



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Department of Sociology

Course Syllabus

Classic Social Theory (2SC037)

Advanced Course for Master Students and PhD Candidates

Fall 2020

Course instructor
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Classic Social Theory

Advanced Course for Master students and PhD candidates
Fall Term 2020, Credits: 7.5 ECTS

Course Description

The aim of the course is for students to acquire advanced knowledge of sociological theories and theoretical thinking. A particular focus is placed on classical sociological theories. The course offers students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of major classical works and how these have influenced the development of sociology and its different specializations. The course also covers the relevance of classical theory for the understanding and explanation of contemporary social phenomena.

The course is given both as a program course and as a stand-alone course. It is given on a half-time basis, and stretches over a period of nine weeks (1/9 – 3/11). The language of instruction is English. For taking the course, a Bachelor's degree of 180 credits including 90 credits in sociology or social psychology is required.

Learning outcomes

Upon completing the course, students should be able to show:

- advanced knowledge of sociological thinking and classical sociological theories
- advanced knowledge of how different theories and theoretical traditions have influenced
- different specializations within sociology
- an advanced understanding of differences in the use of sociological theories regarding
- the interpretation of basic principles of society, different empirical facts and time diagnostic purposes
- an ability to reflect critically on theory development
- a good ability to apply theoretical concepts and perspectives
- good oral and written skills in communicating sociological theoretical thinking

The Design of the Course

Teaching takes the form of a series of lectures, each followed by one or two pertinent seminars. Lectures cover the essential parts of the course literature, and at each seminar specific parts of relevant literature are discussed in detail.

Whereas both presence at, and preparation before lectures are optional, the seminars are mandatory. Seminars are intended for the analysis and discussion of the assigned literature. Therefore, students are expected to read the assigned texts carefully and to participate regularly and actively through their contribution to the analysis and discussion of the assigned readings.

In order to help students prepare for the in-class discussions and to structure the treatment of the assigned literature, a few broad questions will be proposed by the teacher in advance for each seminar. These questions revolve normally around the key concepts and insights put forth in the assigned texts. Based on these questions, students are expected to write a short text-reflection (ca one page) to be submitted at the seminar. In case of absence at any seminar, the students are obliged to write short summaries (3 pages) of the texts treated at the seminar.

Important note

Although rooms are booked for both lectures and seminars, it seems at the moment unlikely that any physical meeting will take place during the Fall 2020. Therefore, you need to become acquainted with the ZOOM program, which is the program that our university uses for online-teaching. Actual ZOOM-links to the sessions will be sent out prior to each session.

Please notice also that each student group (Master students and PhD candidates) will have its own seminars, the former led by Tom Chabosseau and the latter by Reza Azarian.

Schedule and Readings assignments

Tuesday 1/9, 13:15-15:00

Lecture 1: Introduction of the course, and

Classical Social Theory: Historical context and early thinkers

Literature:

Spencer, Herbert 1982 [1860] “The Social Organism” pp. 383-434 in *The Man Versus the State: With Six Essays on Government, Society, and Freedom*

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uu/reader.action?docID=3327340&ppg=2>

Tuesday 1/9, 15:15-17:00

Lecture 2: Karl Marx

Literature:

Marx, Karl & Engels, Fredrich 1846 *The German Ideology*

https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Marx_The_German_Ideology.pdf

Marx, K. 1867 *Capital Volume 1, Chapters 1, 31, 32 & 33*

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

Tuesday 8/9

13:15-15:00 (for Master students)

15:15-17:00 (for PhD Candidates)

Seminar 1: Classical social theory: Historical context and early thinkers

Literature:

Spencer, H-. 1982 [1860] “The Social Organism” pp. 383-434

Thursday 10/9, 12:15-14:00

Lecture 3: Max Weber

Literature:

Weber, M. (1922) “Basic Sociological Terms, “The Types of Legitimate Domination” and Status Groups and Classes” Chapters 1, 3 and 4 respectively, in *Economy and Society Volume 1, Part 1*

Weber, M. (2002) *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Tuesday 15/9

13:15-15:00 (for Master students)

13:15-15:00 (for PhD Candidates)

Seminar 2: Karl Marx

Literature: *The German Ideology*

Tuesday 22/9

13:15-15:00 (for Master students)

15:15-17:00 (for PhD Candidates)

Seminar 3: Karl Marx

Literature: *Capital, Volume 1, Chapters 1, 31, 32 & 33*

Tuesday 29/9

13:15-15:00 (for Master students)

15:15-17:00 (for PhD Candidates)

Seminar 4: Max Weber

Literature:

Weber, M. (1922) “Basic Sociological Terms, “The Types of Legitimate Domination” and Status Groups and Classes” Chapters 1, 3 and 4 respectively, in *Economy and Society Volume 1, Part 1*

Thursday 1/10, 13:15-15:00

Lecture 4: Emile Durkheim

Literature:

Durkheim, E. (1893) *The Division of Labor in Society*

Durkheim, E. (1895) *The Rules of Sociological Method*

Tuesday 6/10

13:15-15:00 (for Master students)

13:15-15:00 (for PhD Candidates)

Seminar 5: Emile Durkheim

Literature:

Durkheim, E. (1893) *The Division of Labor in Society*

Thursday 8/10, 13:15-15:00

Lecture 5: George Simmel

Literature:

Simmel, G. 1971 *On Individual and Social Forms*

Tuesday 13/10

13:15-15:00 (for Master students)

13:15-15:00 (for PhD Candidates)

Seminar 6: Emile Durkheim

Literature:

Durkheim, E. (1895) *The Rules of Sociological Method*

Tuesday 15/10, 13:15-15:00

Lecture 6: Charles H. Cooley and George H. Mead

Literature:

Cooley, C. (1922) *Human Nature and the Social Order* Chapter 4-6

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

Mead, G. H. (1934) *Mind, Self and Society* Parts 1-4

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

Tuesday 20/10

13:15-15:00 (for Master students)

15:15-17:00 (for PhD Candidates)

Seminar 7: Georg Simmel

Literature:

Simmel, G. 1971 *On Individual and Social Forms*

Thursday 22/10, 13:15-15:00

Lecture 7: Classic Sociology Today

Tuesday 27/10

10:15-12:00 (for Master students)

10:15-12:00 (for PhD Candidates)

Seminar 8: Charles H. Cooley and George Herbert Mead

Literature:

Cooley, C. (1922) *Human Nature and the Social Order* Chapter 4-6

Mead, G. H. (1934) *Mind, Self and Society* Parts 1-4

Examination

The course is assessed through a take-home exam, written assignments and active participation in seminars. The take-home exam is an individually written final paper (4000 to 5000 words) which must be submitted no later than November 3th, 2020. Detailed instruction and information regarding the requirements and grading will be provided later.

Assignments that are submitted after the deadline cannot receive a passing grade. Students who miss a deadline are referred to the next examination opportunity. If there are special reasons for doing so, an examiner may make an exception from the method of assessment indicated and allow a student to be assessed by another method. Special reasons can include notification of special educational support from the university disability coordinator.