SOC 351: Classical Social Theory

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Course Description

We will study major classical theorists who established the foundations of Sociology during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. We will focus on the emergence of sociology as an academic discipline. Social theorists discussed will include Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Harriet Martineau, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Georg Simmel, W.E.B. Du Bois and George Herbert Mead.

Prerequisites

SOC 100

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe and define basic concepts developed by classical social theorists;
- Understand how classical social theory can be used to better understand the modern and post-modern world we live in;
- Use classical social theories to explain important current events;
- Assess the everyday utility of classical social theory; and
- Utilize critical thinking and scholarly writing skills in the analysis of classical social theory.

Students With Disabilities

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 (or http://www.unco.edu/dss/) to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.
**Honor Code**

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: *Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility*. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community’s academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate. UNC’s policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed.

**UNC’s Policies**

UNC’s policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. UNC policies can be reviewed at: http://library.unco.edu/assistance/copyright/students.htm

Honor Code - http://www.unco.edu/dos/academicIntegrity/index.html
Academic Misconduct - http://www.unco.edu/dos/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf

Links to student resources on **plagiarism** are also accessible from above sites.

**Notice**

The Office of Extended Studies reserves the right to cancel or reschedule courses based upon enrollment. Enrolled students will be contacted with information of any change.

**Assigned Readings**

The material listed below is required for the course:

Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory: Text and Readings, Second Edition (2012), by Scott A. Appelrouth and Laura Desfor Edles, Los Angeles, Pine Forge Press, ISBN # 9781412992336. **Note:** I will also be using this textbook in my SOC 352 class.

**Course Requirements**

Regular online attendance is **required**. All persons taking the course for credit will be graded on the basis of their performance on four examinations and four discussions.

**Discussions and Exams are available on Blackboard** (http://unco.blackboard.com). The login and password for Blackboard is the same as you use when accessing URSA. If you need help finding Blackboard, with login or password issues, or with any other technical aspect of using Blackboard, please call the UNC Help Desk (970-351-4357) and ask for help. If the Help Desk does not provide the help you need, please let me know, via email message, ASAP.

**Examinations** are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false, fill-in and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve
important facts and assertions from the textbook (Please see attached Topical Agenda). Assigned reading materials may be used during examinations. **Most exam questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook.**

Examinations are taken online, and may be accessed via the “Exams” link on the course Home Page. In order to avoid penalties, examinations must be taken within designated time periods. Late exams are excused only with prior approval by the instructor, and if the instructor is notified **in writing** well in advance of the exam. **All other late exams will be downgraded by five (5) points.**

When participating in **Discussions** (except Discussion # 1, the “Ice Breaker”) you will be required to refer to, and to cite, textbook materials, **plus** information from **Power Point presentations and YouTube videos (where possible). Use all three types of material in all sections of all posts** as well as relevant web-based material you find. You will also be encouraged to cite other appropriate scholarly material. Participating late in Discussions is excused only with prior approval by the instructor, and if the instructor is notified **in writing** well in advance of the end of a Discussion period. **All other late Discussion participation will result in a penalty of (5) points per Discussion.** Discussions can be accessed using the "Discussion Board" link on the course Home Page.

**Grading**

For grading purposes, each Examination is valued as indicated below:

Exam 1 ........... 25 points  
Exam 2 ........... 25 points  
Exam 3 ........... 25 points  
Exam 4 ........... 25 points  

For grading purposes, each Discussion is valued as indicated below:

Discussion 1 ....... 25 points  
Discussion 2 ....... 25 points  
Discussion 3 ....... 25 points  
Discussion 4 ....... 25 points  

**Total 200 Possible Points**

Final grades for the course will be determined by summing the points that you earn on Examinations and Discussions and by using the following formula to convert cumulative scores to letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200-180................. A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179-160................. B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOPICAL AGENDA

UNIT 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auguste Comte</td>
<td>Text, pp. 4, 80-82 &amp; 188*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Spencer</td>
<td>Text, pp. 81-83 &amp; 191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karl Marx</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion 1 – Ice Breaker

Instructions: In a CLEARLY LABELED Main Post, please introduce yourself to your classmates. At minimum, please tell us about: (1) your educational history, starting with elementary school, (2) your educational interests/plans, (3) your occupational interests/plans and (4) anything else about yourself that you care to share with us. You must also comment on the main posts of three classmates. Note: This is a required part of the class. It is a graded assignment. If you wish to earn a high grade, please put a considerable amount of effort into the assignment. Possible points: 25 maximum

Exam 1 covers the Chapters 1 & 2 of the textbook.

Examinations are designed to test your command of the assigned readings. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false, fill-in and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the assigned readings. Assigned reading materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook. You will have 1 hour to complete the Exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the Exam has been taken, it is strongly recommended that you enter Exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. Please note: If exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.

UNIT 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emile Durkheim</th>
<th>Chapter 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max Weber</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Discussion 2– Important Concepts

Instructions: Find 2 websites that focus on two important concepts discussed in Chapters 1 & 2 of the textbook AND that are covered in at least one Power Point presentation and one YouTube video (if possible). Please find one website for each concept. No more

* Chapter reading assignments are for Appelrouth & Edles, 2012.

than one concept can taken from a particular chapter. In your CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post” nothing else), provide the addresses of the sites. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the contents of each site, and explain how EACH SITE provides useful information about the concept. As you develop your main post, and as you introduce EACH important concept, please place it in CAPITAL LETTERS, and please cite, in-text, the textbook page numbers where the concept is discussed, as well as the Power Point slide(s) where the concept was discussed and the YouTube video (if possible) where the concept was covered. Example: For the concept "Sociological Theory," the in-text textbook citation would look like this: (Text, pp. 2-4). The in-text Power Point citation would look like this: (Chapter 1 Power Point, Slides #s 1 & 4). The in-text YouTube citation would look like this: (YouTube, “Herbert Spencer – In His Own Words.”) Note: Textbook, Power Point and YouTube (where possible) material must be included, and cited in-text. This is how you prove to me that you have read the material (use all three types of material in all sections of all posts). In order to earn maximum points, please select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed. Suggestion: When doing Google searches, it is sometimes helpful to include the theorists name with a concept – Example “Karl Marx capitalism”.

Finally, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, using, and citing it in-text, material found in the textbook as well as in Power Point presentations and YouTube videos (where possible), comment on the main posts of three classmates. Citations for the textbook, Power Point presentations and YouTube videos will be the same as those described, directly above. Note: Scholarly comments are a required part of the class. Your main post and scholarly comments are weighted equally, in terms of the number of points you earn. Possible points: 25 maximum. In order to earn maximum points, please put a considerable amount of effort into your posts, and select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed.

Please Note: You must use, and cite in-text, summarized material from ALL types of required material in all sections of ALL posts. Do not attach your main post. Do not string citations together. Instead, place citations within the text of your writing, directly after the material from each required source that you have summarized. DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA!

Exam 2 covers textbook chapters 3 & 4.

Examinations are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false, fill in and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook. Textbook materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that
section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook. You will have 1 hour to complete the Exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the Exam has been taken, it is strongly recommended that you enter Exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. Please note: If exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.

UNIT 3

Harriet Martineau  Text, p. 188; also, please read material found at: http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Wmartineau.htm.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman  Chapter 5

Georg Simmel  Chapter 6

Discussion 3 – Important Concepts

Instructions: Find 3 websites that focus on three important concepts discussed in Chapters 3-5 of the textbook AND that are covered in at least one Power Point presentation and one YouTube video (if possible). Please find one website for each concept. No more than one concept can be taken from a particular chapter. In your CLEARLY LABELED Main Post (label it “Main Post” nothing else), provide the addresses of the sites. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the contents of each site, and explain how EACH SITE provides useful information about the concept. As you develop your main post, and as you introduce EACH important concept, please place it in CAPITAL LETTERS, and please cite, in-text, the textbook page numbers where the concept is discussed, as well as Power Point slide(s) and YouTube videos where the concept was discussed. Example: For the concept "Social Fact,” the in-text textbook citation would look like this: (Text, pp. 94-99). The in-text Power Point citation would look like this: (Chapter 3 Power Point, Slides #s 16-19). The in-text YouTube citation would look like this: (YouTube, “Lecture on Max Weber (1864-1920).” Note: Textbook, Power Point and YouTube (where possible) material must be included, and cited in-text. This is how you prove to me that you have read the material (use all three types of material in all sections of all posts). In order to earn maximum points, please select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed. Suggestion: When doing Google searches, it is sometimes helpful to include the theorists name with a concept – Example “Weber Verstehen”.

Finally, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, using, and citing it in-text, material found in the textbook as well as in Power Point presentations and YouTube videos (where possible), comment on the main posts of three classmates. Use all three types of material in all sections of all posts. Citations for the textbook, Power Point slides and YouTube videos will be the same as those described, directly above. Note: Scholarly
comments are a required part of the class. Your main post and scholarly comments are weighted equally, in terms of the number of points you earn. Possible points: 25 maximum. In order to earn maximum points, please put a considerable amount of effort into your posts, and select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed.

Please Note: You must use, and cite in-text, summarized material from ALL types of required material in all sections of ALL posts. Do not attach your main post. Do not string citations together. Instead, place citations within the text of your writing, directly after the material from each required source that you have summarized.

DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA!

Exam 3 covers textbook chapters 5 & 6.

Examinations are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false, fill-in and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook. Textbook materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook. You will have 1 hour to complete the Exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the Exam has been taken, it is strongly recommended that you enter Exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. Please note: If exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.

UNIT 4

W. E. B. Du Bois  Chapter 7
George Herbert Mead  Chapter 8

Exam 4 covers textbook chapters 7 & 8.

Examinations are designed to test your command of the textbook. Each examination will be made up of 25 true/false, fill-in and multiple choice questions. Questions will involve important facts and assertions from the textbook. Textbook materials may be used during examinations. Most exam questions will be taken from the assigned reading for that section of the class. However, since these are open-book examinations, a few questions may focus in information in other parts of the textbook. You will have 1 hour to complete the Exam, so be sure that you are ready before beginning. In order to prevent your being disconnected before the Exam has been taken, it is strongly recommended that you enter Exams using a WIRED (not wireless) connection. UNC Computer labs are ideal for this purpose. Please note: If exams are taken late, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score.

Discussion 4 – Important Concepts

Instructions: Find 3 websites that focus on three important concepts discussed in Chapters 6-8 of the textbook AND that are covered in at least one Power Point presentation and
one YouTube video (if possible). Please find one website for each concept. No more than one concept can be taken from a particular chapter. In your CLEARLY Labeled Main Post (label it “Main Post” nothing else), provide the addresses of the sites. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, describe the contents of each site, and explain how EACH SITE provides useful information about the concept. As you develop your main post, and as you introduce EACH important concept, **please place it in CAPITAL LETTERS**, and please cite, in-text, the textbook page numbers where the concept is discussed, as well as the **Power Point slides and YouTube video (if possible)** where the concept was discussed. Example: For the concept "**The Veil,**" the in-text textbook citation would look like this: (Text, pp. 288-292). The in-text Power Point citation would look like this: (Chapter 8 Power Point, slide # 33 and slide # 41). The in-text YouTube citation would look like this: (YouTube, “W.E.B. DuBois – An Overview.”) **Note: Textbook, Power Point and YouTube (when possible) material must be included, and cited in-text. This is how you prove to me that you have read the material (use all three types of material in all sections of all posts).** In order to earn maximum points, please select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed. Suggestion: When doing Google searches, place the theorist’s name in front of the concept – Example: “Du Bois the veil”.

Finally, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, using, and citing it in-text, material found in the **textbook** as well as in **Power Point presentations and YouTube videos (when possible),** comment on the main posts of three classmates. **Use all three types of material in all sections of all posts.** Citations for the textbook, Power Point presentations and YouTube videos will be the same as those described, directly above. **Note:** Scholarly comments are a required part of the class. Your main post and scholarly comments are weighted equally, in terms of the number of points you earn. Possible points: 25 maximum. In order to earn maximum points, please put a considerable amount of effort into your posts, and select websites that other members of the class have not already discussed.

**Please Note:** You must use, and cite in-text, summarized material from ALL types of required material in all sections of ALL posts. Do not attach your main post. Do not string citations together. Instead, place citations within the text of your writing, directly after the material from each required source that you have summarized. **DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA!**