

## Sociological Theory

### Course Description:

An examination of several of the founders of sociological theory: Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, Emile Durkheim, and George Herbert Mead. We will concentrate on their substantive analyses regarding the growth of industrialism or capitalism, the emergence of democracy and new role and structure of the state, and the new forms of social relations and value systems under these conditions. Thus, our approach will be historical and comparative, attempting to relate the theories to concrete developments rather than to abstract structures or philosophical considerations. Certain methodological questions will also be discussed concerning theory construction and the character of a sociological account.

### Course Requirements:

The course will consist partly of lectures and partly of discussion. Students should always have read the assignments and come prepared for discussion.

1. Read the assignments in the texts: George Ritzer and Douglas Goodman, Classical Sociological Theory, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (New York: McGraw Hill, 2004), ISBN: 0072824301; and James Farganis, ed., Readings in Social Theory: The Classic Tradition to Post-Modernism, 3rd edition (New York, McGraw-Hill: 1999), ISBN: 0072300604.
2. Regular attendance at lectures. There may be several unannounced quizzes that account for up to 10% of the grade.
3. Two exams during the first half of the course, and a final exam.

Note: Updates to the syllabus and/or scheduling information will be posted on my website: <http://members.cox.net/fweil> (or [www.fweil.com](http://www.fweil.com)), under the link for Sociology 3101 (<http://members.cox.net/fweil/s3101guide.html>). Students are responsible for staying informed of that information. My lecture notes and other helpful materials are available on my website. The lecture notes are optional, but attendance at lectures is still required.

## Sociology 3101: Sociological Theory

### CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1. Introductory Lectures. Read chapter 1-3 in Ritzer.

Week 2. Introductory Lectures. Read chapter 1-3 in Ritzer.

Week 3. Herbert Spencer. Read chapter 4 in Ritzer.

Week 4. Karl Marx. Read chapter 5 in Ritzer, and chapter 1 in Farganis.

Week 5. Karl Marx. Read chapter 5 in Ritzer, and chapter 1 in Farganis.

Week 6. Karl Marx. Read chapter 5 in Ritzer, and chapter 1 in Farganis.

Week 7. Max Weber. Read chapter 7 in Ritzer, and chapter 4 in Farganis.

Week 8. Max Weber. Read chapter 7 in Ritzer, and chapter 4 in Farganis.

Week 9. Max Weber. Read chapter 7 in Ritzer, and chapter 4 in Farganis.

Week 10. Emile Durkheim. Read chapter 6 in Ritzer, and chapter 2 in Farganis.

Week 11. Emile Durkheim. Read chapter 6 in Ritzer, and chapter 2 in Farganis.

Week 12. Georg Simmel. Read chapter 8 in Ritzer, and chapter 5 in Farganis.

Week 13. George Herbert Mead. Read chapter 13 in Ritzer, and chapter 6 in Farganis.