

Department of Sociology, Uppsala University

Classical Sociological Theory

Advanced Course for Doctoral Students

Fall Term 2018:

Duration: 4/9 2018 – 3/11 2018

Credits: 7.5 ECTS

Course Director: Vessela Misheva (vessela.misheva@soc.uu.se)

Instructors: Peter Sohlberg (PS), Patrik Aspers (PA) and Vessela Misheva (VM).

Course Description

This purpose of the advanced course in classical sociological theory is to provide a solid theoretical ground capable of supporting a wide variety of research interests and projects. The learning outcomes and objectives are secured through lectures, individual thematic assignments, individual final essay writing, and seminars.

The language of instruction is English.

The course will examine the classical foundations of sociology. It will focus on the works of the most important contributors to the rise and development of modern sociology, who informed the development of modern sociological thought and research. Its content will reflect the birth of the idea of sociology as well as the variety of perspectives concerning what sociology is supposed to be that date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in both Europe and North America. The publications that will be discussed include those of such influential sociological pioneers, both well-known and less well-known, as Comte, Marx and Engels, Spencer, Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, Addams, Cooley, Mead, DuBois, and Fanon. This will present a more realistic picture of the foundation of sociology as a science because it goes beyond the established sociological canon and examines the work of men and women who have been overlooked as founders of the discipline, whose contributions to sociological thought still remain insufficiently explored. A particular emphasis will be placed on the ways in which classical theories continue to shape modern scholarly debates and research, and on the social issues and social problems that influenced their emergence, which are of central importance and social concern even today.

Attendance: Mandatory for both lectures and seminars. Students must notify the teacher in advance if they need to miss a class.

Assessment forms:

(1) Formative Assignments:

Writing a short text-reflection on the lecture theme to be submitted before the corresponding seminar.

Presentations of chapters from the assigned literature to a seminar meeting;

Discussion of one of the theoretical texts and its key ideas; leading a critical question at a seminar meeting.

Detailed instructions will be given in class.

(2) Final Assignment:

Deadline: 31 Oct 2018, 10:00 AM.

Assignment type: an essay on the work of one of the theorists covered in the course with reflection on its current use in sociological discourse and its place in the sociological canon.

Length: 4,000 to 5,000 words.

Readings:

Turner, Jonathan, Leonard Beeghley and Charles Powers (2012) *The Emergence of Sociological Theory*. Los Angeles, London: SAGE.

1.

Sohlberg, P. & Leiulfstrud, H. 2016. Theory and theoretical operations in Sohlberg, P. & Leiulfstrud, Theory in action. Theoretical constructionism. Leiden & Boston, Brill; 2016.

Swedberg, R. 2014. Extract from Summary and more in Swedberg R. The art of social theory. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press; 2014.

2.

Marx and Engels (1845) *The German Ideology*, Part One (on-line reading).

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch04.htm>

Marx and Engels (1848) *The Communist Manifesto* (on-line reading).

<http://marx.eserver.org/1848-communist.manifesto/>

Marx (1852) *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (on-line reading).

<http://marx.eserver.org/1852-eighteenth.brumaire/>

Marx (1867) *Capital*. Volume 1, chapter 1.

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Capital-Volume-I.pdf>

3.

Weber, Max (1922) *Economy and Society* (a selection).

Weber, Max (2002) *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Peter Baehr and Gordon C. Wells (eds), Penguin Books.

4.

Simmel, Georg (1971) *On Individual and Social Forms*. Donald Levine (ed.) University of Chicago Press.

5.

Durkheim, Emile (1893) *The Division of Labour in Society*. Book I, Book II, Book III.

6.

Comte, Auguste (1852) *The System of Positive Polity* (on-line reading).

<https://archive.org/stream/systemofpositive02comt#page/n11/mode/2up>

Wernick, Andrew (2001) Auguste Comte and the Religion of Humanity The Post-Theistic Program of French Social Theory. Cambridge University Press. Introduction.

<http://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/samples/cam031/00063093.pdf>

7.

Spencer (1897) *The Principles of Ethics*, vol. 1 and 2 (on-line reading).

<http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/spencer-the-principles-of-ethics-vol-1-lf-ed>

8.

Addams, Jane (1902) *Democracy and Social Ethics*. Macmillan

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15487/15487-h/15487-h.htm>

Addams, Jane (1907) *Newer Ideals of Peace*. Macmillan (on-line reading).

<https://archive.org/details/neweridealspeac04addagoog>

Misheva, Vessela (2018) "Jane Addams and the Birth of Microsociology as a Science and a Social Enterprise. In: Vessela Misheva and Andrew Blasko (eds.) *Jane Addams and the Spirit of Social Entrepreneurship*. Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, Studia Sociologica Upsaliensia 65, Uppsala.

10.

Cooley, Charles Horton (1926) "The Roots of Social Knowledge." *American Journal of Sociology*. Volume 32, Issue 1, pp. 59-79. (JSTOR)

Cooley, Charles Horton (1918) "Particularism versus the Organic View." Chapter 5 in *Social Process*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 43-51.

https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1918/Cooley_1918_05.html

Cooley, Charles Horton (1909) "Social and Individual Aspects of Mind." Chapter 1 in *Social Organization*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, pp. 3-12.

https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1909/Cooley_1909_01.html

Cooley, Charles Horton (1922) *Human Nature and the Social Order*. Chapter IV, V, and VI. On-line reading.

https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1902/Cooley_1902toc.html

Misheva, Vessela (2018) "Lost in Vicissitudes of Greatness and Decline: Charles Horton Cooley's Unique Contribution to Sociology." In Natalia Ruiz-Junco and Baptiste Brussard (eds.) *Updating Charles H. Cooley. Contemporary Perspectives on a Sociological Classic*. Routledge.

11.

Mead, George Herbert (1934) *Mind, Self and Society* (on-line reading).

http://www.brocku.ca/MeadProject/Mead/pubs2/mindself/Mead_1934_toc.html

Huebner, Daniel (2012) "The Construction of Mind, Self, and Society: The Social Process Behind G. H. Mead's Social Psychology." *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, Volume 48, Issue 2, pp. 134–153. (JSTOR)

Huebner, Daniel (2014) *Becoming Mead. The Social Process of Academic Knowledge*. The University of Chicago Press.

12.

Fanon, F. (1967) *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld (original work published 1952) (selection).

Shawn Michelle Smith (2000) "Looking at One's Self through the Eyes of Others": W.E.B. Du Bois's Photographs for the 1900 Paris Exposition." *African American Review*, Vol. 34, No. 4, pp. 581-599. (JSTOR)

Black, Marc (2007) "Fanon and DuBoisian Double Consciousness." *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*. V, pp. 393-404. (JSTOR)

13.

Davis, Shannon N. (2017) "Sociology, Theory, and the Feminist Sociological Canon Questioning the Use of "Doing Gender" as a Sociological Theory." *Sage Open*.
Alford A. Young Jr.(2015) W.E.B. Du Bois and the Sociological Canon. *Contexts*, Vol 14, No. 4, pp. 60-61. (JSTOR)
Boyers, Jennifer S. (2000) "Subversion and the Sociological Canon." *Michigan Sociological Review*, Vol. 14. pp. 83-93 (JSTOR)
R. W. Connell (1997) "Why Is Classical Theory Classical?" *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 102, No. 6, pp. 1511-1557 (JSTOR).

Additional on-line readings and articles will be assigned or suggested in connection with discussion topics in class.