CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (Sociology 375)
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Prerequisites: None
General Education: Upper Division Category D1 (Individual and Society)

Course Description
This course presents an introduction to sociological theory, primarily through the work of the discipline's major classical theorists. We will explore theory's significance for (1) systematic study of the social world and (2) morally engaged action in it. Our efforts will focus on the works of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, whom sociologists conventionally treat as the field's founders. We will consider applications and criticisms of their perspectives. By directly engaging some of the most influential theoretical texts, we will make this course an occasion to test the proposition that sociology provides useful tools for understanding and improving the human condition.

Class format includes lecture and presentations but will focus on collaborative, interactive learning. Students will often work together in small discussion groups.

Course Objectives
1. To master the main ideas of each theory.
2. To critique each theory.
3. To apply theory to contemporary social issues.
4. To compare and contrast theoretical approaches.
5. To prepare sociology majors with a theoretical foundation for other courses in the department, including the theory component of Senior Seminar (SOCI 498).

Course Goals
1. To apply the principles, methods, and values employed in sociological inquiry to construct evidence-based arguments and to express them in discussion and writing.
2. To prepare students to employ sociological insight in acting to improve the human condition.

Required Text

Evaluation (subject to revision)
45% Papers
10% Reading Journal
10% Attendance
10% Participation
25% Final Paper