and paginated. Please submit an electronic copy of your paper to the Turnitin web site: [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Instructions for doing so will be provided. I will not grade papers that have not have been submitted to Turnitin, nor will I accept late papers unless you have requested and received an extension before the deadline. For grading criteria, see "Guidelines for Writing Term Papers" (available from Learn@UW).

**Note about academic misconduct:** Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Please consult <http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html> and "Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Acknowledging Sources" (available from Learn@UW) before proceeding in this course. You are expected to be familiar with these guidelines before you submit any written work in this course. Lack of familiarity with these rules in no way constitutes an excuse for acts of misconduct. Any instance of misconduct will be dealt with strictly according to university policy.

Your overall grade for the semester will be calculated on a 100-point scale as follows:

Attendance	8%
Participation	8%
Three exams:	18% each (54% total)
Prospectus	10%
Term paper:	20%

A = 93-100, AB = 88-92, B = 83-87, BC = 78-82, C = 70-77, D = 60-69, F = 59 or below.

## Reading Assignments

With the exception of the six books listed below, all other required reading assignments will be available through Learn@UW. The books listed below will be available from the University Book Store and on reserve at the Social Science Reference Library.

Emile Durkheim. *The Division of Labor in Society*. Trans. W. D. Halls. New York: Free Press, 1984.  
 Emile Durkheim. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. Ed. George Simpson. Trans. John A. Spaulding and George Simpson. New York: Free Press, 1951.  
 Emile Durkheim. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Trans. Karen E. Fields. New York: Free Press, 1995.  
 Robert C. Tucker, ed. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. 2d ed. New York: W. W. Norton, 1978.  
 Max Weber. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Trans. and eds. H. H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press, 1946.  
 Max Weber. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Trans. Talcott Parsons. New York: Routledge, 1930.

WEEK 1	Jan. 23	Introduction to the course
<b>I. THE FRENCH TRADITION</b>		
WEEK 2	Jan. 28	Robert A. Nisbet, "The Two Revolutions," in <i>The Sociological Tradition</i> (New York: Basic Books, 1966), 21-44. Rogers Brubaker, "The French Revolution: Four Perspectives on the Invention of Citizenship," in <i>Citizenship and Nationhood in France and Germany</i> (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1992), 39-49.
	Jan. 30	Alexis de Tocqueville, <i>The Old Régime and the French Revolution</i> , trans. Stuart Gilbert (New York: Doubleday, [1856] 1955), vii-xv, 5-32, 203-211.
WEEK 3	Feb. 4	Émile Durkheim, <i>The Division of Labor in Society</i> , 1-8, 24-29, 38-44, 60-64, 68-72, 83-86, 101-109, 118-123.
	Feb. 6	Durkheim, <i>Division of Labor</i> , 154-165, 200-205, 208-212, 291-294, 301-308, 310-316, xxxi-xxxix (please read in that order).
WEEK 4	Feb. 11	Durkheim, <i>Suicide</i> , 35-39, 46-52, 152-168, 197-216.
	Feb. 13	Durkheim, <i>Suicide</i> , 217-234, 241-258, 276 (footnote 25).
WEEK 5	Feb. 18	Durkheim, <i>The Elementary Forms of Religious Life</i> , 1-18, 33-44. (Page numbers are for the Fields translation; please do not use the Swain translation.)
	Feb. 20	Durkheim, <i>Elementary Forms</i> , 207-225, 303-306, 330-331, 340-344, 418-433.
WEEK 6	Feb. 25	Durkheim, "The Principles of 1789 and Sociology," in <i>On Morality and Society</i> , ed. R. N. Bellah (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, [1890] 1973), 34-42. Chad Alan Goldberg, introduction to and translation of Émile Durkheim's "Antisémitisme et crise sociale," <i>Sociological Theory</i> 26 (Dec. 2008): 321-323, 299-308 (please read in that order). The rest of the article is recommended. Durkheim, "Individualism and the Intellectuals" (1898), in <i>On Morality and Society</i> , 43-57. <u>Recommended:</u> Chad Alan Goldberg, "The Jews, the Revolution, and the Old Regime in French Anti-Semitism and Durkheim's Sociology," <i>Sociological Theory</i> 29, no. 4 (Dec. 2011): 248-271.
	Feb. 27	<b>Exam on the French sociological tradition.</b>

## II. THE GERMAN TRADITION

WEEK 7	Mar. 4	Karl Marx, "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's <i>Philosophy of Right</i> : Introduction" in <i>Marx-Engels Reader</i> , 53-54 (first six paragraphs only). Marx, "On the Jewish Question" in <i>MER</i> , 26-52. <u>Recommended</u> : "Introduction" in <i>MER</i> , xix-xxvii.
	Mar. 6	Marx, "Marx on the History of His Opinions" in <i>MER</i> , 3-6. Marx, excerpts from "The German Ideology." Marx, "Pre-Capitalist Property and Production" in <i>MER</i> , 261-276. Friedrich Engels, "The Rise of Capitalism and the Working Class," 83-91 (end with "The contradiction between socialised and capitalistic appropriation..."). <u>Recommended</u> : Marx, <i>Capital</i> , vol. 1, in <i>MER</i> , 319-329, 388-415. David S. Landes, <i>The Unbound Prometheus: Technological Change and Industrial Development in Western Europe from 1750 to the Present</i> (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1969), 1-39. (online access)
WEEK 8	Mar. 11	Marx, <i>Capital</i> , vol. 1, in <i>MER</i> , 302-308, 329-343, 350-358 (start with "Let us now return to our would-be capitalist," end with "The trick has at last succeeded"), 419-424. <u>Recommended</u> : "Introduction" in <i>MER</i> , xxvii-xxxii.
	Mar. 13	Marx, "Manifesto of the Communist Party" in <i>MER</i> , 473-491, 499-500. Friedrich Engels, "Anti-Semitism." August Bebel, "Anti-Semitism and Social Democracy." <u>Recommended</u> : "Introduction" in <i>MER</i> , xxxii-xxxvii.
WEEK 9	Mar. 18	Max Weber, "Bureaucracy," in <i>From Max Weber</i> , 196-204, 214-216, 221-224, 228-230, 232-235. Weber, "Politics as a Vocation" in <i>FMW</i> , 77-92 (read to the end of the first paragraph on 92), then resume reading on 114 (start with "One can say that three pre-eminent qualities...") to 128.
	Mar. 20	Weber, "Science as a Vocation," in <i>FMW</i> , 129-156. Weber, "Class, Status, Party," in <i>FMW</i> , 180-195.

### SPRING RECESS MARCH 23-31

WEEK 10	Apr. 1	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , chap. 2 (13-20 [to the end of the first full paragraph]); chap. 4 (53-80).
	Apr. 3	Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , Author's Introduction (xxviii-xlii); chap. 5 (102-125); 243-245 n.58.
WEEK 11	Apr. 8	Werner Sombart, <i>The Quintessence of Capitalism</i> , trans. M. Epstein (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1915), 13-22, 168-189, 263-266. Weber, "Judaism, Christianity, and the Socio-Economic Order," in <i>The Sociology of Religion</i> (Boston: Beacon Press, [1922] 1963), 246-261.

	Apr. 10	Georg Simmel, "Money in Modern Culture," in <i>Simmel on Culture</i> , ed. D. Frisby and M. Featherstone (London, 1997), 243-255. Simmel, "The Stranger," in <i>On Individuality and Social Forms</i> , ed. D. N. Levine (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, [1908] 1971), 143-149. Simmel, <i>The Philosophy of Money</i> , trans. T. Bottomore, D. Frisby, and K. Mengelberg (New York: Routledge, [1900] 2004), 238-245.
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### III. THE AMERICAN TRADITION

WEEK 12	Apr. 15	<b>Exam on the German sociological tradition.</b>
	Apr. 17	William I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki, <i>The Polish Peasant in Europe and America</i> , 2d. ed. (New York: Dover [1918-21] 1958), 1118-1123, 1127-1133 ("The Concept of Social Disorganization"), 1171-1175, 1196-1212 ("Disorganization of the Community"), 1303-1306 ("The Concept of Social Reorganization").
WEEK 13	Apr. 22	Robert E. Park, "The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the City Environment," <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 20, no. 5 (Mar. 1915): 577-612.
	Apr. 24	Robert E. Park, "Human Migration and the Marginal Man," <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 33, no. 6 (May 1928): 881-893. Everett V. Stonequist, <i>The Marginal Man: A Study in Personality and Culture Conflict</i> (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937), 121-123 (start with "The Typical Life-Cycle," end with "Or, lastly, the difficulties..."), 218-222 ("The Marginal Man and the Cultural Process"). Louis Wirth, "The Ghetto," <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 33, no. 1 (Jul. 1927): 57-71.
WEEK 14	Apr. 29	<b>Term paper prospectus due.</b> "Guidelines for Writing Term Papers" Roseann Giarusso et al., <i>A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers</i> , 6 <sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: Worth Publishers, 2008), 16-20, 118-141. "Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Acknowledging Sources" American Sociological Association Quick Style Guide
	May 1	Robert E. Park and Herbert A. Miller, <i>Old World Traits Transplanted</i> (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1921), 27-31 (start with "Four Fundamental Wishes," end with "Every member is expected to conform..."), 40-48, 60-62, 225-238.
WEEK 15	May 6	Park and Miller, <i>Old World Traits Transplanted</i> , 238-258, 270-280 ("Psychology of Assimilation"), 296-308 ("Perpetuation of Groups Impossible").
	May 8	<b>Exam on the American sociological tradition.</b>

**Term paper due May 12 at 9:45 AM.**