

# Theories of Social Order

SOC 314.04

Fall 2013

Instructor: Tom Buechele

Office hours: Monday, 1:30-2:30 or by appointment. Room N/3225

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John Jay College, CUNY

899 Tenth Ave, New York, NY 10019

Class time ⇒ Monday 4:15pm – 6:55pm

Room ⇒ N/2325

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

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Theories of social order and social theories in general are individual views of our collective lives. They explain regularities and patterns that go beyond particular cases but help us to understand them. They link histories with biographies by revealing deeper structures and contexts. They are commentaries about the past and potential futures. The theories that laid the foundations of sociology emerged as attempts at understanding the origins of modern society and the nature of its social order. Ever since Marx, Durkheim and Weber thought and wrote about modern society, the dialogue has continued and expanded. In this course we will have an overview of classical thinkers in sociology, then focus on several contemporary thinkers and approaches in social theory.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

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No textbook is required for this class. All of the readings are posted on Blackboard as PDF files.

Also note that all our course communication will take place via Blackboard, which uses your John Jay account. It is your responsibility to make sure that you can access your emails.

## ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, ETHICS

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Students are expected to stand by the code of academic conduct followed by John Jay College. All exams and papers have to be the student's own work. As a general policy, plagiarism in term papers or cheating in the exams will result in a failing grade.

Attendance is required in this class and you are expected to actively participate in the discussion. Do your readings before class. Make sure that you have at least one question for each reading. You are welcome to disagree, but do so sociologically. Even when the subject matter might seem complicated, you are encouraged to hold and express your own understanding. Make the ideas and approaches we read your own: try to connect them to your personal observations and experiences. Original work and sincere thinking are always appreciated. We will collectively create and sustain a respectful and vibrant intellectual environment in the classroom.

## COLLEGE WIDE POLICIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

(see the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, Chapter IV Academic Standards)

- A. **Incomplete Grade Policy**
- B. **Extra Work During the Semester**
- C. **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policies**

Sample syllabus statement: "Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility from the OAS which is located at 1233N (212-237-8144). It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor."

Source: *Reasonable Accommodations: A Faculty Guide to Teaching College Students with Disabilities*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., City University of New York, p.3.

([http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/studentlife/Reasonable\\_Accommodations.pdf](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/studentlife/Reasonable_Accommodations.pdf))

Statement of the college policy on plagiarism

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Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

It is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation. (*John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin*, <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/654.php>, see Chapter IV Academic Standards)

## Students with disabilities

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Students with disabilities should bring their documents early on in the semester and their needs will be accommodated. "Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility from the OAS which is located at L66 in the new building (212-237-8031). It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor."

Source: *Reasonable Accommodations: A Faculty Guide to Teaching College Students with Disabilities*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., City University of New York, p.3.  
([http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/studentlife/Reasonable\\_Accommodations.pdf](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/studentlife/Reasonable_Accommodations.pdf))

## Learning outcomes

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By the end of the course, students will be expected to

- a. show an understanding of major social processes that have shaped modern society and its institutions of order. These include division of labor, capitalism,

- rationalization, bureaucratization, and globalization. They are also expected to develop an intimate familiarity with the critiques of institutions of modern society.
- b. demonstrate familiarity with the idea of classical thinkers such as Marx, Weber, and Durkheim as well as those of contemporary era (Foucault, Aronowitz)
  - c. engage critically with the texts presented in the course and discuss their relationships to one another, both historically and conceptually.
  - d. relate the concepts presented in this course to the empirical material they have learned in other criminology/sociology courses and to their own lived experience and observations.
  - e. The ability to organize thoughts and communicate arguments effectively in writing

### Course pre-requisites

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You need to have taken Introduction to Sociology (Soc 100).

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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The requirements for this course are **four written essay assignments** in addition to weekly readings (**BRING EACH READING DO FOR THAT DAYS CLASS TO CLASS WITH YOU**). These are short answer questions/definitions/compare and contrast. They are not cumulative but you have to know the basic things learned in the earlier part of the course. There will also be a final essay to be discussed in class. **(I reserve the right to give pop quizzes if I determine that the class is not doing the reading assignments**

Attendance and Participation: 20 %

**(Participation includes coming to class WITH the reading due for that day and doing the reading. This is part of the grade. After one absences each absences will result in a deduction in your participation grade. 5 absences will result in a 0 grade for participation. 6 absences will result in an automatic F for the class.)**

**(I reserve the right to give pop quizzes if I determine that the class is not doing the reading assignments**

4 assignments: 15 % each

Final Exam: 20%

Total: 100 %

## GRADING

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The following grading criteria will be used in this course. No extra-credit work will be offered.

Exam Points	Letter Grade
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
59 and below	F

### **Schedule: (Subject to Change)**

#### **Week 1:**

Sept. 9: Introduction to Course  
C. Wright Mills "The Promise"

**Week 2:**

Sept. 16: Marx and Engels (*On Alienation: Concerning the Production of Consciousness and Estranged Labour*)

**Week 3:**

Sept. 23 Marx (*The Fetishism of Commodities*)

Marx and Engels (*Communist Manifesto*)

**Week 4:**

Sept 30: Weber (*Basic Sociological Terms/Social Action*)

**Week 5:**

Oct. 7 Weber (*Domination and Legitimate Authority – Wrap up*)

**Assignment 1 due** Simmel (*The Metropolis and Mental Life*)

**Week 6:**

Oct. 14: **Columbus Day/College is Closed**

**Week 7:**

Oct 21: Weber (*Domination and Legitimate Authority – Wrap up*)

**Assignment 1 due** Simmel (*The Metropolis and Mental Life*)

**Week 8:**

Oct 28 : Durkheim (*What is a social fact?*)

Merton (*Anomie and Social Structure*)

**Week 9:**

Nov 4: The Frankfurt School/Critical Theory – Introduction  
Horkheimer and Adorno (*The Culture Industry*)

**Assignment 2 due**

**Week 10:**

Nov 11: Marcuse (*The Paralysis of Criticism: Society Without Opposition*)

Marcuse (and *The New Forms of Control*)

Wrap up on Frankfurt School

**Week 11**

Nov 18: Foucault (*The Body of the Condemned and Docile Bodies*)

Foucault (*The Means of Correct Training and Panopticism*)

**Week 12**

Nov 25: **Assignment # 3 due**

Firestone (Start *Dialectic of Sex*); Federici (*The means of Reproduction*)

Micro-Sociological Analysis – Shultz and Goffman

**Week 13:**

Dec. 2 :

Lipsitz (*The Possessive Investment in Whiteness*)

West and Zimmerman (*Doing Gender*)

## **Week 14**

Dec 9:        **Assignment #4 due**

Aronowitz (Class Matters)

Aronowitz (*Space and Time in Class Theory*)

## **Week 15**

16:            Aronowitz (Continued)

**Review for Final**

Bourdieu (Forms of Capital)

Deleuze "Postscript on the Societies of Control"

Postscript on the Societies of Control



