

Foundations of Modern Social Theory

SOCY S151
Summer 2018

Class meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 9:00 – 11:15 AM
July 2 – August 3, 2018

Instructor: Huseyin Rasit
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Office Hours: After class and by appointment

Course Description

This course is intended to introduce you to social theory, the canonical texts of sociology, and some of the fundamental topics of the discipline. Introduction to social theory courses are generally taught in two distinct ways: by either focusing on the classics of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim or investigating general topics that have been central to the Western thought since the beginning of the modernity. We will instead focus on two broad questions: What makes some writers part of the canon whereas other foundational writers such as Du Bois are usually ignored? Why are some crucial processes underlying the Western history such as racial, patriarchal, imperial, and colonial domination overlooked? The aim here is to broaden our lenses beyond the small and privileged group that has been so often taken as the norm and bring oft-ignored groups and processes into the center, while still helping you to get a deep knowledge of “the canon.”

Consequently, we will start with an in-depth investigation of “the classics” of Durkheim, Weber, and Marx, their philosophical roots, and the issues of modernity and capitalism. We will then move onto other foundational thinkers and topics of race, gender, imperialism, and colonialism. Throughout the course, we will both explore what different writers and their theories say and reflect on what their silences mean. Moreover, we will constantly keep in mind that capitalism, racism, patriarchy, imperialism, and colonialism are not independent processes but have been reinforcing and reproducing each other in the last several centuries. This will also be apparent with the fact that many texts, even though they are assigned to a certain theme, are actually crosscutting.

The class format will be a mixture of lectures, discussions, and debates. We will start each class with a short lecture about the social and intellectual context of the writers, their main arguments, and how they are tied to other works and general themes of the course. We will then engage in discussions about the texts and sometimes form debate groups to explore specific topics. These will help you to process, understand, and apply the readings to the questions the course explores and to your own broader intellectual interests.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation (20%): Social theory is best learned by direct engagement with the texts and in-depth discussion. Therefore, attendance and active participation are key components. Students are expected to do all the readings before the class and come prepared to discuss the material. In order to give you more time and space to immerse yourselves in the texts, I am keeping other assignments to a minimum.

Discussion questions (20%): You will post a discussion question/comment to Canvas before each class. This can be about an aspect of the text that fascinates you, something that you need clarification or further discussion in the class, or a response to comments/questions written by your fellow students.

1 mid-term paper (4-5 double-spaced pages, 20%): The mid-term paper is meant to be an engagement with the works of Durkheim, Weber, and Marx. I will distribute specific questions from which you will choose one to answer. You can also devise your own topic in consultation with me. The midterm will be due on Sunday, July 22.

1 final paper (10-12 double-spaced pages - 40%): The final paper will be a broader engagement with the course material. You will be given questions that cover several thinkers and topics. You will again have the opportunity to devise your own question. In the paper, you are expected to go beyond demonstrating comprehension of the material and to develop your own arguments about the texts, the ideas they present, and themes that link them together. The final paper is due on the last day of class (August 3).

Texts

The below is a representative list of books. You do not have to purchase every single book in this list, especially those of which chapters will be uploaded (marked **E-reserves** in Course Schedule section). Also, you can buy much cheaper second-hand versions online. In any case, those that I strongly suggest you to have as a hardcopy are marked below. If you do not have the financial means to purchase the books, please get in touch with me so that we can figure out how you will get the material.

In addition, even though the bookstore will have specific editions of these books, you can have different editions as long as you are careful in reading the correct sections.

The Marx-Engels Reader, ed. by Robert C. Tucker – Hardcopy suggested
Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the “Spirit” of Capitalism – Hardcopy suggested
Emile Durkheim, The Division of Labor in Society – Hardcopy suggested
W. E. B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk – Hardcopy suggested

Karl Marx, Capital, Volume One
Emile Durkheim, The Elementary Forms of Religious Life
Emile Durkheim, Suicide
Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals

Max Weber, From Max Weber, ed. by Gerth and Mills
W. E. B. Du Bois, Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880
St. Clair Drake and Horace R. Cayton, The Black Metropolis.
Frazier, E. Franklin, Black Bourgeoisie.
Anna Julia Cooper, A Voice from the South
Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex

Note on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the standards prescribed in the Undergraduate Regulations publication (<http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/publications/uregs/appendix/cheating.html>) regarding cheating, plagiarism, and documentation. Appropriately using and documenting sources is an integral component of developing necessary professional and academic skills. Students are encouraged to access the resources available through the Writing Center website (<http://www.yale.edu/bass/writing/sources/why.html>) when preparing writing assignments.

Disability Services

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require specific accommodations, please contact me (as well as the Resource Office on Disabilities, 203-432-2324), so that we can arrange the necessary accommodations.

Course Schedule (We can talk about the reading load in the first class, and keep in mind that some texts are “recommended” - not “required.”)

Introduction

Day 1: Monday, July 2

- Connell, R. W. “Why is Classical Theory Classical?” *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 102, No. 6. (May, 1997), pp. 1511-1557.
- “General Introduction,” in C. Calhoun, J. Gerteis, J. Moody, S. Pfaff, and I. Virk (eds.), *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd ed. Macmillan Education: Basingstoke, 1988, pp. 1-16. – E-reserves

Crisis of Western Modernity: Differentiation, Power, Capitalism

Durkheim

Day 2: Wednesday, July 4

Division of Labor, Cohesion of Community

- Durkheim, Emile. *The Division of Labor in Society*. Introduction, Book I – Chps I-II-III, Book II – Chps II-III

Day 3: Friday, July 6

Anomaly, Social Origins of the Sacred

- Durkheim, Emile. *The Division of Labor in Society*. Book III – Chps I-II, Preface to the Second Edition (read in this order)

Recommended

- Durkheim, Emile. *Suicide*, “Preface,” “Introduction,” “Anomic Suicide.”
- Durkheim, Emile. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (Fields Translation), pp. 1-12, 33-39, 99-126, 190-3, 208-25

Weber

Day 4: Monday, July 9

Power, Domination, Stratification

- Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Genealogy of Morals*. “Good and Evil, Good and Bad” and “Guilt, Bad Conscience, and Related Matters” – **E-reserves**
- Weber, Max. *Theory of Social and Economic Organization*. “The Types of Authority and Imperative Co-ordination,” pp. 324-333, 341-46, 358-373. – **E-reserves**
- Weber, Max. *From Max Weber*. “Class, Status, Party,” pp. 180-195. – **E-reserves**

Day 5: Wednesday, July 11

Religion and Capitalism

- Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the “Spirit” of Capitalism*.

Day 6: Friday, July 13

Disenchantment, Rationalization, Differentiation

- Weber, Max. *From Max Weber*. “Bureaucracy,” 196-244. – **E-reserves**
- Weber, Max. *From Max Weber*. “Religious Rejections of the World and Their Directions,” pp. 323-359. – **E-reserves**

Recommended

- Weber, Max. *From Max Weber*. “Science as a Vocation,” pp. 129-156. – **E-reserves**

Marx

Day 7: Monday, July 16

Alienation, Freedom, Human Emancipation

- Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich. *Phenomenology of Mind*. “Lordship and Bondage” – **E-reserves**
- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts,” pp. 66-105.
 - Read 106-125 if you are interested in delving more into Hegel-Marx connection.
- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “On the Jewish Question,” pp. 26-46.
- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “Theses on Feuerbach,” pp. 143-145.

Day 8: Wednesday, July 18

Theory of History, Dialectical Materialism

- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “The German Ideology,” pp. 148-193.
- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte,” pp. 594-617.
- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “Preface to Critique,” pp. 3-5.
- Marx, Karl. Selections from “Letters on Ireland.” – **E-reserves**

Recommended

- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “Manifesto of the Communist Party,” focus on pp. 469-491.
- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “The Class Struggles in France, 1848-1850,” pp. 586-593.
- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “The Civil War in France,” pp. 618-652.

Day 9: Friday, July 20

Critique of Capitalism

- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “Capital, Volume One,” focus on pp. 303-367.
- Marx, Karl. *Capital, Volume One (Dover edition)*. “Part VIII, The So-Called Primitive Accumulation,” pp. 784-848.

MIDTERM DUE: SUNDAY, JULY 22

Race and Racial Relations

Day 10: Monday, July 23

Color Line, Double-Consciousness, Black Marxism

- Du Bois, W. E. B. *The Souls of Black Folk*. “Of Our Spiritual Strivings,” “Of the Training of Black Men,” and “Of the Sons of Master and Man.”
- Du Bois, W. E. B. *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*. “Counter-Revolution of Property,” pp. 580-636. – **E-reserves**

Recommended

- Drake, St. Clair and Horace R. Cayton. *The Black Metropolis*. Selections
- Frazier, E. Franklin. *Black Bourgeoisie*. Selections.

Day 11: Wednesday, July 25

Social Construction of Race and Critical Race Theory

- Bell, Derrick. *Faces at the Bottom of the Well*. “Introduction: Divining Our Racial Themes,” pp. 1-14. – **E-reserves**

- Haney López, I. F. “The Social Construction of Race,” in Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic (eds.), *Critical Race Theory: The Cutting Edge (2nd edition)*, pp. 163-175. – **E-reserves**
- Hall, Stuart. “Race, Articulation, and Societies Structured in Dominance,” in Baker Jr., Diawara, and Lindeborg (eds), *Black British Cultural Studies*. Available at <http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/files/Race,%20articulation%20and%20societies%20structured%20in%20dominance.pdf>
- Wolfe, Patrick. “Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native.” *Journal of Genocide Research*, Vol. 8, No. 4. (2006): 387-409.

Gender and Sexuality

Day 12: Friday, July 27

Classical Formulations

- Cooper, Anna Julia. *A Voice from the South*. “Womanhood a Vital Element in the Regeneration and Progress of a Race.” – **E-reserves**
- de Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*. “The Point of View of Historical Materialism,” and “Conclusion.” – **E-reserves**
- Hartmann, Heidi. “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a more a Progressive Union.” *Capital & Class*, Vol. 3, No. 2. (1979): pp. 1-33.

Recommended

- Engels, Freidrich. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State.” – focus on 734-751.

Day 13: Monday, July 30

Intersectionality

- Collins, Patricia Hill, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and Politics of Empowerment (1st edition)*. “Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination.” Available at <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/252.html>
- Scott, Joan W. “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis.” *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 91, No. 5. (1986): 1053-1075.
- Mohanty, Chandra. “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonialist Discourses.” *boundary 2*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (1984): 333-358.

Recommended

- Crenshaw, Kimberle. “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color.” *Stanford Law Review*, Vol. 43, No. 6. (1991): pp. 1241-1299.
- Smith, Dorothy. *The Everyday World as Problematic: A Feminist Sociology*. “A Sociology for Women.” 49-104. – **E-reserves**

Colonialism and Imperialism

Day 14: Wednesday, August 1

Anti-imperialism, Anti-colonialism

- Lenin, V. I. "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism," in H. M. Christman (ed.), *Essential Works of Lenin*. Dover: New York, 1987. Skim the first six chapters. Focus on Chps. 7-10 (pp. 236-270).
- Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. "Introduction," "The So-Called Dependency Complex of Colonized Peoples," "The Fact of Blackness," "The Negro and Recognition," and "By Way of Conclusion."
- Césaire, Aimé. "Discourse on Colonialism." Available at http://abahlali.org/files/_Discourse_on_Colonialism.pdf

Recommended

- Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. "The Negro and Recognition," and "By Way of Conclusion."

Day 15: Friday, August 3

Postcoloniality and Decoloniality

- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. "Introduction." – **E-reserves**
- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in C. Nelson and L. Grossberg (eds.), *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, Macmillan Education: Basingstoke, 1988, pp. 271-313 – **E-reserves**
- Mignolo, Walter D. *The Darker Side of Western Modernity*. "Coloniality: The Darker Side of Western Modernity" and "The Roads to the Future: Rewesternization, Dewesternization, and Decoloniality." – **E-reserves**

Recommended

- Said, Edward. *Culture and Imperialism*. pp. 3-19. – **E-reserves**
- Chatterjee, Partha. *The Nation and Its Fragments*. "The Colonial State," pp. 14-34. – **E-reserves**

FINAL PAPER DUE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 3