

SOCI 210

Classical Social Theorizing—Tentative Outline (Soci 210 can be completed asynchronously)



Course Description

SOCI 210 examines the emergence of sociology, its founding ideas, and its early theorists. The main ideas, concepts, and theorists composing the history of sociology are reviewed, as well as the social and historical contexts from which they developed. The course centers on the canonical theories of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber but also considers the philosophical foundations of classical theorizing and the ways that the traditional canon has been expanded.

Once you register for the course and gain access to the CourseSpaces site, a couple of introductory video clips, as well as the full course schedule, will be available for viewing.

****An optional synchronous (live) introduction to the course will be held on Zoom at 4:30pm PST on Thursday September 7. A link to the meeting will be posted on CourseSpaces under 'Week 1'.**

Instructor/Contact Details



Professor Sean Hier

shier@uvic.ca

(Office hours will be held virtually)

Format

There has been considerable discussion at UVic about synchronous versus asynchronous teaching (that is, live versus recorded). By June 2020, enough evidence has emerged that synchronous teaching poses challenges for some students based on time zones, internet connections, and access to available/reliable technology. SOCI 210 will be taught primarily using an asynchronous model. The course will consist of pre-recorded lectures, instructional video links, and assigned weekly readings. Students will be offered plenty of opportunity to interact with the instructor. Optional tutorials will also be offered.

Soci 210 will be taught using CourseSpaces, Kaltura, and either Zoom or Skype. Most students will be familiar with CourseSpaces. CourseSpaces is the University of Victoria's primary Learning Management Tool (LMS). CourseSpaces will serve as our 'home site' where all course content (lecture links, videos, outlines, announcements, grades) will appear. Zoom is a video conferencing tool that most students have probably heard of if not used. If you have not used Zoom before, it's very easy. Skype is a telecommunications application enabling video chats. Kaltura is video hosting platform where our lectures will be stored. You will be able to link to Kaltura directly through CourseSpaces (think of Kaltura as UVic's version of YouTube).

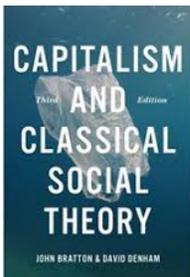
1. *Lectures and Instructional Videos.* Pre-recorded (asynchronous) lecture video clips and/or narrative PowerPoint slides will be posted on CourseSpaces each week by Tuesday at 4:30pm Pacific Standard Time (PST). The lecture videos will appear in small video files ranging from 3-20 minutes in length. Videos will be hosted by Kaltura, the University's new video hosting platform (Uvic's in-house version of YouTube). You simply need to log onto our CourseSpaces site, go to the week we are studying, click the video, and watch. The purpose of lectures is to reflect on and explain aspects of assigned readings for the week. In some weeks, additional instructional videos will also appear on CourseSpaces.
2. *Weekly Question Forum.* After completing the assigned readings and watching the lecture and instructional videos, you will be able to post questions on the weekly discussion forum available on CourseSpaces. The forum will open at 4:30 pm on Tuesdays PST. I will make every effort to respond to questions, posts, and discussions, either in text or video format, in a timely manner.
3. *Officer Hours/Instructor Contact.* You may arrange individual or group meetings with the instructor any day of the week using Skype or Zoom. Simply arrange a convenient time via email (shier@uvic.ca). Optional synchronous tutorials may also be offered via Zoom from week to week.
4. *Quizzes and Exam.* Eleven multiple choice/true and false quizzes will open on CourseSpaces at 4:30pm PST on Thursdays in Weeks 2-9 and 11-13. You will be allocated a set amount of time to complete the quizzes (to be determined). The quizzes will appear on CourseSpaces in the week we are studying. You must complete the

quizzes in the timeframe allocated. Quizzes will remain open until midnight. Questions will be drawn randomly from a large question bank (your quiz will not look the same as your friend's). You must complete the quizzes in the timeframe allocated.

A cumulative, synchronous final examination will be held on CourseSpaces in December (to be scheduled by the university in PST).

Readings

Bratton, John and David Denham (2019) *Capitalism and Classical Sociological Theory*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Third Edition.



Publisher's Prices: \$54.95 (paper copy) and \$43.95 (eBook)

If you plan to purchase the book through the UVic bookstore, be sure to familiarize yourself with the process <https://www.uvicbookstore.ca/>

Evaluation

All quizzes and the final examination will be completed on CourseSpaces. The quizzes and final examination will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The final examination will be synchronous, scheduled by the university in and held during Pacific Standard Time.

Weekly Quizzes 66% (6% each—approximately 15-20 questions)

Final Exam 34%

Evaluation Dates

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| Quiz 1 | September 17 |
| Quiz 2 | September 24 |
| Quiz 3 | October 1 |
| Quiz 4 | October 8 |
| Quiz 5 | October 15 |
| Quiz 6 | October 22 |
| Quiz 7 | October 29 |
| Quiz 8 | November 5 |

Quiz 9 November 19
Quiz 10 November 26
Quiz 11 December 3

Final Exam TBA Scheduled by University

What Students Have Said About This Course

| Comments |
|---|
| engaging lectures |
| Very well prepared, and although not willing to provide posted copies of the notes– ensured that everything was covered thoroughly in class. I felt that he was sincere in his goal to teach well, and help us do well. |
| Came to lectures prepared, enthusiastic about content. Helpful that concepts were repeated a couple times to let them sink in! |
| Professor Sean Hier is quite good at making dry, dull, tedious course material somewhat easy and not boring to learn or dig into. I love his teaching style, ways of elaborating profound theories, warm and enthusiastic attitude towards each student; he is so humorous, kind–hearted, friendly, sometimes serious but overall very nice that I want to take his other courses again. Although SOCI 210 is a requirement for the department, the course load is pretty heavy and the materials are hard to chew, in my opinion, Prof Sean did his job unbelievably well and made me not so afraid of this pure theory class. I feel very lucky to meet him and become a student of him. Thank you, Sean! |
| he is very passionate about what he is teaching and has a good understanding of the of the subject matter |
| He is a good story teller. He is able to take a concept and use relevant examples to make sure that you understand what he is talking about. I learn better through examples and stories so that has been helpful for me. At first I was a little nervous because he does not post his slides online but that is okay... I think. |
| Providing a study guide was helpful. His sense of humour helped keep the class awake especially considering the class takes place in the eveing when everyone is ready to go home. |
| He understood the material well, which helped me understand the material well. I could tell he was enthusiastic about the topics while teaching. He also repeated things numerous times in his lectures, which was helpful as students were required to take notes off of what he was saying. |
| Dr.Hier is extremely knowledgeable in the subject matter and it shows during his lectures that he understands the concepts on a deep level. |
| Clear, full explanations of the content. For material that on the surface seems very dry, he made it interesting and he is an excellent lecturer |
| He was interested in what he was teaching. |