

*The University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology*

*Sociology 077.222 – “Classic Sociological Theory”  
Winter Term 2004, Section L01, 3 Credit Hours*

**Instructor:** Chris Powell  
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**Office Hours:** Posted on instructor’s door, and by special appointment  
**Meeting Location:** 202 Isbister  
**Meeting Times:** 9:30 to 10:20 a.m.  
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

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*Course Summary*

This course examines classic questions and problems in sociological thinking through an in-depth examination of three major social theorists: Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim. Although these three thinkers represent only part of the ‘classic’ sociological tradition, their works have been the most influential in defining the kinds of problems that sociologists investigate, the types of questions we ask, the assumptions we make, the concepts we use, and the explanations that we propose. This course therefore gives students a background in the long-established lines of agreement and disagreement that underlie current debates in sociology. In addition to acquiring a familiarity with these specific theorists, students will enhance their ability to read and to write in the ‘genre’ of social theory. Theoretical writing often seems difficult and inaccessible, but through this course students will develop skills to read more easily, gain a better understanding of what they read, and express their understanding in their own writing.

*Course Objectives*

This course is designed to be intellectually stimulating and academically challenging. It aims to provide the student with the opportunity:

- a) to engage with key primary texts in classic social theory;
- b) to gain exposure to important analytic concepts, themes and ideas that have informed sociological research;
- c) to cultivate analytical skills for assessing the strengths and limitations of these various concepts; and
- d) to further develop reading, writing, and verbal skills.

### ***Required Textbooks***

- 077.222 Coursepack. (available at the University bookstore)

### ***Format and Assessment***

#### **A. Lectures**

There are three 50-minute classroom sessions each regular week of classes. As a rule, two of those sessions will involve lectures and one will focus on student group work. Lectures will cover a range of topics including biographical and historical information that provides a background to the assigned readings, as well as in-depth analysis of important elements of the theoretical perspectives being studied.

Students are encouraged to make the lectures interactive by asking questions and offering their own insights or interpretations regarding the course material.

#### **B. Assessment**

Formal evaluation for this course is organized in the following manner:

##### **1. Attendance – 5% of final grade**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. The attendance grade is calculated as a simple percentage of classes attended by the student; however, students may miss up to two classes without penalty. Additional absences require a doctor's note, or equivalent documentation at the discretion of the instructor.

##### **2. Class Participation – 10 % of final grade**

One classroom session each week will be devoted to group work by students. For the first part of the session students will form into small groups and work on discussion questions, assigned by the instructor, that address specific aspects of the readings. Halfway through the session the class will re-form as a whole and go over the results of this group work, so as to work through key concepts from the texts in some detail. Students may miss one group work session without penalty; additional absences will require a doctor's note, or equivalent documentation at the discretion of the instructor.

##### **3. Take-Home Written Assignments**

The largest part of the evaluation for this course consists of three written take-home assignments. The instructor will distribute a short list of possible questions to the students, and each student will pick one of these questions and work independently to write a short essay (5 to 6 pages) that answers that question. Students may collaborate on the preparation of these assignments but must write their own papers.

The assignments are scheduled as follows:

- **Assignment #1 (Marx)** Distributed: Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>  
Due: Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Value: 25% of final grade
- **Assignment #2 (Weber)** Distributed: Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Due: Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
Value: 30% of final grade
- **Assignment #3 (Durkheim)** Distributed: Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
Due: Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>  
Value: 30% of final grade

### C. Late Penalty

Please be advised that a late penalty of 3% on the first day, and 2% on each day thereafter, including days on weekends, will be applied to all papers that are handed in after the specified deadlines. Medical documentation will be required in order to waive this penalty.

**Please note:** assignments delivered by email or in other electronic format will not be accepted; nor will they be counted for deadline purposes. *You must submit a paper copy!*

Note also that if for any reason you know in advance of a deadline that your paper will be late, *please contact me immediately*. In some cases, entirely at my discretion as instructor, it may be possible to arrange an extension, but only if you contact me in advance.

### D. Grading Scheme

Generally speaking, the following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used.

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	90-100%	4.5	Exceptional
A	80-89%	4.0	Excellent
B+	75-79%	3.5	Very Good
B	70-74%	3.0	Good
C+	65-69%	2.5	Satisfactory
C	60-64%	2.0	Adequate
D	50-59%	1.0	Marginal
F	49% or less	0	Failure

### E. Final Drop Date

Although I hope that no one will want to drop out of this course, please be advised that the last day for voluntary withdrawal from second term courses is March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004. You will have received the grades for the first assignment by that date.

## **F. Special Needs**

Students with special learning needs who may require special accommodation with respect to the course assessment should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term so that suitable accommodation may be arranged.

## **G. Religious Holidays**

The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith which fall within the academic year. If you will have to miss any classes or will require an extension for an assignment due to a religious holiday, *please notify the instructor* at the beginning of the term or at least three weeks in advance of the relevant date.

### *Academic Integrity*

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, with grave consequences. Students should acquaint themselves with the University of Manitoba's policy on 'Examinations: Personations' (p.28) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (p.29) found in the *Undergraduate Calendar*.

Penalties for plagiarism and academic dishonesty are severe. The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test or examination is "F" on the paper and "F" for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in the Faculty. The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

## **Avoiding Plagiarism**

Plagiarism can be defined as passing off someone else's work as your own. Plagiarism involves taking another person's words (written or spoken), ideas, theories, facts (that are not considered general knowledge), statistics, art work, etc. and presenting them as your own. Simply changing the wording of the information you are using still constitutes plagiarism if you do not acknowledge your source.

It is acceptable, and usually necessary, to present other people's ideas in your work. However, to avoid plagiarizing, you must cite your sources diligently. You should provide an in-text citation in each of the following cases:

- all direct quotations of other authors
- close paraphrases of statements by other authors
- important ideas or points taken from another author's work

If you copy the exact words of another author you must place these words in quotation marks and provide their source. But note that you do not have to quote someone directly in order to cite them! Your papers should be littered with citations even if they do not contain a single direct quotation.

### ***Guidelines for Written Work***

1. All written work is to be typed in 12-point or Times New Roman or equivalent font. Please do not use sans serif fonts such as Helvetica or Arial; these fonts are for titles and headings only.
2. Your work should have one inch margins and be double-spaced.
3. Each assignment should have a title page that includes your name, student number, my name, and the number of the course. No binders or assignment covers please.
4. Please use in-text citations, e.g. (Weber 1978: 83) to cite your work. Each assignment should include a bibliography that lists your references alphabetically by author. Full bibliographic information should still be provided for sources in the course pack. Your bibliography should follow this format or something similar:

Gleick, James, 1987. *Chaos: Making A New Science*. New York: Penguin Books.

Law, John, 1992. *Notes on the theory of the Actor Network: Ordering, Strategy and heterogeneity*. Website: <http://www.comp.lancs.ac.uk/sociology/soc054jl.html>. Last updated: 16 June 2001. Last accessed: 13 March 2003.

Rip, Arie, 1986. "Mobilising Resources Through Texts." pp. 84-99 in *Mapping the Dynamics of Science and Technology: Sociology of Science in the Real World*, edited by M. Callon, J. Law, and A. Rip. London: MacMillan Press.

Ward, Steven, 1996. "Filling the world with Self-Esteem: A Social History of Truth-Making." *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, v.21(1), pp. 1-23.

5. Please use gender-inclusive language in your written assignments, even if your sources do not. For tips on gender-inclusive language, see my web page at:

<http://www.carleton.ca/~cjpowel/writingtips.htm>

However, please note that when quoting directly from other authors, you should not 'correct' their language to make it gender-inclusive.

6. The maximum lengths indicated for each assignment do not include the title page or the bibliography.
7. Please retain a clean hard copy of each assignment that you submit. The instructor will not be responsible for misplaced assignments.

### *Student Support Services*

The University of Manitoba provides a number of support services to students that can help you to write your term papers, develop your study skills, or get through a stressful situation. Many of these services are described online at:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>

If you're not already familiar with these services, I encourage you to spend some time getting to know about them; they can help you to improve your academic performance and to get the most out of your time at university. Some key resources include:

- **Student Counselling and Career Centre**  
474 University Centre  
(204) 474-8592  
<http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/counseling>
- **Disability Services**  
155 University Centre  
(204) 474-6213/TTY: 204 474-9790/Fax: 204 261-7732  
Email: [disability\\_services@umanitoba.ca](mailto:disability_services@umanitoba.ca)  
[http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/disability\\_services/index.shtml](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/disability_services/index.shtml)
- **Learning Assistance Centre**  
520 University Centre  
(204) 474-9251  
<http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/learning>

**077.222 SOCIOLOGICAL THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS, WINTER 2004**  
**READING SCHEDULE**

<b>PART I: MARX</b>
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**WEEK ONE, JANUARY 5-9.....HISTORICAL MATERIALISM**

- Marx, Karl (1988) "The Materialist Conception of History" in David McLellan (ed.) *Marxism: Essential Writings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 2-20.  
 Engels, Friedrich (1988) "Socialism: Utopian and Scientific" in David McLellan (ed.) *Marxism: Essential Writings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 62-69.

**WEEK TWO, JANUARY 12-16.....PRODUCTION**

- Marx, Karl (2000) "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts" in David McLellan (ed.) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 83-95.  
 Marx, Karl (2000) "Wage-Labour and Capital" in David McLellan (ed.) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 273-293.

**WEEK THREE, JANUARY 19-23.....EXPLOITATION**

- Marx, Karl (2000) "Commodities: Use-Value and Exchange Value" in David McLellan (ed.) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 458-472.  
 Marx, Karl, (2000) "The Fetishism of Commodities" in David McLellan (ed.) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 472-480.  
 Marx, Karl (2000) "Exchange and Money" in David McLellan (ed.) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 481-482.  
 Marx, Karl (2000) "The General Formula for Capital" in David McLellan (ed.) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 482-488.  
 Marx, Karl (2000) "The Sale of Labour-Power" in David McLellan (ed.) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 488-492.  
 Marx, Karl (2000) "The Production of Surplus Value" in David McLellan (ed.) *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 492-508.

**WEEK FOUR, JANUARY 26-30.....REVOLUTION**

- Marx, Karl (1988) "The Communist Manifesto" in David McLellan (ed.) *Marxism: Essential Writings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 20-49.  
 Engels, Friedrich (1988) "The Materialist Conception of History" in David McLellan (ed.) *Marxism: Essential Writings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 69-71.  
 Engels, Friedrich (1988) "Revolution: Peaceful or Violent" in David McLellan (ed.) *Marxism: Essential Writings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 71-75.

<b>PART II: WEBER</b>
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**WEEK FIVE, FEBRUARY 2-6.....VERSTEHEN**

- Weber, Max (1978) Sections 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 16 from “Chapter 1: Basic Sociological Terms” in *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, Volume I, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 4-28, 31-33, 36-38, and 53-54.
- Weber, Max (1978) “Status Groups and Classes” in *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, Volume I, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 302-307.

**WEEK SIX, FEBRUARY 9-13 .....CHARISMA**

- Weber, Max (1978) “The Nature and Origin of Patriarchal Domination” in *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, Volume II, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1006-1008.
- Weber, Max (1978) “Charisma and Its Transformation” in *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, Volume II, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1111-1148.

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***Reading Week, February 16-20.....No classes***

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**WEEK SEVEN, FEBRUARY 23-27 .....BUREAUCRACY**

- Weber, Max (1978) “Charisma and Its Transformation” (cont’d) in *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, Volume II, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 1148-1157.
- Weber, Max (1978) “Bureaucracy” in *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, Volume II, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 956-1005.

**WEEK EIGHT, MARCH 2-6 .....RELIGION**

- Weber, Max (1978) “The Religion of Non-Privileged Strata” in *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, Volume I, Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 481-500.
- Weber, Max (1978) “Protestant Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism” in W. G. Runciman (ed.), *Max Weber: Selections in Translation*, Eric Matthews (trans.), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 138-173.



<b>PART III: DURKHEIM</b>
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**WEEK NINE, MARCH 9-13 .....SOCIAL FACTS**

Durkheim, Emile (1982) "What is a Social Fact?" in Steven Lukes, ed. and trans., *Durkheim: The Rules of Sociological Method and Selected Texts on Sociology and its Method*, New York: The Free Press, pp. 50-59.

Durkheim, Emile (1982) "Rules for the Observation of Social Facts" in Steven Lukes, ed. and trans., *Durkheim: The Rules of Sociological Method and Selected Texts on Sociology and its Method*, New York: The Free Press, pp. 60-84.

**WEEK TEN, MARCH 16-20.....MECHANICAL AND ORGANIC SOLIDARITY**

Durkheim, Emile (1964) "The Method for Determining This Function" in *The Division of Labour in Society*, George Simpson trans., New York: The Free Press, pp. 49-69.

Durkheim, Emile (1964) "Organic Solidarity" [excerpt] in *The Division of Labour in Society*, George Simpson trans., New York: The Free Press, pp. 129-132.

Durkheim, Emile (1964) "Conclusion" in *The Division of Labour in Society*, George Simpson trans., New York: The Free Press, pp. 396-409.

**WEEK ELEVEN, MARCH 23-27 .....MORAL EDUCATION**

Durkheim, Emile (1973) "The First Element of Morality" in *Moral Education: A Study in the Theory and Application of the Sociology of Education*, Everett K. Wilson and Herman Schnurer, trans., New York: The Free Press, pp. 17-32.

Durkheim, Emile (1973) "The Spirit of Discipline (Continued)" in *Moral Education: A Study in the Theory and Application of the Sociology of Education*, Everett K. Wilson and Herman Schnurer, trans., New York: The Free Press, pp. 33-46.

Durkheim, Emile (1973) "The Spirit of Discipline (Concluded); and the Second Element of Morality: Attachment to Social Groups" in *Moral Education: A Study in the Theory and Application of the Sociology of Education*, Everett K. Wilson and Herman Schnurer, trans., New York: The Free Press, pp. 47-63.

**WEEK TWELVE, MARCH 30-APRIL 3 .....PROFESSIONAL ETHICS**

Durkheim, Emile (1958) "Professional Ethics" in *Professional Ethics and Civic Morals*, Cornelia Brookfield trans., Gencoe, IL: The Free Press, pp. 1-13.

Durkheim, Emile (1958) "Civic Morals" Chapters IV and V, in *Professional Ethics and Civic Morals*, Cornelia Brookfield trans., Gencoe, IL: The Free Press, pp. 42-64.

Durkheim, Emile (1992) "Civic Morals" in *Professional Ethics and Civic Morals*, Cornelia Brookfield trans., London: Routledge, pp. 65-97.

**WEEK THIRTEEN, APRIL 6-8 .....REVIEW**

No Readings.