

## **SOC 379M Unique 45665 Spring 2012:**

### **Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am-11am BUR134**

Instr: B. R. Roberts ([brr@prc.utexas.edu](mailto:brr@prc.utexas.edu)) Office Hours, Burdine 560: Tuesday 11-1pm and by Appointment

## ***SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY***

This course will focus on an outline of social theory from the enlightenment to the early twentieth century with particular emphasis on the social theories of Marx, Durkheim and Weber. Concentrating on the emergence of sociological theory provides a foundation for understanding its many varieties. Our emphasis will be on the contemporary relevance of the ideas and debates and the aim of the final essay requirement of the course is to allow students to use social theory to address contemporary issues. The Course will be organized on Blackboard, which will contain information on assignments, the class calendar, lecture notes and Course Documents.

The text for the course is Appelrouth and Edies, Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory. The course will also use a novel (Steven Lukes, The Curious Enlightenment of Professor Caritat) to explore the visions of society present in the theories discussed and their contemporary manifestations.

### **REQUIRED READINGS (1-2 available at the CO-OP)**

- 1) Steven Lukes, The Curious Enlightenment of Professor Caritat.
- 2) Scott A. Appelrouth and Laura Destor Edles, Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory.
- 3) Nicolas de Condorcet, Selected Writings. Course Documents.
- 4) Karl Marx on Social Class and Future Society. Course Documents
- 5) Emile Durkheim on Moral Education. Course Documents
- 6) Max Weber on Social Action. Course Documents
- 7) Michel Foucault on Control. Course Documents

### **Goals of the Course and Evaluation**

The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the basis of sociological theory in terms of the writing of classic authors, of the internal logic of their theories and of their contemporary relevance. Being able to think theories through is as important as knowing what the theorists said. Consequently, course evaluation seeks to assess students' knowledge of the texts, their ability to raise issues about the theories and their capacity to use theories innovatively to address current social and political issues.

There are four components of the evaluation for the course:

- 1) Students will be organized into Blackboard groups. Each group will use their Blackboard group space to discuss the forum topic of the week, which will be based on that week's readings. Each member of the group must contribute a question to the group discussion Board and the group, as a whole, must formulate a general group comment/critique of the readings for each week. Each week a different member of the group will have the responsibility to post questions to the general Discussion Board. These questions must be posted before 5pm on the Wednesday of the week.
- 2) There will be two in-class multiple-choice exams. The first will cover the Enlightenment, Marx and Durkheim. The second will mainly cover Weber with some questions on Simmel and Exchange Theory.
- 3) Each student will write a 2500 word essay on a 'final' journey of Professor Caritat (Condorcet) in which he travels to a utopia/dystopia that illustrates the issues of social order that Preoccupied the classical theorists. At least two of the theorists discussed in the course will accompany Caritat on his journey. The essay should be documented with specific quotations or page references from the readings taken from the theorists. The due date for the full essay is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The essay should be emailed to Bryan Roberts. Failure to meet the May 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline will result in the loss of credit for the essay. There will be no incompletes on this course other than for documented family or medical emergencies.
- 4) Attendance is required. An unexcused absence will lead to the loss of a grade point.

### **Grading:**

The lectures will focus on issues in the readings that will be the subject of the in-class examinations. Submitting written questions on time each week is part of the grade. Individuals will receive up to 2 grade points for the question that they submit to the group discussion board each week. Questions, which fail to meet the standards outlined below, will receive only one point. Failure to participate in the group discussion and questions through comments/suggestions will lead to no grade points being assigned to the individual for the group question. Consequently, the maximum grade points assigned for this part of the assessment are 22 points (11 weeks times 2). The mid-term examinations will carry 44 grade points (22 for the first examination and 22 for the second examination) and the class essay 34 points. Those responsible for posting questions to the Class Discussion Board will receive 2 bonus points for doing so, providing they meet the standards outlined below. Each student will have two opportunities to post to the class discussion board during the semester, leading to a possible total of 4 bonus points.

### **Class Policies:**

Students needing academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259). If you require special accommodations, please notify me within the first two weeks of class so that accommodations can be arranged in a timely manner.

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Students are expected to follow the UT Honor Code (<http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>). University Policy makes academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and collusion subject to disciplinary action. Students should consult Appendix C, Section 11-402 of this year's academic calendar for definitions of academic dishonesty. Discussing what constitutes plagiarism will be part of our discussion of how to handle and cite material collected for class assignments.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE LECTURES

Jan. 17th. Organization of the Course. Use of Blackboard. The Historical Background of the Enlightenment and Classical Theory (Classical and Contemporary, pp. 4-6 ).

Jan. 19th. The Enlightenment and the Journeys of Caritat.(Condorcet's Writings)

ON MARX (*Classical and Contemporary* 20-31)

Jan. 24th. On Reading Marx: The Driving Forces of History. (Manifesto)

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. Historical Materialism and Mode of Production (The German Ideology)

Jan. 31st. The Development of Capitalism (Capital).

Feb. 2nd. Industrial Capitalism (Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts)

Feb. 7th Class and Class Consciousness and the end of capitalism (Marx on Social Class in Manifesto)

Feb. 9th. The Nature of Communism (Marx on Future Society, CD)

ON DURKHEIM (*Classical and Contemporary*, pp.77-84)

Feb.14<sup>th</sup>. On Reading Durkheim: (Introduction to the Rules of Sociological Method )

Feb.16<sup>th</sup>. Crime and Punishment (Introduction to Rules)

Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Organic and mechanical solidarity. (The Division of Labor in Society)

Feb.23rd. Suicide.(Suicide)

Feb.28th Religion and Society (Elementary Forms of Religious Life)

Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>. Moral Education as the basis of Order in Society (Durkheim on Moral Education, CD)

ON WEBER (Classical and Contemporary, pp. 125-137)

Mar. 6th. On Reading Weber (Weber on Social Action, CD)

Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>. The types of social action, the bases of authority, and the question of Legitimacy (Types of Legitimate Domination).

Mar 20<sup>th</sup>. The Role of Ideas in Producing Change ("The Social Psychology of the World Religions" )

Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> In Class Examination on Enlightenment, Marx and Durkheim

Mar 27<sup>th</sup> The Spirit of Capitalism ("The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism")

Mar 29<sup>th</sup>. Class, status, party and the triumph of bureaucracy (The Distribution of Power within the Political Community, Bureaucracy)

SIMMEL (Classical and Contemporary, pp.218-232)

Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>. The forms of interaction and social types (Exchange, The Stranger)

Apr 5<sup>th</sup>. Individuality and Modernity (Metropolis and Mental Life)

EXCHANGE THEORY (C&C, pp. 413-420)

Apr 10<sup>th</sup>. Social Behavior, Exchange and Power (Exerpts from Homans and Blau)

Apr 12<sup>th</sup> The nature of Social Capital (Excerpts from Coleman)

FOUCAULT (C&C, pp. 616-621)

Apr 17<sup>th</sup>. The Changing Nature of Control and the Deep Basis of Order (Discipline and Punish, Docile Bodies (CD) The means of Correct Training(CD))

Apr. 19<sup>th</sup> In Class Exam on Weber, Simmel, Exchange Theory and Foucault.

Apr 24<sup>th</sup> The Nature of Utopias in the Enlightenment and 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Lukes, Five Fables)

Apr 26<sup>th</sup>. Utopian Thinking as Critiques of Society (Lukes, Curious Enlightenment)

May 1<sup>st</sup> Citizenship, Rights and the Enlightenment: the conflicted nature of Liberalism

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Due date for Essay.

