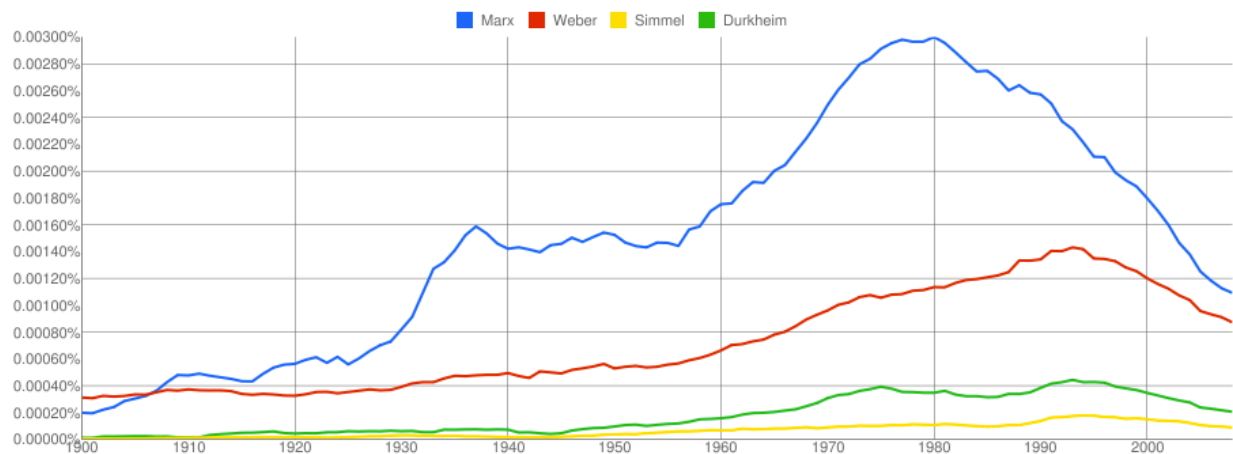


Development Sociology 6030: Classical Sociological Theory Fall 2011



Classical Theory on the Decline: Percentage of references in published books to classical thinkers since 1900

Meeting Time & Location: Mondays, 1:25-4:25, Plant Sciences 141
Instructor: Jason Cons, Academic Surge B 169, jc162@cornell.edu, 255.3044
Office Hours: 12-2 PM Tuesday & Thursday & by appointment

Course Description:

The above (highly un-scientific) table suggests that over the past twenty years there has been a steady decline in reference to classical sociological theorists. What are the implications of this move away from classical theory? What is lost? What do classical theorists have to offer in terms of ongoing critiques of the social, questions of development, and understandings of broad categories such as economy and society? In this course, we will address some of these questions through an in-depth exploration of core texts of classical sociological theory and their historical and contemporary legacies.

The central objective of this course is to provide students with an overview of the classical theoretical foundations of sociology. Students will review key works of Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Max Weber and Georg Simmel as well as contemporary and historical treatments of them. Students will explore foundational statements and formulations of the discipline and will focus on a series of common problematics and critiques of modernity, enlightenment and modern society. Over the course of the semester, we will examine the similarities and differences between ways that classical theorists framed questions of method, history, economy, society, and control. We will further explore the ways that these formulations have shaped the discipline of sociology and the ways they have been reformulated and reinterpreted over the past 100 years.

Required Texts: Available from Buffalo Street Books, 215 N Cayuga St, Ithaca, NY 14850 In the DeWitt Mall, 607.273.8246, BuffaloStreetBooks@hotmail.com

Marx, Karl. *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*. International Publishers
Marx, Karl. *Capital Vol. 1*. Penguin Books
Weber, Max. *Economy and Society (2 volumes)*. University of California Press.
Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Penguin Books.

Weber, Max. *The Vocation Lectures*. Hackett
Durkheim, Emile. *The Division of Labor in Society*. The Free Press
Durkheim, Emile. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Oxford University Press.
Simmel, Georg. *On Individuality and Social Forms*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Strongly Recommended:

Tucker, Robert. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. W.W. Norton & Co.
Harvey, David. *A Companion to Marx's Capital*. Verso Books.
Camic, Gorski, and Trubek. *Max Weber's 'Economy and Society': A Critical Companion*. Stanford
Sayer, Derek. *Capitalism and Modernity: An Excursus on Marx and Weber*. Routledge
LaCapra, Dominick. *Emile Durkheim: Sociologist and Philosopher*. Davies Group

Course Expectations:

This is a reading intensive, demanding course. I firmly believe that the only ways to successfully absorb and understand often dense and occasionally abstruse theoretical writing is through active discussion and writing. To that end, I expect that all participants will:

- Come to class having read all materials
- Actively and respectfully engage in class discussion (this is a seminar course!)
- Assume the role of discussant/discussion leader for 1 week of class
- Turn in weekly reflections on the readings. These will take the form of a sociological question and an explanation of why that question is relevant and important to the weeks readings (NOTE—participants should turn in at least 10 responses over the course of the semester)
- Write a mid-term (6-10 page) and final (10-15 page) paper. These papers will be responses to questions distributed in class.

Readings and Course Outline:

Week 1: August 29: *Course Introduction*

Week 2: September 12: *Modernity and its Enlightenment*

- Marx and Engels. 1848. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. On Blackboard or in Tucker, R. (ed). 1978. *The Marx-Engels Reader: Second Edition*. New York: Norton. Pp 469-500.
- Mitchell, Timothy. 2000. "The Stage of Modernity." In *Questions of Modernity*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Pp 1-35.
- Connell, RW. 1997. "Why is Classical Theory Classical?" *American Journal of Sociology*. 102(6). 1511-57.
- Hamilton, Peter. 1996. "Enlightenment and the Birth of Social Science." In *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*. Oxford: Blackwell. Pp 19-54.

Suggested:

- Berman, Marshall. 1982. "All That is Solid Melts into Air: Marx, Modernism and Modernization." In *All That is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity*. New York: Penguin. Pp 87-129.
- Stoler, Ann and Frederick Cooper. 1997. "Between Metropole and Colony: Rethinking the Research Agenda." In *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World*. University of California. pp. 1-57.
- Giddens, Anthony. 1976. "Classical Social Theory and the Origins of Modern Sociology." *American Journal of Sociology*. 81(4). 703-729.
- Horkheimer and Adorno. "The Concept of Enlightenment." In *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*. pp. 3-42
- Alexander, Jeffery. 1995. "Modern, Anti, Post, Neo." *New Left Review*. 1(210). Pp 63-101.

The Critique of "Modern" Society and Enlightenment Thought

Week 3: September 19: *Marx and Method 1—History and Revolution*

- Marx, Karl. 1963. *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*. International Publishers.
- Lenin, VI. "Chapter 2: The Experience of 1848-1851." In *State and Revolution*. New York: International Publishers. pp. 21-31.
- Calhoun, Craig. 1989. "Classical Social Theory and the French Revolution of 1848." *Sociological Theory*. Vol 7. No. 2. 210-225.
- Stallybrass, Peter. 1990. "Marx and Heterogeneity: Thinking the Lumpenproletariat." *Representations*. No. 31. 69-95.

Recommended:

- LaCapra, Dominick. 1983. "Reading Marx: The Case of *The Eighteenth Brumaire*." In *Rethinking Intellectual History: Texts, Contexts, Language*. Cornell University Press. 268-290.
- Carver, Terrell. "Imagery/Writing/, Imagination/Politics: Reading Marx through the *Eighteenth Brumaire*." In *Marx's Eighteenth Brumaire: (Post)modern Interpretations*. London: Pluto Press. pp. 113-128.
- Jessop, Bob. 2002. "The Political Scene and the Politics of Representation: Periodizing Class Struggle and the State in *The Eighteenth Brumaire*." In *Marx's Eighteenth Brumaire: (Post)modern Interpretations*. London: Pluto Press.
- Stallybrass, Peter. 1998. "'Well Grubbed, Old Mole: Marx, Hamlet, and the (Un)Fixing of Representation.'" *Cultural Studies*. 12(1). Pp 3-14.

Week 4: September 26: *Marx and Method II—The Commodity Form*

- Marx, Karl. 1977. "Chapter 1: The Commodity." In Marx, K. 1977. *Capital: Volume 1*. New York: Penguin. pp. 125-177.
- Marx, Karl. 1973. "Introduction." In *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*. New York: Penguin. pp 81-114.
- Hall, Stuart. 2003. "Marx's Notes on Method: A 'Reading' of the 1857 Introduction." *Cultural Studies*. 17(2). Pp 113-149.
- Simmel, Georg. 1971. "Exchange." In *On Individuality and Social Forms*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp 43-69.

Recommended:

- Harvey, David. 2010. "Chapter 1: Commodities and Exchange". In *A Companion to Marx's Capital*. New York: Verso. pp. 15-83.
- Chakrobarty, Dipesh. 2000. "Universalism and Belonging in the Logic of Capital." *Public Culture*. 12(3). pp. 653-678.
- Althusser, Louis. "Preface to *Capital* Volume 1." In *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*. New York: Monthly Review Press. pp. 71-101.
- Sayer, Derek. "Ch 1: *Mors Immortalis*." In *Capitalism and Modernity: An Excursus on Marx and Weber*. London: Routledge. Pp 9-55.

Week 5: October 3: *Durkheim and Method—Epistemology of the Social*

- Durkheim, Emile. 2001. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Oxford University Press. pp. 1-21, 140-182, 261-275, and 310-343.
 - Introduction
 - Book 2-Chapter 6 & 7
 - Book 3-Chapter 3
 - Conclusion
- Rawls, Anne Warfield. 1996. "Durkheim's Epistemology: The Neglected Argument." *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 102, No. 2. pp. 430-482.
- Sewell, William. 1996. "Historical Events as Transformations of Structures: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille." *Theory and Society*. 25(6). pp. 841-881.

Recommended:

- Durkheim, Emile. 1982. "Chapter 1: What is a Social Fact" and "Chapter 2: Rules for the Observation of Social Facts." In *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: McMillan Press. pp 50-84.
- LaCapra, Dominick. "Ch. 6: The Sacred and Society." In *Emile Durkheim: Sociologist and Philosopher*. New York: Davies Group. pp. 235-280.
- Emirbayer, Mustafa. 1996. "Useful Durkheim." *Sociological Theory*. Vol 14, No. 2. pp. 109-130.
- Schmaus, Warren. 1998. "Rawls, Durkheim, and Causality: A Critical Discussion." *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 104, No. 3. pp. 872-886.
- Rawls, Anne Warfield. 1998. "Durkheim's Challenge to Philosophy: Human Reason Explained as a Product of Enacted Social Practice." *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 104, No. 3. pp. 887-901.
- Goffman, Erving. 1967. "On Face-Work." In *Interactional Ritual: Essays on Face to Face Behavior*. Pantheon. pp. 5-46.

Week 6: October 17: *Weber and Method I—Frameworks for a Sociology of Modernity*

- Weber, Max. 1978. "Chapter 1: Basic Sociological Terms." In *Economy and Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press. pp. 3-63.
- Weber, Max. "Science as a Vocation." In *The Vocation Lectures*. New York: Hackett Publishing.
- Simmel, Goerg. 1971. "Part I: Philosophy of the Social Sciences." In *On Individuality and Social Forms*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp. 1-40.

Recommended:

- Camic, Gorski, and Trubek. 2005. "Introduction." In *Max Weber's 'Economy and Society': A Critical Companion*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. pp. 1-28.
- Mommsen, Wolfgang. 2005. "Max Weber's Grand Sociology: The Origin and Composition of *Wirtschaft and Gesellschaft*. *Soziologie*." In *Max Weber's 'Economy and Society*.' pp. 70-97.
- Levine, David. 2005. "The Continuing Challenge of Weber's Theory of Rational Action." In *Max Weber's 'Economy and Society*.' pp. 101-126.
- Zimmerman, Andrew. 2006. "Decolonizing Weber." *Postcolonial Studies*. Vol. 9, No. 1. pp 53-79.

Mid-term Paper Question Distributed

Week 7: October 24: *Weber and Method II—Political Power and Legitimacy*

- Weber, Max. 1978. "Chapter 9: Political Communities" and "Chapter 10: Domination and Legitimacy." In *Economy and Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press. pp 901—941.
- Wood, Ellen M. "History or Teleology? Marx versus Weber." In *Democracy Against Capitalism: Renewing Historical Materialism*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 146-178
- Simmel, Goerg. 1971. "Domination." In *On Individuality and Social Forms*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp 96-120.

Recommended:

- Weber, Max. 1978. "Chapter 3: The Types of Legitimate Domination". In *Economy and Society*. pp. 212-301.
- Titunik, Regina. 2005. "Democracy, Domination, and Legitimacy in Max Weber's Political Thought." In *Max Weber's 'Economy and Society*.' pp. 143-164.
- Lassman, Peter. 2000. "The Rule of Man over Man: Politics, Power, and Legitimation." In *The Cambridge Companion to Weber*. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp 83-98.
- Sayer, Derek. 1991. "Ch. 3: The Ghost in the Machine." In *Capitalism and Modernity: An Excursus on Marx and Weber*. London: Routledge. Pp 92-133.

Historical Breaks

Week 8: October 28: *So-Called "Primitive Accumulations"*

- Marx, Karl. 1977. "Part 8: So Called Primitive Accumulation." In *Capital*. pp. 873-940.
- Harvey, David. 2003. "Chapter 4: Accumulation by Dispossession." In *The New Imperialism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp 137-182.
- Perelman, Michael. 2000. "Introduction: Dark Designs," "Ch. 1: The Enduring Importance of Primitive Accumulation," and "Ch. 2: The Theory of Primitive Accumulation." In *The Invention of Capitalism: Classical Political Economy and the Secret History of Primitive Accumulation*. Durham: Duke University Press. Pp 1-37.

Recommended:

- Harvey, David. "Chapter 11: The Secret of Primitive Accumulation." In *A Companion to Marx's Capital*. pp 289-313.
- De Angelis, Massimo. 2001. "Marx and Primitive Accumulation: The Continuous Character of Capital's 'Enclosures.'" *The Commoner*. Pp 1-22.
- Sassen, Saskia. 2010. "A Savage Sorting of Winners and Losers: Contemporary Versions of Primitive Accumulation." *Globalizations*. 7(1). pp. 23-50.
- Sites, William. 2000. "Primitive Globalization? State and Locale in Neoliberal Governance." *Sociological Theory*. 18(1). 121-144.
- Samaddar, Ranabir. 2008. *Primitive Accumulation and Some Aspects of Work and Life in India in the Early Part of the Twenty First Century*. Kolkata: Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group. Pp 3-33.

Mid-term Paper Due

Week 9: November 7: March 28: *From Mechanical to Organic—Thinking Through the Division of Labor*

- Durkheim, Emile. 1984. *The Division of Labor in Society*. New York: The Free Press. Pp 1-125, 179-245, and 291-341
 - Introduction
 - Book 1: The Function of the Division of Labor—Chapters 1-5
 - Book 2: The Causes and Conditions—Chapters 1-3
 - Book 3: The Abnormal Forms
 - Conclusion

Recommended:

- LaCapra, Dominick. 2001. "The Division of Social Labor." In *Emile Durkheim: Sociologist and Philosopher*. New York: Davies Group. pp. 75-136.
- Lemert, Charles. 1994. "The Canonical Limits of Durkheim's First Classic." *Sociological Forum*. 9(1). Pp 87-92.

Week 10: November 14 April 4: *Capitalism's Spirits—Protestant and Other Ethics*

- Weber, Max. 2002. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Penguin.
- Marshall, Gordon. 1980. "The Dark Side of the Weber Thesis: The Case of Scotland." *The British Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 31. No. 3. 419-440.
- Baehr, Peter. 2001. "'The Iron Cage' and the 'Shell as Hard as Steel': Parsons, Weber, and the Stahlhartes Gerhäuse Metaphore in the Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism." *History and Theory*. 40(2). Pp 153-169.

Recommended:

- Kalberg, Stephen. 1996. "On the Neglect of Weber's *Protestant Ethic* as a Theoretical Treatise: Demarcating the Parameters of Postwar American Sociological Theory." 1996. *Sociological Theory*. Vol. 14, No. 1. pp. 49-70.

- Gorski, Philip. 1993. "The Protestant Ethic Revisited: Disciplinary Revolution and State Formation in Holland and Prussia." *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 99, No. 2. 265-316.
- Paretskaya, Anna. 2010. "The Soviet Communist Party and the Other Spirit of Capitalism." *Sociological Theory*. Vol. 28, No. 4. pp. 377-401.
- Swedberg, Richard. 2009. "Weber on the Economy and Religion." In *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism: Norton Critical Edition*. WW Norton. Pp 262-317.

Disciplines of Modernity

Week 11: November 21: *Money and the Transformation of Daily Life*

- Marx, Karl. 1977. Chapters 2-6, 10. In *Capital*. Pp 178-280, 340-416.
- Simmel, Georg. 1978. "Money in the Sequence of Purposes, Part 1." In *The Philosophy of Money*. Routledge: New York. Pp. 204-228.
- Thompson, E.P. 1993. "Time, Work-Discipline and Industrial Capitalism." In *Customs in Common*. New York: The New Press. pp 352-403.

Recommended:

- Harvey, David. "Chapter 2: Money", "Chapter 3: From Capital to Labor Power," and "Chapter 5: The Working Day". In *A Companion to Marx's Capital*. pp 55-108 and 135-162.
- Sayer, Derek. "Ch 2: Power and the Subject." In *Capitalism and Modernity: An Excursus on Marx and Weber*. London: Routledge. Pp 56-91.

Week 12: November 28: *Bureaucracy and the State*

- Weber, Max. 1978. "Chapter 12: Bureaucracy". In *Economy and Society*. pp 956-1069.
- Weber, Max. 1946. "Politics as a Vocation." In *The Vocation Lectures*. New York: Hackett Publishing.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1957. "Chapters 4-10: Civic Morals." In *Professional Ethics and Civic Morals*. London: Routledge. pp 42-110.
- Marx, Karl. 1843. "Justification of the Correspondent from Mosel." <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1843/01/15.htm>

Recommended:

- Sayer, Derek. "Ch 4: Without Regard for Persons." In *Capitalism and Modernity: An Excursus on Marx and Weber*. London: Routledge. Pp 134-155.
- Marx, Karl. 1978. "Critique of the Gotha Program." In *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Pp. 525-541.
- Poulantzas, Nicos. 1978. "Introduction." In *State, Power, Socialism*. Verso. pp. 11-46.
- Brown, Wendy. 2006. "Finding the Man in the State." In *The Anthropology of the State Reader*. Malden: Blackwell. Pp 187-210.
- Kiser, Edgar and Justin Baer. "The Bureaucratization of States: Towards an Analytical Weberianism." In *Remaking Modernity: Politics, History, and Sociology*. Durham: Duke University Press. pp 225-246.
- Orloff, AO. "Social Provisions and Regulation: Theories of States, Social Policies, and Modernity." In *Remaking Modernity: Politics, History, and Sociology*. Durham: Duke University Press. pp 190-224.
- Skocpol, Theda. 1985. "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research." In *Bringing the State Back In*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 3-37.

Final Paper Topics Distributed

Week 13: tbd: *Modernity and its Affects*

- Durkheim, Emile. 1951. "Anomic Suicide." *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. Free Press. pp. 241-276.
- Marx, Karl. 1978. "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844." In Tucker. pp. 66-81.
- Simmel, Georg. 2002. "The Stranger" and "Metropolis and Mental Life." In *On Individuality and Social Forms*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp 143-149 and 324-339

- Lehmann, Jennifer. 1995. "Durkheim's Theories of Deviance and Suicide: A Feminist Reconsideration." *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 100, No. 4. pp. 904-930.