

Sociology 301 – Fall 2007

FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY I

What This Course Is All About

First of all, it is, literally, an introduction to the thought of the classical founders of sociology, the seminal thinkers of the 19th and early 20th centuries who established the fundamental dimensions of the sociological enterprise.

Second, it is an exemplification of that enterprise, an attempt to understand human behavior as it is rooted in and influenced by social factors.

Third, it is an attempt to illustrate the relevance of theory itself both within the disciplines of the social sciences and in everyday life.

Fourth, it is an adventure in intellectual history, an engagement with the minds whose questions and answers helped shape the world we live in.

Fifth, it is a way of providing a concrete sense of what sociological theory is, where it came from, and why it came to be when and how it did.

If history is the science of that which happens once, and economics is the dismal science, then perhaps sociology can best be described as “the ironic science.” By definition, sociology is *the* social science *par excellence*, the most social and perhaps the most troubling of all the sciences dealing with human behavior. The sociological perspective is a curious one because it jars us out of the taken-for-granted embeddedness we each have in our own social settings and in the ways we ordinarily live our lives. It disturbs us into an increased reflexivity – that odd human capacity to look back at ourselves as if we were actually outside of ourselves. Simultaneously disruptive and liberating, this paradoxical experience encourages an appreciation of irony – that things are very likely not as we think they are, that things are likely to turn out differently than we expect, that even our own intentions are not entirely trustworthy, that *something else is always going on*.

The sociological perspective also fosters a sense of humor, however dark it may often be. You may come to appreciate that even though the people we will be studying are long dead, what they were concerned about is as contemporary as the content of tonight’s network news or tomorrow’s *New York Times*. My goal is to help you discover that understanding these theorists may well help you better understand your world and accomplish your life.

This course is essentially a lecture course: the material I will present in class is intended to augment, illustrate, expand upon, and otherwise make the course content more interesting and more understandable. I have a strong conviction that you will benefit not only by attending the lectures but by *attending to them* as well. My expectations are that you will read – and reread – the assigned materials. I encourage you to study and discuss the course material with your fellow students, but I expect each one of you to write your own exams. I hope you will have questions, that you will get answers worth thinking about, and that your time and effort in this course will be well spent.

FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY I

Sociology 301 – Fall, 2007, Michael A. Toth, Ph.D.
Reading and Course Schedule

This reading schedule is available on the web at: <http://web.pdx.edu/~tothm/theory>. It contains links to all of the recommended web-sited readings and additional resource sites re: the theorists.

Required Reading Materials:

- (1) *Classical Sociological Theory: Rediscovering the Promise of Sociology*, by Glenn A. Goodwin and Joseph A. Scimecca, available from the PSU Bookstore.
- (2) *A Collection of Selected Readings*, available from Smart Copy, 1915 SW 6th (next to Hot Lips Pizza).

KEY: Those materials marked with a ► (in the Goodwin and Scimecca text) or a ⇨ (in the reading packet) are required for the course. (You will note that we will read the chapters in a slightly different sequence than they occur in the text.) Those materials marked with an ① are supplemental but you may find them especially helpful. Additional relevant material is currently available online via direct links on the course website. Finally, I would urge serious students of the discipline to read the sections on Marx, Durkheim, and Weber in the two noted volumes by Raymond Aron.

Introduction (September 25, 27)

⇨ *What This Course is All About*

⇨ *Sociological Caveats*

⇨ *Society and Illusion*

Randall Collins & Michael Makowsky
(The Discovery of Society, pp. 1-15)

⇨ *Various Introductory Materials*

① *All the materials listed for the first week on the course website*

► The Roots of Sociology: Morals and Science

Chapter 1

► Auguste Comte & Harriet Martineau (October 2)

Chapters 2 & 3

① Auguste Comte

Auguste Comte - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
(<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#comte>)

Lewis Coser

① Harriet Martineau

Harriet Martineau - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
(<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#martineau>)

Lewis Coser

► Herbert Spencer (October 4)

Chapter 5

① Herbert Spencer

Herbert Spencer - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
(<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#spencer>)

Lewis Coser

- **Karl Marx** (October 9, 11, 16) **Chapter 4**
Karl Marx in Main Currents in Sociological Thought I, pp. 145-236
 ① *Karl Marx - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
 (<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#marx>)
 ⇒ *Basic Major Concepts and Ideas*
 ⇒ *Bogside* Leon Uris
 ⇒ *Cogent Summary of Marx's General Position* Karl Marx (1859)
 ⇒ *Marx's Masterpiece at 150* Steven Marcus
- **Emile Durkheim** (October 18, 23, 25) **Chapter 6**
Emile Durkheim in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 1-117
 ① *Emile Durkheim - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
 (<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#durkheim>)
 ⇒ *Basic Major Concepts and Ideas*
 ⇒ *Peanuts (on functionalism)* Charles Schultz
 ⇒ *Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of the Right (part)* Karl Marx
- **Max Weber** (October 30, November 1, 6) **Chapter 8**
Max Weber in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 219-317
 ① *Max Weber - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
 (<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#weber>)
 ⇒ *Basic Major Concepts and Ideas*
 ⇒ *Why Work? A Hundred Years of "The Protestant Ethic" (Handout)* Elizabeth Kohbert
- **Georg Simmel** (November 8, 13) **Chapter 7**
 ① *Georg Simmel - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
 (<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#simmel>)
 ⇒ *Basic Major Concepts and Ideas*
 ⇒ *Why Sociology is Difficult: Emergence, Structure, and the Peculiar Location of Self-Consciousness in Nature* Michael Toth
 (The Social Science Journal, October 1982, pp. 1-7)
- **Jane Addams and W. E. B. DuBois** (November 15) **Chapters 10, 11**
 ① *Jane Addams - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
 (<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#addams>) Lewis Coser
 ① *W.E.B. DuBois - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
 (<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#dubois>) Lewis Coser
 ⇒ *Partial Summary of W.E.B. Dubois: Scholar, Scientist, and Activist* Tony Monteiro
- **Classical American Sociology and the Promise** (November 20) **Chapter 12**
 ⇒ *The Beginnings of a Sociological School: Chicago Sociology from 1892 to 1935* George Ritzer
 (Sociological Beginnings, pp.66-85)
 ① *Robert Park - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
 (<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#park>)
 ⇒ *Robert Park and Ernest Burgess: Urban Ecological Studies, 1925* Nina Brown

► **George Herbert Mead** (November 27, 29)

Chapter 9

① *George Herbert Mead - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
(<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#mead>)

Lewis Coser

① *Charles H. Cooley - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
(<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#cooley>)

Lewis Coser

⇒ *Basic Major Concepts and Ideas*

⇒ *Sociological Implications of the Thought of George Herbert Mead* *Herbert Blumer*
(*American Journal of Sociology*, 1966, pp. 234-244)

All of the materials on this reading list authored by Lewis Coser are available courtesy of the web site (<http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/>) called "The Dead Sociologist's Index" maintained by Larry Ridener, Chair of the Department of Sociology at Pfeiffer University. The addresses provided in the schedule above link directly to that site at the point where the material on each of the respective theorists is presented, but you may wish to view the entire site and are encouraged to use it as a supplemental resource for the entire course. All of the written material at this site (with the exception of excerpts from original works) was originally published in *Masters of Sociological Thought, 2nd Edition* by Lewis Coser (New York: Harcourt Brace Javonowich, 1977). This same text was reprinted by Waveland Press in 2003 and is currently available in paperback format as a 2nd edition.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you have a disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please notify me (the instructor) immediately to arrange needed supports.

Sociology 301
Foundations of Sociology I, Fall, 2007
Working Schedule

Week/Date	Topics	Readings	Class Activities
1 Sep 25 Sep 27	Introduction	Chapter 1 additional materials on-line	Curious Question #1 Quick Quiz #1 ESSAY QUESTION #1
	Introduction		
2 Oct 2 Oct 4	Auguste Comte Harriet Martineau	Chapter 2 & 3 additional materials on-line	Curious Question #2 Quick Quiz #2 ESSAY QUESTION #2
	Herbert Spencer	Chapter 5 additional materials on-line	
3 Oct 9 Oct 11 Oct 16	Karl Marx	Chapter 4 additional materials on-line	Curious Question #3 Quick Quiz #3 <i>CORE IDEAS #1</i> ESSAY QUESTION #3
	Karl Marx		
	Karl Marx		
4 Oct 18 Oct 23 Oct 25	Emile Durkheim	Chapter 6 additional materials on-line	Curious Question #4 Quick Quiz #4 <i>CORE IDEAS #2</i> ESSAY QUESTION #4
	Emile Durkheim		
	Emile Durkheim		
5 Oct 30 Nov 1 Nov 6	Max Weber	Chapter 8 additional materials on-line	Curious Question #5 Quick Quiz #5 <i>CORE IDEAS #3</i> ESSAY QUESTION #5
	<i>Max Weber</i>		
	Max Weber		
6 Nov 8 Nov 13 Nov 15	Georg Simmel	Chapter 7 additional materials on-line	Curious Question #6 Quick Quiz #6 <i>CORE IDEAS #4</i>
	Georg Simmel		
	Jane Addams W. E. B. DuBois		
7 Nov 20 Nov 22	America and the Chicago School	Chapter 12 additional materials on-line	Curious Question #7
	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY		
8 Nov 27 Nov 29	George Herbert Mead	Chapter 9 additional materials on-line	Curious Question #8 Quick Quiz #7 <i>CORE IDEAS #5</i> ESSAY QUESTION #7 + 3 FINAL ESSAY QUESTIONS
	George Herbert Mead		
9 Dec 4	4:30 PM - 4 FINAL ESSAY QUESTIONS DUE IN DEPARTMENT OFFICE: CRAMER 217		

NOTE: all "additional materials on-line" are available at: <http://web.pdx.edu/~tothm/theory>

Sociology 301 – Fall 2007

Instructor: Michael A. Toth, Ph.D., Office: 217T Cramer Hall,
Office Hours: 12:30 – 1:30, Tues & Thurs; 1:30 – 2:30, Mon & Weds
Office Phone: (503) 725-3620, email: tothm@pdx.edu

Teaching Assistant: Michelle Mangel, email: mangel@pdx.edu

COURSE ACTIVITY & READING SCHEDULES

Tues/Thurs 2:00 – 3:50 pm

Unitus Building, Rm 203, 2121 SW 4th St.

After today's class (9/25) we will meet 19 more times. During these meetings we cover a number of theorists, making brief acquaintance with the work of Comte, Martineau, Spencer, Addams, and DuBois and paying particular attention to the work of these major figures –

- 1) October 9, 11, 16: Karl Marx
- 2) October 18, 23, 25: Emile Durkheim
- 3) October 30, November 1, 6: Max Weber
- 4) November 8, 13: Georg Simmel
- 5) November 20, 27, 29 George H. Mead & The Chicago School

Note that the following assignments attach only to the five major figures identified above:

#1) curious question: As a result of your reading and thinking you will email me by 9 am of each specified day a “curious question for class clarification” that addresses some aspect of the assigned reading that remains obscure, unclear, or confusing – or that you want to take issue with.

#2) solo core ideas: As you read the assigned material, you should identify for yourself 3 to 5 major points that you believe capture the theorist's major points, essential insights, key ideas, or core learnings you take from his or her work, or what you see as his or her distinctive contribution to the conceptual toolbox of sociological theory. At the beginning of each specified class you should bring two (2) copies of what you have concluded. I will collect one copy, the other you will use for an in-class discussion described below.

#3) group core ideas: Toward the end of certain specified class sessions you will meet with a small group of fellow students with your copy of the core ideas to collaborate together for 15-20 minutes in producing a group list that represents your collective 3 to 5 major point conclusions about the theorist.

#4) reading quiz: At some point in certain specified class sessions I will ask you to complete a “quick check on your reading quiz” of approximately 5 questions which will be returned to you at a subsequent class session (with the exception of the last class).

#5) brief essay questions: At the end of certain specified class sessions I will hand out one brief essay question to be completed and turned in at the beginning of the following class session. For the last class session this one essay question will be included in the following, last assignment....

#6) final essay questions: At the end of the last class of the term I will hand out a final exam which will consist of a short set of essay questions from which you will be able to choose the three you wish to answer. (Together with the required essay question in #5 above, you will therefore be turning in a small number of brief essay questions.) The final will be due in my department office mailbox no later than 4 pm on December 7. There will be no in-class final during finals week.

Extra Credit:

You may turn in a collection of three separate newspaper or newsmagazine articles each of which contains a specific illustration, aspect, or example of three of the theories we will have studied, one theory for each article.

Extra, Extra Credit:

You may turn in one news article examined from the perspectives of three different theories, demonstrating how each different theory would tender a different insight, explanation, or illustration of that theory.

Tracking This Work:

Assignment	Pts Possible	Max pts Possible	Total pts Possible
#1 curious questions (8)	1 to 2	8 to 16	16
#2 solo core ideas (5)	3 to 5	15 to 25	25
#3 group core ideas (5)	6 to 10	30 to 50	50
#4 reading quizzes (8)	5	40	40
#5 brief essay questions (8)	10	80	80
#6 final essay questions (3)	39	39	39
Complete:			250

A likely grade distribution:

- A, from 250 to 225 pts
- B, from 224 to 200 pts
- C, from 199 to 175 pts
- D, let's hope we don't have to go here...

Plus and minus grades as distributions indicate; extra credits completions (if they're well done) can boost your final grade upward as much as half a grade.