

SOCI 210 ¹

Classical Social Theorizing

Instructor: Sara Naderi

Course Description:

This course takes a historical-sociological approach to the foundational social theories, while it also offers a social history of the theorists and an account of the historical changes of European humanity that launched social thought and sociological theory. Sociology, as the scientific offspring of enlightenment, is born out of the response of Europeans to their endemic social and political crises that were concomitant with the birth of modernity. The course historically covers the period between the late eighteenth century and the early twentieth century. It entails the canonical theories of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber, but also goes further and examines the philosophical/epistemological backgrounds and the intellectual predecessors of classic sociological theory. In addition, by putting classic theories under critical scrutiny, we try to manifest the subject positions whose life experiences fed the principal axioms of sociology as the modern social science.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

The course intends to introduce the foundational gestures and figures of sociological theory. By the end of this course, the students will have a clear idea of how sociology came about and what influences classical sociological theorizing has left for present-day sociology.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:

Soci-100A and Soci-100B

Required Resources May Include:

Anthony Thomson, *The Making of Social Theory: Order, Reason, and Desire* [Second Edition] (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2010).

A number of supplementary short readings will also be posted, in PDF format, on brightspace

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.