

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
ORIGINS OF SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT

77.333

Section L01 (Slot 5) 10:00-11:30 Tue. & Thurs.

Room 403 Tier

September 2001

Instructor: Professor C. Axelrod

Office: 301-D Isbister

Hours: After class and by appointment

Phone: 474-8458

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

Sociology began as an academic discipline of its own, separate from social philosophy as well as from the new science of psychology, in the middle of the 19th century. It grew out of a long tradition of thinking in social philosophy that spanned many centuries. In this course we will examine the work of various philosophers whose writing preceded the development of the modern discipline of sociology, but whose work can be said to have had significance in that development.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

I. Plato, Great Dialogues of Plato, Mentor Publishing Co.

II. Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit, Oxford.

III. J.-J. Rousseau, The Social Contract, Penguin.

IV. Machiavelli, The Prince, Mentor.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

The course is divided into three segments. The first consists of lectures on Plato. These will take four weeks. The second consists of lectures on Hegel which will occupy us for the next five weeks. The remainder of the course will consist of lectures on Rousseau and Machiavelli.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. An essay test on Plato written in class on Thursday, October 4th worth 30% of the final grade.
2. An essay test on Hegel written in class on Thursday, November 9th worth 33% of the final grade.
3. An essay on Rousseau, of approximately 800 words, due Tuesday, November 27th worth 22% of the final grade.
4. An essay test on Machiavelli written in class on Thursday, November 29th, worth 15% of the final grade.

GRADING SCALE:

I find the normal grading system too constraining, so I have modified it to a limited extent by introducing the minus grade (e.g. A-, B-, C-). In the final grade submitted, however, I must conform to the university scheme.

Your answers are being evaluated on a letter grade system, not on a point system which is converted to a letter grade. The main benchmarks for the grade ranges can be described as follows:

D/F= an answer which is factually weak, faulty analysis, and very poor organization.

C= an answer which is mostly complete in terms of facts but suffers from poor analysis, organization and integration. Knowing the facts is a good start, but only a beginning.

B= answer is factually accurate and mostly complete as well as organized and integrated.

A= answer factually complete, well organized, sophisticated analysis which demonstrates a good degree of comprehension.

No make-up tests or late assignments except for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness as attested by a medical certificate)

NOTE: Students are advised to acquaint themselves with the University policy of plagiarism, cheating and exam impersonation, as outlined in the General Calendar for the University of Manitoba.

