

SOCG 201B
CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY II

Winter 2009
SSB 101
M 12:00 – 2:50pm

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SSB 491
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Office Hrs:
Mon 3-4/Fri 11:30-12:30

Course Description

This course continues and extends themes developed in Sociology 201A, which is a prerequisite. In class discussions we will draw comparisons to theorists discussed in Sociology 201A (Marx and Tocqueville). We will focus primarily on the writings of two theorists: Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. Our purposes are to develop a reading of their visions of sociology, their analyses of the character of modern society and the source of social order, and their understanding of human action and the nature of social power.

We also hope to get a sense of the methodologies they proposed for the study of society. Both are regarded as the foundational thinkers in sociology who develop powerful paradigm which subsequent scholars develop and expand. Durkheim is often seen the predecessor to more structural variants of sociology (e.g., functionalism, structuralism); Weber meanwhile is appropriated by a wide spectrum of sociologists – he is regarded as both an advocate for a positivist version of sociology and the pioneer of a more interpretative form of sociology. It is also our purpose (time permitting) to draw connections between their works and some of the more recent authors who develop on the themes discussed by Durkheim and Weber.

We conclude (if we have enough time) with a discussion of Erving Goffman's *Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*.

Readings

The following books are available for purchase at Groundwork Bookstore:

- (1) Emile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society* (Free Press, 1997).
- (2) Emile Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, translated by Karen E. Fields. (Free Press, 1995) *Please make sure you buy the edition with Karen Fields as the translator.
- (3) Emile Durkheim, *The Rules of Sociological Method* (Free Press, 1938)
- (4) Emile Durkheim, *On Suicide*. (Penguin, 2007)* Please make sure we all use the Penguin edition.

(5) Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, translated by Talcott Parsons. (Dover Publications, 2003) *Please note that the copyright of the English text has already expired. So any publisher would do, as long as it's the edition with Talcott Parsons as the translator (there are other, arguably better, translations available, but we'll stick with Parsons's).

(6) H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, eds., *From Max Weber* (Oxford, 1946).

(7) Erving Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (Anchor, 1959).

Even though Max Weber's *Economy and Society* (two volumes) is not included in the required list, I recommend you to purchase a set.

Other shorter additional readings are available on electronic reserve at Geisel Library (<http://reserves.ucsd.edu/>).

Course Requirements

Class Participation

You are expected to come to class ready to participate actively in discussion of the day's reading. Comprehending the assigned material (Weber in particular) may require several readings. Please allow yourself enough time to keep up with the readings. In addition, each participant will present on the readings of the week at least once during the quarter. The mechanism of selecting a presenter for each week will be discussed at the first meeting of the course.

Writing Assignments

One midterm essay and one final essay, the first of which no longer than **8 pages** and the second no longer than **10 pages** (double-spaced). For both essays, you are expected to write a theory paper based on your reading of Durkheim, Weber, and other theorists discussed in class. I do not encourage you to write a research proposal-style paper for your assignments. No secondary sources or additional research materials are required for these papers.

- The midterm essay will be due on Friday, January 30.
- The final essay will be due on Monday, March 16.

Evaluations

Your grade for the quarter will be based on the following formula:

Midterm essay:	30%
Final essay:	50%
Class participation and presentation:	20%

Schedule of Readings

Wk1 January 5 Introduction

Part I Durkheim

Wk 2 January 12

Durkheim: Individuals and Society

The Division of Labor in Society

Preface to the First Edition and Second Edition (part): xxv-xxxix

Introduction, Book I (all except Ch. 4): 1-87; 101-174

Book II: Ch. 2, 5: 200-225, 269-88.

Book III: Ch. 1-2: 291-322.

“Individualism and the Intellectuals.” *Political Studies* 17(1): 14-30.

Wk 3 January 19 The Nature of Society and Durkheim’s Methodology

Rules 50-104, 119-46, 34-47

Suicide 15-30, 147-305

Wk 4 January 23 (Friday 11am, location TBA) Durkheim’s Sociology of Knowledge

Elementary Forms

Introduction: 1 -18;

Book I: Ch. 1 sections 3 & 4; Ch. 2 section 5: 33-44, 65-67;

Book II: Ch. 6, 7: 190-241;

Book III: Ch. 1, 5 section 4: 303-329, 412-417

Conclusion: 418-448.

“The Dualism of Human Nature and its Social Conditions.” *Durkheimian Studies* 11(1):35-45.”

FIRST PAPER DUE JANUARY 30 (FRIDAY)

Part II Weber

Wk 5 February 2 A Cultural Theory of Capitalism?

Protestant Ethics (entire)

“Meaning of Discipline” *From Max Weber*: 253-64.

Wk 6 February 9 Bureaucracy

“Bureaucracy” *From Max Weber*: 196-244.

“Politics as a Vocation” *From Max Weber*: 77-128

Economy and Society, Vol. I: “The Basis of Legitimacy” (212-16); “Legal Authority”(220-226); “Charismatic Authority” (241-54)

“Socialism,” in *Max Weber: Selections in Translation*, W.G. Runciman, eds. (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1978): 251-262.

Week 7 no class

Week 8 February 23 Weber’s Sociology of Religion

“The Social Psychology of the World Religions,” *From Max Weber*: 267-301.

“Religious Rejections of the World and Their Directions,” *From Max Weber*: 323-59.

“The Sociology of Charismatic Authority,” *From Max Weber*: 245-52.

Week 9 March 2 Weber on Method and Ethics

“Science as a Vocation” *From Max Weber*: 129-156

Economy and Society Vol. I: “The Definition of Sociology and of Social Action” (4-26); “Types of Social Action”(31-33); “Legitimate Order,” “Communal and Associative Relationships,” “Open and Closed Relationships,” “The Imputation of Social Action” (40-48); “Power and Domination”(53-54).

“‘Objectivity’ in Social Science,” in *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*, Shils & Finch eds. (New York: Free Press, 1949): 49-112.

Week 10: March 9 Goffman

Erving Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (whole book)

Arlie Hochschild. “Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure.” *American Journal of Sociology* 85(3): 521-575.

FINAL PAPER DUE MARCH 16