

SOCI 210 Classical Social Theorizing

(TWF 1:30-2:20pm)



Course Description

SOCI 210 examines the emergence of sociology in Europe and America, its founding ideas, and some its early theorists. The main ideas, concepts, and theorists composing the history of European and American 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.

Instructor/Contact Details



Professor Sean Hier
shier@uvic.ca

Evaluation

Five Quizzes	40% (10% each, lowest score dropped)
Application Assignment	20%
Final Exam	40%

Quizzes (40%)

Five quizzes worth 10% each will be administered throughout the semester (usually biweekly). Only four quizzes will count towards the final grade (the lowest score will be dropped). Quizzes will consist of multiple choice/true and false questions.

Final Exam (40%)

A cumulative final examination will be scheduled by the University in December. Students will be permitted access to one piece of paper (8.5 x 11) with anything written on it during the final. The final exam will be presented in the same format as the quizzes.

Application Assignment (20%)

The purpose of the application assignment is to apply any aspect of the course to a real-life situation, event, issue, or phenomenon. The aim of this assignment is to demonstrate how classical social theorizing can explain or be applied to some aspect of everyday social life. Creativity is strongly encouraged.

There are at least two ways to complete the application assignment.

1. Essay (written) or Unessay Format

Assignments can be presented in a conventional essay-style format or a nonconventional 'unessay' one. Essay-style formats take the form of a written document spanning 6-8 pages (a normal essay or critical report).

Students choosing to develop an unessay project must discuss details with the instructor/teaching assistant before starting. There are many options (e.g., create a video game, write and perform a song, make a video/movie/mini documentary, develop an artistic work, create a website, write a comic strip, publish an op-ed in a newspaper, create an instructional video to post on YouTube).

The purpose of offering an unessay option is to make opportunities available for students to take advantage of their own skills and talents to present information in the most effective way.

Students who create an unessay project might choose to share their work with the class. There is no requirement to share work.

All assignments, essay- and unessay-style, will clearly explain/articulate the theoretical argument/point and demonstrate how it applies to the topic under investigation.

Out-of-class research (outside research) is required for this assignment.

2. Independent or Group Project

Students can work alone or in a group. Group size should not exceed 2 students for written (essay-style) assignments and 4 students for unessay formats (size will depend on the project). The larger the group, the more sophisticated the assignment should be. Group members will be asked to submit a short statement on equitable contribution (i.e., to verify that each group member put in an equitable amount of work).

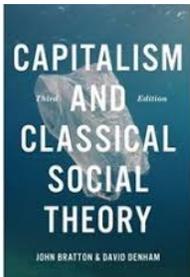
*Students writing an essay-style paper, working alone or in groups of 2, do not need to consult with the instructor/teaching assistant.

**Students opting for an unessay format must consult with the instructor/teaching assistant, regardless of the size of the group. Consultations are simply required to make sure that the project is viable. Unessay projects will receive strong support from the instructor and the teaching assistant.

Textbook and Pre-Recorded Lectures

Textbook

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



Publisher's Prices: \$57.00 (paper copy) and \$45.95 (eBook)

*Also Available for rental through Google Play

*See other purchasing options: <https://utorontopress.com/ca/ebooks>

Pre-Recorded Lectures

Weekly in-person lectures will likely be supplemented with pre-recorded lecture clips (6-20 minutes in length) that students are able to view on their own time. Pre-recorded lecture videos are required material for the course. Think about pre-recorded lectures in the same way you think about assigned readings. Sometimes the pre-recorded lecture clips will be offered to supplement challenging material. Other times they will introduce material not covered in class.

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.
passion for subject
He was engaging and made dry, dense topics seem more approachable with good examples and anecdotes. You could tell he is passionate about the subject which made learning more enjoyable.
Sean was very engaged in his lectures. He always had great examples when referring to specific sociologists and theories and he was always enthusiastic.
Professor Hier provides us with his passionate and informative lectures that definitely unfolds the course material in a clear and interesting way. I can get not only relatable, up–to–date examples, but also well–edited videos (e.g., images, key notes and corresponding background setups like books mentioned in each lecture clip) which definitely caught my eyes and helped me to focus more. The online formate is really helpful particularly for this course as I can replay the lecture clips without being lost in the speeding, condensed lectures.

Comments

The format of this class is really great. It's my favourite set up yet via online learning. The lectures were really engaging and the weekly quizzes really motivate students to keep up with the work load.

Very responsive to emails

I really like this way of teaching. For a student whose second language is English, the sociology terminology is unfamiliar. The video-recorded instruction allows me to not miss any useful information.

He is really good at breaking down heavy concepts into a format that is easy to understand.

Professor Hier provided a very organized course despite working online. The lectures managed to be captivating, and straight to the point with some fun anecdotes to keep you interested. Complex ideas were explained in an easy to understand way. This was my favorite class this semester.

He was a fantastic prof and was very engaging in his lecture videos.

Very nice guy !! Did his best to make historical information interesting

He was interested in his subject and seemed to enjoy his method of teaching.

the videos are well made and explain things clearly at good length

- Dr. Hier is highly organized
- The material was uploaded and accessible on-time
- I enjoyed the lecture videos, and the way the course was delivered helped me to fit the course into my own schedule
- I liked how he takes time to summarize what has been explained so far, it helped me to further grasp the concepts we've learned

passion, good examples, engagement.