SOCI 330: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
Fall 2017

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 3:35 PM-4:25 PM. Leacock Building, Room 219

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-2pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Major sociological theoretical traditions are seen in their historical contexts, as the background to current theoretical issues. Emphasis is placed on Smith, Tocqueville, Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. This course is based on and requires detailed knowledge of the original texts assigned. To that end, there are days when I take questions on particular theorists. More important are the discussion groups with the teaching assistants; these will allow for the close analysis that is required.

REQUIRED TEXTS
This is a reading-intensive course. All students are expected to complete weekly readings so as to have a better grasp of the subject matter and to participate in conference discussions.

The following required books are available at the Word Bookstore, located near McGill on Milton. The course reader may be purchased at the McGill Bookstore. The course reader and the books are also available on reserve at the Library. The readings for the third section of the course (i.e. from November 20th) are posted on MyCourses.

Montesquieu
Tocqueville
Marx
Durkheim
Weber
Giddens

Persian Letters (Penguin edition)
The Old Regime and the French Revolution
The Marx-Engels Reader (Norton edition)
Selected Writings (Edited A. Giddens)
Selections (Edited W.G. Runciman)
Capitalism and Modern Social Theory

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Your grade will be based on two different elements. First, there will be three in-class exams (each comprising 15% of the grade) requiring you to recognize and comment on quotations from the texts: each exam will be cumulative, and will cover all thinkers discussed until that point. There will also be a cumulative final exam of three hours, asking you to write four essays from a list of twelve, where you will be asked to compare the thinkers. The final exam makes up 55% of the final grade.

Discussion Groups: Discussion groups are designed to further your understanding of course material and give you the chance to participate in class discussion. Attendance is not mandatory and attendance will not be taken. However, all students are strongly encouraged to attend conferences, as they provide an opportunity for more in-depth analysis of the texts and theorists.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 4, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 23, 2017</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam 3</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>November 17, 2017</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Please Note:**

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.” (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue).

**September 6:** Introduction

**September 8:** Montesquieu: *The Voice of Fear*


**September 11:** Rousseau: *Progress and Disillusion*

‘A Discourse on the Sciences and Arts’…………………………………………………………..in course pack, page 1

‘Discourse on the Origin and the Foundations of Inequality among Men’………………in course pack, page 15

**September 13:** Smith: *The Propensity to Truck and Barter*

*Wealth of Nations*……………………………………………………………………………………...in course pack, page 55
September 15: Discussion Groups

September 18: Smith: Vanity in the Creation of Commercial Society
Wealth of Nations ................................................................. in course pack, page 77

September 20: Smith: The Importance of Illusion
Wealth of Nations ................................................................. in course pack, page 103
The Theory of Moral Sentiments ........................................... in course pack, page 141

Also recommended: The Equalizing Hand: Why Adam Smith Thought the Market Should Produce Wealth without Steep Inequality by Deborah A. Boucoyannis in Perspectives on Politics 2013 (http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9122037)

September 22: Discussion Groups

September 25: Tocqueville: The Peculiarities of America
Democracy in America .......................................................... in course pack, page 167

September 27: Tocqueville: The Politics of Transition, or, England vs. France
The Old Regime and the French Revolution (Part 1: chapter 2-5; Part 2: chapters 1-3, 5-6, 8-12; Part 3: chapters 1-4, 7-8; Appendix)

September 29: Discussion Groups

October 2: Review: General Comparisons, Question

October 4: FIRST MIDTERM EXAM

October 6: Marx: The Early Marx

Giddens: Capitalism and Modern Social Theory, part 1

Marx-Engels, pp. 70-93, 101-5, 126-32, 143-5

October 6: NO CLASS (Happy Thanksgiving!)

October 11: Marx: The Materialist Conception of History

Marx-Engels, 146-200, 261-76, 653-8
October 13:  Regular Class (no discussion groups)
Marx: *The Crisis of Capitalism*

*Marx-Engels*, pp. 203-17, 302-308, 319-361, 376-384, 397-403, 417-438

October 16:  Marx: *Revolution and Socialism*

*Marx-Engels*, pp. 471-500, 525-48, 594-617

October 18:  Review: General Comparisons, Questions

October 20:  Discussion Groups

October 23:  SECOND MIDTERM EXAM

October 25:  Weber: *The Two Theses*

Giddens: *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*, part 3

*Selections* (ed. Runciman) pp. 135-73, 331-40

October 27:  Regular Class (no discussion groups)

Weber: *Sources of Social Power. Methodology*


October 30:  Weber: ‘Bourgeois Rational Capitalism in the West’


November 1:  Weber: *Politics and Disenchantment*


‘Science as a Vocation’…………………………………………………………………………………………..in course pack, page 277

November 3:  Discussion Groups

November 6:  Durkheim: *The Division of Labour*

Giddens: *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*, part 2
November 8: Durkheim: \textit{Suicide and The Rules}

November 10: Discussion Groups

November 13: Durkheim: \textit{Religion, Morality and Politics}

November 15: Review: General Comparisons

November 17: THIRD MIDTERM EXAM

November 20: Georg Simmel: \textit{selected writings-part 1}

Readings posted on MyCourses

November 22: Georg Simmel: \textit{selected writings-part 2}

Readings posted on MyCourses

November 24: Harriet Martineau: \textit{selected writings-part 1}

Readings posted on MyCourses

November 27: Harriet Martineau: \textit{selected writings-part 2}

Readings posted on MyCourses

November 29: Contemporary Sociological Theory

Readings posted on MyCourses

December 1: Discussion Groups

December 4: Contemporary Sociological Theory

Readings posted on MyCourses

December 6: General Comparisons, Questions

December 7: Q&A