COURSE CONTENT

Course Coordinator: Stephen Campbell
Course Code / Title: HS2001 Classical Social Theory
Pre-requisites: HS1001 Person and Society
No. of AUs.: 3 AUs
Contact Hours: 39 hrs

Course Aims
The objectives of this course are to introduce you to the theoretical foundations of sociology as a discipline. It focuses on the key ideas and perspectives developed by "classical" social theorists in their analyses of basic features of social life, the making of modern society and the consequences of modernity. In particular, the contributions of major thinkers such as Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber are discussed against the backdrop of the social and intellectual contexts of their times. In understanding the pivotal influence of such contributions on the development of the discipline, the course also considers their continuing relevance for analysing social change in the contemporary world.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)
By the end of this course, you should be able to:
1. Evaluate the different ways “classical” social theorists have understood modern society
2. Situate these “classical” social theorists in their historical social and intellectual contexts
3. Elaborate the specific ways these theorists have influenced the discipline of sociology
4. Apply concepts of “classical” social theory to issues in the contemporary world

Course Content
Week 1 - Introduction: What is classical social theory and why does it matter?
Week 2 - Karl Marx: What is society?
Week 3 - Karl Marx: What are the central problems of society?
Week 4 - Karl Marx: Where is society headed and how will it get there?
Week 5 - Max Weber: What is society?
Week 6 - Max Weber: What are the central problems of society?
Week 7 - Max Weber: Where is society headed and how will it get there?
Week 8 - In-class midterm test
Week 9 - Emile Durkheim: What is society?
Week 10 - Emile Durkheim: What are the central problems of society?
Week 11 - Emile Durkheim: Where is society headed and how will it get there?
Week 12 - Critique: key biases, blindspots, unanswered questions
Week 13 - Semester-end review/revision

Course Assessment

CA1 : 10%
CA2 : 25%
CA3 : 15%
Final Examination : 50%
Total : 100%

Reading and References
Detailed reading assignments are included in the weekly schedule.

Course Instructor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructors</th>
<th>Office Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Campbell</td>
<td>HSS-05-48</td>
<td>6592 7883</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephen.campbell@ntu.edu.sg">stephen.campbell@ntu.edu.sg</a></td>
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Planned Weekly Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Course LO</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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• “The German Ideology,” pp.146-163 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*. |
| 3 | Karl Marx: What are the central problems of society? | 1,2,3,4 | • “Wage Labour and Capital,” pp. 203-217 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*.  
• “Estranged Labour,” pp. 70-77 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*. |
| 4 | Karl Marx: Where is society headed and how will it get there? | 1,2,3,4 | • “Preface to the Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy,” pp.3-6 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*.  
• Onstad, Katrina. 2017. “It Took a Century to Create the Weekend—and Only a Decade to Undo It.” *Quartz*. May 12. |
• Chapters 2, 3 and 5 in *The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. |
• Review Chapter 5 in *The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*.  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>In-class midterm test</th>
<th>1,2,3,4</th>
<th>Nil</th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Emile Durkheim: What are the central problems of society?</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>Book I Chapter II (31-67), Chapter III (68-87), Chapter VII (149-175), and Book II Chapter II (200-225) in <em>The division of labor in society</em>.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Emile Durkheim: Where is society headed and how will it get there?</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>Book III Chapters I, II and III (291-328) and Conclusion (329-341) in <em>The division of labor in society</em>.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Critique: key biases, blindspots, unanswered questions</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>Readings to be assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Semester-end review/revision</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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