

Sociology 611 (Fall 2013)

Classical Sociological Theory

Seio Nakajima

Tuesday 4:30-7:00 p.m., BUSAD D102

Office hours: Tuesday, 12-1 p.m. or by appointment
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Course Description:

This seminar has three major goals: (1) To familiarize students with the main themes, key questions, and central arguments developed in classical sociological theory by reading and discussing texts written by major classical sociological thinkers (e.g., Marx, Weber, Durkheim) (mastering of theory). (2) To consider how (even the seemingly abstract) classical sociological theories both inform and draw from real-world empirical phenomena (e.g., Weber's *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* is, first and foremost, a very detailed archival work of empirical investigation; Durkheim's *Suicide* is full of empirical statistical data) (mastering of application of theory to empirical research). (3) To prepare a short research proposal as a final paper on a subject of the student's choosing by explicitly engaging with one or more classical sociological theorists we discuss in class (mastering of theoretically-informed methods and research design).

Notes:

- We do discuss “theory,” but the emphasis is “putting classical sociological theories to work” in concrete, empirical research settings. We will not talk theories in the abstract, but always deal with “theories in action.” Roughly 50% of time and effort will be spent for achieving goal (1) above, 30% for goal (2), and 20% for goal (3). Goal (3) will be achieved by writing a final paper that utilizes classical sociological theory in your own topic of interest.
- As the course title indicates, this seminar is a course on “classical sociological theory.” However, except for the already well-accepted “canons” of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and perhaps Simmel, what to include in “classical sociological theory” varies. In selecting the readings in this course, I tried my best to find the greatest common denominator among different possibilities. In addition, I selected the readings in relation to another theory course offered in our department focusing on “contemporary sociological theory” (SOC 612), and tried to avoid overlaps between the two courses. For example, I could have assigned Irving Goffman in the course on contemporary sociological theory, but since SOC 612 focuses on more recent theorists other than Goffman, I decided to include him in this seminar.
- This syllabus roughly follows the structure of the textbook *Classical Sociological Theory*, Third Edition, edited by Calhoun, et al.
- Students should be aware that this is an extremely reading and discussion-intensive course. Seminar participants are expected to attend every session and

be prepared for every class.

- In addition to the three major goals above, whenever appropriate, we will discuss miscellaneous technical “know-hows” of doing academic research. E.g., how to find relevant academic literature, use of citation software for organizing references, etc. What to discuss each semester largely depends on the needs and interests of the students taking the course.
- This is a required course for sociology graduate students, but I understand students may come from diverse disciplinary background, so I do *not* expect all participants to have graduate-level knowledge in sociological theory and methods. I will provide “mini-lectures” on sociology (and other topics) whenever necessary so every student has an equal opportunity to learn from and enjoy this seminar!

Required Texts:

- Calhoun, Craig, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk, eds. 2012. *Classical Sociological Theory*, Third Edition. Wiley-Blackwell. **[This textbook is not ordered through UH Bookstore. Please purchase the book yourself.** Indicated as *CST* in this syllabus.]
- The readings marked with * are available at Laulima. The readings marked with @ are available at UH Library Electronic Resources or publicly available on the Internet.

Course Requirements: [Total = 100%]

- 1) Active participation in seminar discussions. [20%]
Remember the aphorism: “Even to have expressed a false thought boldly and clearly is already to have gained a great deal.” (Ludwig Wittgenstein). So, don’t be shy and speak up!
- 2) Three short analytic papers on Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. [60% = 20% x 3]
6 double-spaced pages. More detailed instructions TBA.
- 3) Final paper (a short research proposal). [20%]
9 double-spaced pages. A short research proposal on a topic of student’s own choosing in consultation with the instructor, explicitly engaging with one or more theorists we discuss in class. I want you to come up with research questions that derive from the theories we learn, and briefly specify how you would go about collecting and analyzing empirical data. More detailed instructions TBA.

Class Schedule

Week 1: August 27: Introduction

No required reading. Get acquainted.

Week 2: September 3: Why Is Classical Theory Classical?

@Connell, R. W. 1997. "Why Is Classical Theory Classical?." *American Journal of Sociology* 102: 1511-1557.
"Introduction." Pp. 1-17 in *CST*.

[Approx. total reading pages: 64 pages]

Week 3: September 10: Precursors to Sociological Theory: Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), Adam Smith (1723-1790)

"Introduction to Part I." Pp. 21-29 in *CST*.

Hobbes, Thomas. "Of the Natural Condition and the Commonwealth" [1651] (from *Leviathan*). Pp. 30-37 in *CST*.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. "Of the Social Contract" [1762] (from *The Social Contract*). Pp. 38-49 in *CST*.

Kant, Immanuel. "What is Enlightenment?" [1784] (from *Immanuel Kant, The Philosophy of Kant*). Pp. 50-54 in *CST*.

Smith, Adam. "The Wealth of Nations" [1776] (from *The Wealth of Nations*). Pp. 55-66 in *CST*.

Smith, Adam. "The Theory of Moral Sentiments" [1759] (from *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*). Pp. 67-81 in *CST*.

[61 pages]

Week 4: September 17: The Sociological Theory of Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)

"Introduction to Part II." Pp. 85-93 in *CST*.

Tocqueville, Alexis de. "The Old Régime and the French Revolution" [1856] (from *The Old Régime and the French Revolution*). Pp. 94-102 in *CST*.

Tocqueville, Alexis de. "Influence of Democracy on the Feeling of the American" [1840] (from *Democracy in America*). Pp. 103-121 in *CST*.

Tocqueville, Alexis de. "Tyranny of the Majority" [1840] (from *Democracy in America*). Pp. 122-132 in *CST*.

[48 pages]

Week 5: September 24: The Sociological Theory of Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) I

*Ritzer, George. 2010. "Marx." Pp. 150-182 in Ritzer, George. 2010. *Classical Sociological Theory*, Sixth Edition. McGraw-Hill.

“Introduction to Part III.” Pp. 135-141 in *CST*.
Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. “The German Ideology” [1845] (from *The German Ideology, Part One*). Pp. 141-145 in *CST*.

[44 pages]

Week 6: October 1: The Sociological Theory of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels II

Marx, Karl. “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” [1844] (from *Collected Works, Volume 3*). Pp. 146-155 in *CST*.
Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. “Manifesto of the Communist Party” [1848] (from *Collected Works, Volume 6*). Pp. 156-171 in *CST*.
Marx, Karl. “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte” [1852] (from *Collected Works, Volume 11*). Pp. 172-181 in *CST*.
Marx, Karl. “Wage-Labor and Capital” [1847] (from *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*). Pp. 182-189 in *CST*.
Marx, Karl. “Classes” [1867] (from *Collected Works, Volume 37*). Pp. 190-191 in *CST*.

[46 pages]

Week 7: October 8: The Sociological Theory of Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) I

FIRST ANALYTIC PAPER (MARX) DUE AT LAULIMA DROP BOX BY 11:59 P.M.

*Ritzer, George. 2010. “Durkheim.” Pp. 183-216 in Ritzer, George. 2010. *Classical Sociological Theory*, Sixth Edition. McGraw-Hill.
“Introduction to Part IV.” Pp. 195-200 in *CST*.
Durkheim, Emile. “The Rules of Sociological Method” [1895] (from *The Rules of Sociological Method*). Pp. 201-219 in *CST*.

[59 pages]

Week 8: October 15: The Sociological Theory of Emile Durkheim II

Durkheim, Emile. “The Division of Labor in Society” [1893] (from *The Division of Labor in Society*). Pp. 220-242 in *CST*.
Durkheim, Emile. “The Elementary Forms of Religious Life” [1912] (from *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*). Pp. 243-254 in *CST*.
Durkheim, Emile. “Suicide” [1897] (from *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*). Pp. 255-264 in *CST*.

[45 pages]

Week 9: October 22: The Sociological Theory of Max Weber (1864-1920) I

- *Ritzer, George. 2010. "Weber." Pp. 217-262 in Ritzer, George. 2010. *Classical Sociological Theory*, Sixth Edition. McGraw-Hill.
"Introduction to Part V." Pp. 267-272 in *CST*.
Weber, Max. "'Objectivity' in Social Science" (from *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*). Pp. 273-279 [1904] in *CST*.

[59 pages]

Week 10: October 29: The Sociological Theory of Max Weber II

- Weber, Max. "Basic Sociological Terms" [1914] (from *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*). Pp. 280-290 in *CST*.
Weber, Max. "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" [1930/1904-1905] (from *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism With Other Writings on the Rise of the West*). Pp. 291-309 in *CST*.
Weber, Max. "The Distribution of Power within the Political Community: Class, Status, and Party" [1914] (from *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*). Pp. 310-319 in *CST*.
Weber, Max. "Types of Legitimate Domination" [1914] (from *The Theory of Social and Economic Organization*). Pp. 320-327 in *CST*.
Weber, Max. "Bureaucracy" [1922] (from *Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*). Pp. 328-338 in *CST*.

[59 pages]

Week 11: November 5: Self and Society in Sociological Theory: George Herbert Mead (1863-1931), Georg Simmel (1858-1918), Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), W. E. B. Du Bois (1868-1963), William I. Thomas (1863-1947)**SECOND ANALYTIC PAPER (DURKHEIM) DUE AT LAULIMA DROP BOX BY 11:59 P.M.**

- "Introduction to Part VI." Pp. 341-346 in *CST*.
Mead, George Herbert. "The Self" [1934] (from *Mind, Self and Society: From the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist*). Pp. 347-360 in *CST*.
Simmel, Georg. "The Stranger" [1908] (from *Georg Simmel: On Individuality and Social Forms*). Pp. 361-365 in *CST*.
Simmel, Georg. "Group Expansion and the Development of Individuality" [1908] (*Georg Simmel: On Individuality and Social Forms*). Pp. 366-381 in *CST*.
Simmel, Georg. "The Dyad and the Triad" [1908] (from *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*). Pp. 382-395 in *CST*.
Freud, Sigmund. "Civilization and its Discontents" [1929] (from *Civilization and its*

- Discontents*). Pp. 396-403 in *CST*.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. "The Souls of Black Folk" [1903] (from *The Souls of Black Folk*). Pp. 404-409 in *CST*.
- Thomas, William I. "The Regulation of the Wishes" [1931] (from *The Unadjusted Girl*). Pp. 410-418 in *CST*.

[78 pages]

Week 12: November 12: Micro-Sociological Analysis: Alfred Schutz (1899-1959), Erving Goffman (1922-1982), Peter L. Berger (b. 1929), Thomas Luckman (b. 1927), Herbert Blumer (1900-1987)

- *"Introduction to Part I." Pp. 27-34 in *CST*.
- *Schutz, Alfred. "The Phenomenology of the Social World" [1932] (from *The Phenomenology of the Social World*). Pp. 35-45 in Calhoun, Craig, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk, eds. 2012. *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, Third Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.
- *Berger, Peter L., and Thomas Luckmann. [1966] "The Social Construction of Reality" (from *The Social Construction of Reality*). Pp. 42-50 in Calhoun, Craig, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk, eds. 2002. *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, First Edition. Blackwell Publishing.
- *Goffman, Erving. "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life" [1959] (from *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*). Pp. 46-61 in Calhoun, Craig, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk, eds. 2012. *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, Third Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.
- *Blumer, Herbert. "Symbolic Interactionism" [1969] (from *Symbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method*). Pp. 62-74 in Calhoun, Craig, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk, eds. 2012. *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, Third Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

[57 pages]

Week 13: November 19: A Rediscovered Classic?: Gabriel Tarde (1843-1904)

- *Tarde, Gabriel. "The Nature and Scope of Sociology" [1898]. Pp. 73-142 in Terry N. Clark, ed. 1969. *Gabriel Tarde on Communication and Social Influence: Selected Papers*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- @Katz, Elihu. 2008. "Rediscovering Gabriel Tarde." *Annenberg School for Communication, Departmental Papers*: 1-9 (available at: http://repository.upenn.edu/asc_papers/270/)
- @Latour, Bruno. 2008. "The Tarde Durkheim Debate" (watch video and read the script) (available at: <http://www.bruno-latour.fr/node/434>). Pp. 1-12.

[90 pages]

Week 14: November 26: Critical Theory and the Sociology of Knowledge: Max Horkheimer (1895-1973), Walter Benjamin (1892-1940), Theodor W. Adorno (1903-1969), Herbert Marcuse (1898-1979)

“Introduction to Part VII.” Pp. 421-424 in *CST*.

Horkheimer, Max. “Traditional and Critical Theory” [1937] (from *Critical Theory: Selected Essays*). Pp. 425-440 in *CST*.

Benjamin, Walter. “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” [1936] (from *Illuminations*). Pp. 441-464 in *CST*.

Horkheimer, Max, and Theodor W. Adorno. “The Culture Industry” [1944] (from *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*). Pp. 465-477 in *CST*.

Mercuse, Herbert. “One-Dimensional Man” [1964] (from *One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society*). Pp. 478-486 in *CST*.

[66 pages]

Week 15: December 3: Structural Functional Analysis: Talcott Parsons (1902-1979), Robert K. Merton (1910-2003)

THIRD ANALYTIC PAPER (WEBER) DUE AT LAULIMA DROP BOX BY 11:59 P.M.

“Introduction to Part III.” Pp. 489-494 in *CST*.

Parsons, Talcott. “The Position of Sociological Theory” [1948] (from *The Position of Sociological Theory*). Pp. 495-501 in *CST*.

Parsons, Talcott. “An Outline of the Social System” [1961] (from *Theories of Society*). Pp. 502-522 in *CST*.

Merton, Robert K. “Manifest and Latent Functions” [1957] (from *Social Theory and Social Structure*). Pp. 523-530 in *CST*.

Merton, Robert K. “On Sociological Theories of the Middle Range” [1949] (from *Social Theory and Social Structure*). Pp. 531-542 in *CST*.

[54 pages]

Week 16: December 10: Other Classics: Jane Addams (1860-1935), William James (1842-1910), Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935), Anna Julia Cooper (1858-1964), Aime Cesaire (1913-2008), Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), C. Wright Mills (1916-1962), Students for a Democratic Society (1960s), Betty Friedan (1921-2006), Frantz Fanon (1925-1961)

*Addams, Jane. “The Settlement as a Factor in the Labor Movement” [1895]. Pp. 54-56 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.

*Dewey, John. “Democracy and Education” [1916]. Pp. 120-121 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth

- Edition. Westview Press.
- *James, William. "The Self and Its Selves" [1890]. Pp. 122-126 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wallpaper" [1892]. Pp. 130-131 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "Women and Economics" [1898]. Pp. 132-134 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *Cooper, Anna Julia. "The Colored Woman's Office" [1892]. Pp. 134-139 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *de Beauvoir, Simone de. "Woman as Other" [1949]. Pp. 259-261 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *Césaire, Aimé. "Between Colonizers and Colonized" [1955]. Pp. 261-263 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *King, Jr., Martin Luther. "The Power of Nonviolent Action" [1958]. Pp. 264-266 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *Mills, C. Wright. "The Sociological Imagination" [1959]. Pp. 266-269 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *Students for a Democratic Society. "Participatory Democracy (from *The Port Huron Statement*)" [1962]. Pp. 269-271 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *Friedan, Betty. "The Problem That Has No Name" [1963]. Pp. 271-273 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.
 - *Fanon, Frantz. "Decolonizing, National Culture, and the Negro Intellectual" [1961]. Pp. 273-276 in Lemert, Charles, ed. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*, Fifth Edition. Westview Press.

[43 pages]

Exam Week: December 17

FINAL PAPER DUE AT LAULIMA DROP BOX BY 11:59 P.M.

Academic Honesty: “Acts of dishonesty, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.
- b. Furnishing false information to any UH official, faculty member, or office.
- c. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any UH document, record, or form of identification.

The term ‘cheating’ includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the UH faculty, staff or student (4) engaging in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.

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[E7.208 UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEMWIDE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE, July 2009]

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