

University of Toronto Mississauga – Sociology  
 SOC231H5F LEC0101  
 Classical Sociological Theory  
 Mondays, 3:00 to 5:00 PM, DV 1143 (weeks 1 & 2 only); IB 345

Instructor:	Professor Steve G. Hoffman
Office location:	DV 3231
Office Phone #:	905-828-5395 (Sociology office)
Email address:	<a href="mailto:steve.hoffman@utoronto.ca">steve.hoffman@utoronto.ca</a> (preferred)
Office hours:	Mondays, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Teaching Assistant:	Gordon Brett
Email address:	<a href="mailto:gordon.brett@utoronto.ca">gordon.brett@utoronto.ca</a>
TA office hours:	By appointment via email
Blackboard/Course web site:	Portal

### **Course Description**

This course explores the development of sociological theory as well as the professional discipline of sociology, which emerged in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The course focuses primarily on five major social theorists who have had a profound impact on contemporary sociological research – their lives, times, and ideas.

### **Prerequisites, Exclusions, CSL Group**

Course is restricted at all times to the following students:

- MA CRIMINOLOGY, LAW & SOCIETY (ERMAJ0727)
- MA SOCIOLOGY (ERMAJ1013)
- SP CRIMINOLOGY, LAW & SOCIETY (ERSPE0727)
- SP SOCIOLOGY (ERSPE1013)

### **Class/Seminar Format**

A typical class session will involve an interactive lecture with PowerPoints slides, collaborative discussion, occasional audio/visual material, and classroom exercises. Participation and active listening are rewarded. I consider *attentive listening* a form of participation. Taking notes, making eye contact with the lecturer, and in general looking alert are ways to signal to me that you are engaged. If you look bored, distracted, or fall asleep, I can only assume you are not participating.

### **Learning Outcomes**

After taking this class you should gain a deeper understanding for the primary problems and theoretical frameworks characteristic of the classical canon of sociological theory. You will also learn about how the problems and frameworks of the classical era in sociological theory continue to inform, inspire, and impact contemporary sociological research. By working with peers in small groups you will learn critical skills of collaboration, consensus, and formal presentation of ideas.

Success in this class does not require you to be correct every time you engage with course material. I will provide many opportunities for you to make mistakes without those mistakes counting against your final grade. As the economist Kenneth Boulding once said, “Nothing fails

like success because we don't learn from it. We learn only from failure.” Unfortunately, too much of the educational system is oriented to memorization. Although recall is a key part of learning, it is a fairly superficial one. Rather than “learning all the facts,” in this class we will try to use facts to build up portable insights that help make sense of our social worlds. Building anew sometimes involves making mistakes along the way, but it forges critical thinking skills that will remain with you a lifetime.

### **Textbooks and Other Materials**

The assigned book is available for purchase at UTM Bookstore, <http://uoftbookstore.com>, located on the first floor of the Davis Building, 905-828-5272:

- Laura Desfor Edles and Scott Appelrouth. 2015. *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings. Edition 3*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

### **Evaluation Components and Grading Policies**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s) Due</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Class Participation	Engage with course content, class exercises, group discussions, and active listening.	ongoing	4%
Reaction Cards	Short reactions to the day's class.	End of each class (excluding test days).	8%
Discussion Board	Post a question OR answer another student's question on the week's reading.	Post to course web site no later than Noon on the day of class.	8%
Paper	Essay applying a classical era theorist to a contemporary social problem.	Submit preferences by 6:00 PM, 9/18. Final paper due dates ongoing: 10/2, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27, 12/4	10%
Test 1	Essay, short answer, and multiple choice exam covering course material from 9/11 to 9/25	10/2/17	20%
Test 2	Essay, short answer, and multiple choice exam covering course material from 10/16 to 11/6	11/13/17	20%
Final Exam	Essay, short answer, and multiple choice exam covering material from the entire course.	Examination Period 12/7 – 12/19.	30%

## Grading

Class Participation - Each class will allow time for full class and small group discussions and other ways of engaging with the course material. I highly value your input and feedback, and provide rewards for it. See below for my notes on attentive listening as a form of participation. Many classes will involve small group or individual in-class exercises. Your completion of these exercises will be counted toward the participation grade. Everyone is required to participate equally in class exercises that involve group work. Class participation is worth 4 points toward your final grade. Students that do not participate in discussions or exercises will receive 0 points. Students who participate rarely will get 1 to 2 points. Students who participate on a regular basis will receive 3 to 4 points depending on quality and frequency.

Reaction Cards – You will turn in reaction cards at the end of each class session, which are worth a total of 8 points. You can turn in a reaction card for all class sessions except the days that we hold tests. This means there will be ten (10) opportunities to turn in reaction cards. If you turn in eight (8) reaction cards, you get full credit. This means you can miss turning in reaction cards twice throughout the semester with no penalty. I do not accept “make ups” for missed reaction cards.

At the end of each class, write 1-3 sentences of thoughtful reaction to that day’s class on an index card (along with your name and date). These sentences can describe reading, lecture, or discussion material you found particularly enlightening, material you found difficult or confusing, questions you wished you had asked but for whatever reason did not, or something you would like to follow up on in coming weeks or on your own.

Reaction cards will only be graded for “done/not done.” You will get credit for completing a reaction card unless it is clear to me that you did not make a serious effort. Reaction cards should be turned in at the very end of class. I will give you 5 minutes to complete them at the end of each session. Please do not try to turn in a reaction card and then leave class early unless you have previously obtained my permission to do so.

Discussion Board – Before we meet, you will post a discussion question based on the assigned reading OR post an answer to someone else’s question. Submit the question or answer under “Discussion Board” on the course web site. There are eight (8) classes in which you should post a question and answer, for a total of 8 points toward your final grade. You can post your question or answer *anytime before Noon the day of class*. I highly recommend that you post early. Feel free to post weeks in advance. Anything posted after Noon for that day’s assigned reading will not count. You cannot make up posts later. You can receive one point for either a question or an answer (i.e. you can’t get extra points for additional posts).

Questions and answers are an opportunity to demonstrate that you read and thoughtfully considered the material. They are also an opportunity to ask questions you are unclear on from the reading or to grapple with challenging theoretical implications. I will try to incorporate some of the topics you discuss on the discussion board into the class, but unfortunately will not be able to address all of them in any single class. Do not copy your questions or answers from another student or the textbook. You should always double-check that your submission posted successfully. We also recommend that you maintain a backup of your posts in case there are any technical problems. If you are unsure or unable to post before the deadline, send your question or

answer to the TA as soon as possible. If your Internet connection is not working, bring a print copy of your question or answer to class in order to receive credit.

Paper – You will write a 4 to 5-page essay that applies the theoretical framework and key concepts of one of the five main classical sociological theorists toward a sociological understanding of a contemporary social problem. We will provide the social problem you will analyze.

You can submit a ranked ordered list for your preferred theorist by 6:00 PM on 9/18/17. If you do not submit your preferences, you will be assigned a theorist. Due dates for this paper assignment are ongoing, based on your assigned theorist. The due date will typically be the week after we finish each theorist. The paper will be evaluated based on your comprehension of the assigned course material as well as the rigor, creativity, and clarity expressed in your theoretical analysis of the contemporary social problem.

Tests – There will be two in-class tests in this class. Both will involve short-answer and multiple-choice questions. The tests evaluate your critical and creative thinking skills along with your overall comprehension of the assigned readings, lectures, audio-video material, and class discussion topics. The first test, on 10/2/17, will cover material from the first three weeks of our class. The second test will cover material assigned from 10/16 to 11/6 classes.

Final Exam – There will be one final exam. The exam will be scheduled during the examination period. It will involve short essay, short answer, and multiple-choice questions. The exam will evaluate your critical and creative thinking skills along with your overall comprehension of the assigned readings, lectures, audio-video material, and class discussion topics. It will cover assignment course materials from the entire semester.

## **Course Schedule**

*Notes: A/V material will be presented throughout the semester but are not listed below. If you miss any of this material, it is your responsibility to view them outside of class.*

### 9/11 **Introduction**

- No discussion board posts due this week

### 9/18 **Karl Marx (1818-1883)**

- Edles and Appelrouth, pgs. 1-19 (Introduction)
- 20-57 (Overview on Marx plus “The German Ideology” and “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844”)

### 9/25 **Karl Marx (1818-1883)**

- 71-87 (*Capital*)

### 10/02 **Test #1**

- Marx papers due.
- No discussion board posts due this week

### 10/09 **No Class. University Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**

- No discussion board posts due this week

### 10/16 **Émile Durkheim (1858-1917)**

- 101-144 (Overview of Durkheim plus *Division of Labor in Society*, *Rules of Sociological Method* and *Suicide*)

### 10/23 **Émile Durkheim (1858-1917)**

- 145-162 (*Elementary Forms of Religious Life*)

### 10/30 **Max Weber (1864-1920)**

- 164-192 (Overview of Weber plus *Spirit of Capitalism*)
- Durkheim papers due

### 11/06 **Max Weber (1864-1920)**

- 204-233 (“Class, Status, Party,” “The Types of Legitimate Domination,” and “Bureaucracy”)

### 11/13 **Test #2**

- No discussion board posts due this week
- Weber papers due

### 11/20 **Georg Simmel (1858-1918)**

- 286-308 (Overview of Simmel, “Exchange”)

- 321-343 (“The Stranger,” and “The Metropolis and Mental Life”)

11/27 **W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963)**

- 345-385 (Overview of Du Bois, *The Philadelphia Negro*, *The Souls of Black Folk*)
- Simmel papers due

12/04 **W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963) and Wrap Up**

- No discussion board posts due this week
- Du Bois papers due

**THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE SCHEDULED DURING THE EXAMINATION PERIOD**

Every attempt will be made to follow this schedule, but it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

## Procedures and Rules

### Accommodation for Missed Tests or Late Assignments

Students who miss a term test or hand in an assignment after the due date will assigned a mark of zero for the test, or will lose a percentage of the assignment mark for each day late (the percentage varies from course to course). However, UTM will make an exception and provide accommodation for tests missed, or assignments late, for reasons beyond the student's control.

In particular:

- Illness
- Religious observances (i.e., holy days)
  - <http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/guidelines/religiousobservances.htm>
- Other unplanned circumstances entirely beyond the student's control (e.g., a court subpoena for which you have no option except to show up, a funeral, a car accident).

Reasons such as “too much work”, technology failure, attending a wedding, family vacations, or not adding the class in time will not be considered to be beyond a student's control and will not be accommodated.

### Missed Tests

Please observe the detailed instructions and timelines stipulated at [http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/sociology/missed\\_tests](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/sociology/missed_tests). Failure to follow these instruction and timelines will result in your missed test special consideration request being denied.

Please note students may not submit a special consideration request to re-write a test once the test has begun. If you are feeling ill, you must leave the room before starting your test and seek medical attention immediately.

**Make-up Tests:** If your special consideration request for a missed test is approved by the department (not the instructor), and the accommodation takes the form of a make-up test (rather than re-weighting future tests), you will write the make-up test in accordance with the dates set out at [http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/sociology/missed\\_tests](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/sociology/missed_tests).

### Missed Final Examinations

Final exams are scheduled, administered, and governed by the policies set out by the Office of the Registrar (see the UTM Calendar). If you are late for, or miss, a final exam, follow procedures posted on the Registrar's website.

### Late Assignments

To request accommodation for a **late assignment** you must present your case to Professor Hoffman via email.

- In order not to be considered late, assignments must be submitted by the due date listed on the syllabus in hard copy at the beginning of class and/or via the course website and/or Turnitin.com. ***You are expected to keep a back-up, hard copy of your assignment in case it is lost.***
- For lateness *beyond your control*, the documentation must indicate that you were unable to engage in school work *on the due date of the assignment* for a ONE day extension.
  - For a longer extension you must prove that you were unable to engage in school work for a longer period or provide documentation that you encountered an exceptional, unforeseen circumstance. Note that all term work must be submitted *on or before the last day of classes*. Students who for reasons beyond their control wish to seek an extension of this deadline must obtain approval from their instructor for an extension of the deadline. This extension may be for no longer than the end of the final examination period. If additional time beyond this period is required, students must petition through the Office of the Registrar for a further extension of the deadline.
- Late assignments for reasons that are *within your control* will be penalized 5% marks per day. The penalty will run from the day the assignment was due until the day it is submitted to the instructor, via the course website, or by email. You are still required to submit a hard copy at the next class/office hour; the electronic copy must be identical to the hard copy submitted. The penalty period includes weekends but not holidays. Assignments that are more than 7 days late will not be accepted.
- Given multiple opportunities to submit Reaction Cards, and because you can miss 2 reaction cards without penalty, late submissions will not be accepted.

### Grade Appeals

Instructors and teaching assistants take the marking of assignments very seriously, and will work diligently to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules:

- If it is a mathematical error simply alert the teaching assistant of the error.
- In the case of more substantive appeals, you must:
  1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
  2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader's comments.
  3. Students have up to one month from the date of return of an item of term work or from the date the mark was made available to inquire about the mark and file for an appeal. For example, should the work be returned or the mark be made available on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the student has until April 3<sup>rd</sup> to inquire in writing and start the re-marking process.

If you wish to appeal:

- A. You must submit to the instructor a written explanation of why you think your mark should be altered. Please note statements such as “I need a higher grade to apply to X” are not compelling. Also, please note that upon re-grade your mark may go down, stay the same, or go up.
- B. Attach the original assignment (with marker’s comments) to your written explanation. Submit a hardcopy of the package to the instructor either during office hours or in class.

### **Electronic Communication and Electronic Learning Technology**

Email communication is rapid, convenient, and efficient—and you are encouraged to use it to enhance your learning and experience in the course. With that said, it is essential that you follow a few rules. **Note: Emails that do not follow these guidelines will not receive a response.**

- Assignments will be accepted via email. See above for how to submit them.
- All course communication should be conducted through Blackboard or your utoronto account.
- All emails must include the course code (e.g., SOC 231) in the subject line.
- All emails should be signed with the student’s full name and student number.
- Emails from students will generally be answered within 24 hours of receipt.
- Treat emails as you would any other professional communication. Proofread. Use appropriate language.
- Emails that ask questions that are answered in the course syllabus or website (e.g., “how much is assignment X worth”) will not receive a response.
- All general questions about the course that are NOT addressed on the syllabus and course website should be posted to the “general inquiries” section of the Blackboard discussion board.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Students are expected to arrive at class on time having read the assigned readings and ready to engage in discussion about them. Please refrain from using your laptop, phone, or other communication technology for any purpose that is not directly related to the class, such as note taking or translation. If you insist on using a laptop, cell phone, or other communication device for non-approved or non-class related work, you will be asked to leave and will not have an opportunity to make up any work from that day.

- Videotaping and recording lectures is strictly forbidden without written permission from the instructor.

### **Academic Integrity**

Copying, plagiarizing, falsifying medical certificates, or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be referred to the

Dean's office for adjudication and punishment. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties.

- Students are expected to cite sources in all written work and presentations. See these links for department citation formats and tips for how to use sources well  
<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/sociology/resources/resources-students>  
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>)
- By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the university's rules regarding academic conduct, as outlined in the Calendar. You are expected to be familiar with the "Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters ([www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm)) and *Code of Student Conduct* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/studentc.htm>) which spell out your rights, your duties and provide all the details on grading regulations and academic offences at the University of Toronto.
- Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

### **Student Services and Resources**

**AccessAbility Centre.** We take seriously our obligation to make this course as welcoming and accessible as feasible for students with diverse needs. Students are encouraged to registrar with the Centre (and, if appropriate, alert the instructor) as early in the term as possible. In many instances it is easier to arrange certain accommodations with more advance notice, so we strongly encourage you to act as quickly as possible. With that said we understand that disabilities can change over time and will do our best to accommodate you. Students seeking support must have an intake interview with a disability advisor to discuss their individual needs. To schedule a registration appointment with a disability advisor, please call the Centre at 905-569-4699 or e-mail at: [access.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:access.utm@utoronto.ca). See also <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/access>.

**The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre** offers workshops, seminars and individual appointments to help students identify and develop their skills. It is located in Rm 390 of the Library, online at <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/undergraduate-students> and can be reached at (905) 828-3858.

A variety of **other student resources** can be found on the UTM website under "Current Students," <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/sas/>, including academic services, registrar and registration services, diversity & equity, administrative services, and others.

### **Equity & Diversity**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at [edo.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:edo.utm@utoronto.ca) or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at [ypequity@utmsu.ca](mailto:ypequity@utmsu.ca).