

FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 470 – Fall, 2005, 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 web-sited readings listed below and additional resource sites re: the theorists.

KEY: Those materials marked with a ► (in the Allan text or, in several instances, on line via the Dead Sociologists Index) or a ⇔ (in the reading packet) are required for the course. I have included references to additional resources that I strongly recommend. You may especially want to read the on-line materials marked with a ①. I suggest that you look at *all* the relevant material that is currently available online via the Dead Sociologists Index. In addition, I would urge serious students to read the sections on Marx, Durkheim, and Weber in the two noted volumes by Raymond Aron.

Introduction (September 27, 29)

- ⇔ *What This Course is All About*
- ⇔ *Sociological Caveats*
- ⇔ *Society and Illusion*

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

Allan, Chapter 1

► **Imagining Society**

① **Auguste Comte**

Auguste Comte - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
(<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~Iridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#comte>)

Lewis Coser

Herbert Spencer (October 4)

► **Organic Evolution – Herbert Spencer**

Allan, Chapter 2

① **Herbert Spencer**

Herbert Spencer - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
(<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~Iridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#spencer>)

Lewis Coser

Karl Marx (October 6, 11, 13)

- ⇔ *Basic Major Concepts and Ideas*

► **Engines of Change--Karl Marx**

Allan, Chapter 3

① *Karl Marx - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
(<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~Iridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#marx>)
Karl Marx in Main Currents in Sociological Thought I, pp. 145-236

Lewis Coser

- ⇔ *Bogside*

Raymond Aron

- ⇔ *Cogent Summary of Marx's General Position*

Leon Uris

- ⇔ *Marx's Masterpiece at 150 (Handout)*

Karl Marx (1859)

Steven Marcus

Emile Durkheim (October 18, 20, 25)

- ⇔ *Basic Major Concepts and Ideas*

- ⇔ *Peanuts (on functionalism)*

Charles Schultz

► **Cultural Consensus – Emile Durkheim**

Allan, Chapter 4

① *Emile Durkheim - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*
(<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~Iridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#durkheim>)

Lewis Coser

Emile Durkheim in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 1-117
⇒ *Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of the Right (part)* Raymond Aron
Karl Marx

Max Weber (October 27, November 1)

⇒ *Basic Major Concepts and Ideas*

▶ **Authority and Rationality – Max Weber**

Allan, Chapter 5

① *Max Weber - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*

Lewis Coser

(<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~lridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#weber>)

Max Weber in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 219-317

Raymond Aron

⇒ *Why Work? A Hundred Years of "The Protestant Ethic" (Handout)* Elizabeth Kohbert

Georg Simmel (November 3)

⇒ *Basic Major Concepts and Ideas*

▶ **Society and the Individual-- Georg Simmel**

Allan, Chapter 6

① *Georg Simmel - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*

Lewis Coser

(<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~lridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#simmel>)

⇒ *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)

The Chicago School (November 8)

⇒ *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*

Lewis Coser

(<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~lridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#park>)

George Herbert Mead (November 10, 15)

▶ **Self-Consciousness – George Herbert Mead**

Allan, Chapter 7

① *Charles Horton Cooley - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*

Lewis Coser

(<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~lridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#cooley>)

① *George Herbert Mead - The Person & A Summary of Ideas*

Lewis Coser

(<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~lridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML#mead>)

⇒ *Sociological Implications of the Thought of George Herbert Mead* Herbert Blumer

(American Journal of Sociology, 1966, pp. 234-244)

Erving Goffman (November 17)

⇒ *Encountering Erving Goffman*

David Elkind

(Human Behavior Magazine, 1975, pp. 163-171)

① • *Erving Goffman: The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*

Adam D. Barnhart

(<http://www.hewett.norfolk.sch.uk/curric/soc/goffman.htm>)

Alfred Schutz (November 22)

▶ **The Problem of Meaning and Reality – Alfred Schutz**

Allan, Chapter 9

⇒ *Introduction*

Maurice Natanson

(Alfred Schutz, Collected Papers, Volume I, The Problem of Social Reality, pp. xxv-xxvii.)

⇒ *Paramount Reality of Everyday Life Diagram*

Talcott Parsons (November 29)

► **The Social System – Talcott Parsons**

⇒ *NY Times Retirement Summary*

Allan, Chapter 10

Robert Reinhold

Robert Merton (December 1)

⇒ *Robert K. Merton*

Alan Sica

(Key Sociological Thinkers, pp. 111-123)

⇒ *The Role-Set: Problems in Sociological Theory*

Robert Merton

(The British Journal of Sociology, June 1957)

① *Interface Analysis :Exchange Transactions within an Implicit Functional Group*
(http://web.pdx.edu/~tothm/Manuscripts/interface_analysis.htm)

Michael Toth

⇒ *Profiles: How Does it Come to Be So*

Morton M. Hunt

⇒ *NY Times Obituary*

Michael T. Kaufman

EXAMS:

I anticipate that there will be four take-home exams more or less evenly spaced through the course. Each exam will consist of a small number of short, thought-provoking questions to be answered in appropriate brief essay form. Each exam will cover only a specific portion of the material presented in the course and students will have a week's time to complete the exam. The last exam will include an optional extra credit "nudge" question, which will be explained at the time.

The dates for the exams are currently scheduled as follows:

Exam #1, handed out on October 13, due on October 20

Exam #2, handed out on November 1 due on November 8

Exam #3, handed out on November 15, due on November 22

Exam #4, handed out on December 1, due no later than December 8 (in lieu of scheduled final exam).

PLEASE NOTE:

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

All of the materials on this reading list authored by Lewis Coser are available courtesy of the web site (<http://www2.pfeiffer.edu/~lridener/DSS/INDEX.HTML>) called "The Dead Sociologist's Index" maintained by Larry Ridener of the Department of Sociology at Baylor 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.