**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**

**Sociology 3150-081**

**Classical Social Theory**

**Fall 2022**

**Instructor: Prof. J. Scott Kenney Office:A-4049C**

**E-Mail:skenney@mun.ca Office Hours: Wednesdays**

**9:00-11:00 AM**

**Class time: Asynchronous online lectures**

**(Delivered Remotely via D2L)**

**Website:** **http://jscottkenney.yolasite.com/**

**1. INTRODUCTION:**

This class is an introduction to classical social theory. It focuses on the works of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber - the so-called “founding fathers” of sociology. The course is designed to give sociology majors a good grounding in the classic paradigms of their discipline. More importantly, however, it seeks to show how theory works in sociology. By the end of the course, students should be able to see the presuppositions on which these social theories are based and appreciate the consequences of using one or another of them to analyze social life.

Prerequisite: SOC 1000

**2. TEXTS:**

Giddens, Anthony. 1972. Capitalism and Modern Social Theory (Cambridge University Press).

McIntosh, Ian. 1997. Classical Social Theory: A Reader (**On Reserve at the QEII Library**).

3. **INSTRUCTION:**

**Video lectures will be uploaded to D2L by approximately 11:00 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings** and be available to view shortly afterwards. A reminder will be sent early those mornings inviting you to attend if possible. Otherwise, they will be available asynchronously for you to view any time at your convenience.

**4. GRADING:**

Assignment #1 (Marx) 30%

Assignment #2 (Durkheim) 30%

Assignment #3 (Weber) 40%

Three (3) essay assignments will be administered during the term - one each on Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber. In each, you will be required to write an essay based on the material presented in class and in the readings. These assignments will consist of a choice of essay questions where you must clearly demonstrate your understanding of both the material covered in class and your own additional research on select aspects of the theories in question. The questions will be of an *analytical nature.* For example, you may be asked to discuss/analyse a passage from the theorist’s original writings, or to apply some aspect of their theory to a modern composition or case.

**A list of questions will be distributed electronically a week before the first two assignments are due. The Weber assignment will be distributed on November 3 and Due on December 1. Your essay topics must be chosen from these circulated lists. All essay assignments are to be completed in MS Word format and forwarded electronically to the instructor by the due dates specified below.**

**LATE AND MISSED ASSIGNMENTS:**

* A student is, at times, prevented from completing a part of the evaluation by illness or medical conditions of less than five calendar days’ duration. In such cases, a student may apply for an alternate evaluation by declaring to me that he or she has experienced such an illness or medical condition. This declaration should be made via telephone or in writing through the student’s @mun.ca e-mail account. This declaration should be made in advance of the original date on which an in-class part of the evaluation is to be held or a take-home part of the evaluation is due, wherever possible, but no later than 48 hours after the original date of the part of the evaluation. If the declaration is made by telephone, written confirmation must then be received by the relevant instructor within seven calendar days of the original date of the part of the evaluation.
* A student who is prevented from completing a part of the evaluation by illness of at least five calendar days’ duration, bereavement or other acceptable cause, duly authenticated in writing, may apply for an alternate evaluation. This application should be made in advance of the original date on which an in-class part of the evaluation is to be held or a take-home part of the evaluation is due, wherever possible, but no later than 48 hours after the original date of the part of the evaluation. If application is made by telephone, written confirmation must then be received by the head of the appropriate academic unit within seven calendar days of the original date of the part of the evaluation. The following supporting documentation is required:
  + For illness or medical conditions, medical documentation from a health professional is required. Students should provide the health professional with a copy of the Student Medical Certificate: www.mun.ca/regoff/STUDENT\_MEDICAL\_CERTIFICATE.pdf
  + For bereavement or other acceptable cause, official documents or letters that support the reason for the request (e.g. death certificate, letter from employer, etc.) are required.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

I am committed to facilitating and promoting an accessible, inclusive, and mutually respectful learning environment based on the principles of equity, accessibility, and collaboration. Accommodations are provided within the scope of the University Policies for the Accommodation for Students with Disabilities ([www.mun.ca/policy.php?id=323](http://www.mun.ca/policy.php?id=323)). Students who may need an academic accommodation are asked to initiate the request with the Glenn Roy Blundon Centre (www.mun.ca/blundon) at the earliest opportunity. University policies and procedures pertaining to accommodations for students with disabilities can be found at [www.mun.ca/policy/site/policy.php?id=239](http://www.mun.ca/policy/site/policy.php?id=239)”

**ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM:**

Students are expected to adhere to those principles which constitute proper academic conduct. A student has the responsibility to know which actions, as described under Academic Offenses in the University Regulations, could be construed as dishonest or improper. Students found guilty of an academic offense may be subject to a number of penalties commensurate with the offense including reprimand, reduction of grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the university. For more information regarding this policy, students should refer to the University Regulations for Academic Misconduct (Section 6.12) in the University Calendar.

In particular, I want to draw attention to section 6.12.4: “Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas or works of another as one’s own. This applies to all material such as essays, laboratory assignments, laboratory reports, work term reports, design projects, seminar presentations, statistical data, computer programs, research results, and theses. The properly acknowledged use of resources is an accepted and important part of scholarship. Use of such material without acknowledgement is contrary to accepted norms of academic behavior. Information regarding acceptable writing practices is available through the Writing Centre at www.mun.ca/writingcentre.

**COURSE SCHEDULE (Dates and topics are provisional).**

**Sept 6: Orientation/Introduction**

**Sept 8-13: Why Classical Sociological Theory? Historical / Social Context**

*Readings:* Giddens, Part 1, Chapter 1, pp. 10-16;

Marx from the *Paris Manuscripts*, McIntosh, pp. 15-23

**Sept 15-20: MARX I: Historical Materialism**

*Readings:* Giddens, Part 1, Chapter 2, pp. 22-34

Marx from *The German Ideology*, McIntosh, pp. 26-38

**Sept 22: MARX II: The Relations of Production and Class Structure**

*Readings*: Giddens, Part 1, Chapter 3 (entire)

Marx from *The Communist Manifesto*, McIntosh pp. 39-47

**Sept 27-29: MARX III: The Theory of Capitalist Development**

*Readings:* Giddens, Part 1, Chapter 4 pp. 52-64

**Oct 4:** \*\* **MARX ASSIGNMENT DUE \*\***

**Oct 4-6: DURKHEIM I: Introduction and Division of Labour in Society**

*Readings*: Giddens, Part 2, Chapter 5, pp. 72-81

Durkheim, excerpts from *The Division of Labour in*

*Society****,*** McIntosh pp. 181-184; 185-193; 194-206

**Oct 11: \*\*FALL TERM BREAK: NO CLASS\*\***

**Oct 13-18: DURKHEIM II: The Sociological Method and *Suicide***

*Readings*: Giddens, Part 2, Chapter 6 (entire)

Durkheim, What is a social fact? from *The Rules of Sociological*

*Method*, and excerpts from *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*, all in

McIntosh, pp.207-211; 212-231

**Oct 20-27: DURKHEIM III: Religion and Ritual**

*Readings:* Giddens, Part 2, Chapter 8, pp. 105-112

Durkheim from *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life,*

McIntoshpp. 232-247.

**Nov 1: \*\* DURKHEIM ASSIGNMENT DUE \*\***

**Nov 3: \*\* WEBER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED\*\***

**Nov 1-3: WEBER I: Rationalization**

*Readings*: Weber, *Bureaucracy*, McIntosh pp. 142-153

**Nov 10-11: \*\* REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCE: NO CLASS\*\***

**Nov 8-17: WEBER II: Protestantism and Capitalism**

*Readings*: Giddens, Part 3, Chapter 9, pp. 124-132

Weber from *The Protestant Ethic*, McIntosh pp. 122-131

**Nov 22-Dec 1: WEBER III: Some Fundamental Concepts of Sociology**

*Readings*: Giddens, Part 3, Chapter 11, pp. 154-168

Weber, class, status, party, McIntosh pp. 132-141

Weber, legitimacy and authority, McIntosh pp. 165-174

Giddens, Part 4, Chapters 13-15, pp. 185-242.

**Dec 1:**  **\*\* WEBER ASSIGNMENT DUE \*\***