SOCI 210
Classical Social Theorizing—Short Outline
(the final outline will be available by September)

Course Description

This course examines the emergence of sociology by situating the discipline in the context of western social thought. The main ideas, concepts, and theorists composing the history of sociology are reviewed, but we also consider the social and historical context(s) from which they arose. Emphasis is placed on developing students’ abilities to theorize the social world within and beyond the confines of sociological theory proper.

The emergence of sociology is examined over two units consisting of five themes. The first unit—the history of western social thought—focuses on the ancient origins of social thought, Neoplatonism (Christianity) and the empirical revolution, and the development of moral philosophy. The second unit—the rise of sociological thought—focuses on the French Enlightenment and the institutionalization of sociological theorizing.

Readings


Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the basis of three non-cumulative in-class examinations and one cumulative essay-style take-home final. The purpose of midterms is to assess knowledge of specific ideas, concepts, theorists, and schools of thought. The purpose of the final is to apply some of the broad ideas examined throughout the semester. All examinations will be based on readings and lectures.

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<th>Three in-class exams</th>
<th>55% (20%, 20%, 15%)</th>
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<td>Take-home final</td>
<td>45%</td>
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1 This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.