

Sabancı University
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
SOC 201: Social Theory
Fall 2023

Mondays 11:40 a.m.-1:30 p.m. FASS 1089 | Wednesdays 12:40-1:30 p.m. FASS 1089

Instructor: Ateş Altınordu (atesaltinordu@sabanciuniv.edu; meeting by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Didem Ozan (didem.ozan@sabanciuniv.edu)

Discussion Sections: (A) Thursdays 5:40-6:30 p.m. FASS 1080
(B) Thursdays 6:40-7:30 p.m. FASS G043

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to classical and contemporary social theory. In the first half of the course, we will explore the writings of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Georg Simmel. These classical texts on capitalism, individualism, religion, domination, and sociability will set the stage for the contemporary social theories of mid-to-late-twentieth-century that investigate the promises and consequences of Enlightenment rationality (Freud, Adorno & Horkheimer, Marcuse, Foucault), race and gender (Du Bois, Collins, Butler), the construction of modern subjects (Freud, Butler, Foucault), the workings of power (Foucault, Bourdieu), and the reproduction of social inequality (Bourdieu).

Requirements: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and actively participate in class discussions and discussion sections. There will be a midterm exam (to be taken in class on November 20) and a final exam (Date TBA).

Evaluation: The course grade will be composed of class participation (10%), the midterm exam (45%), and the final exam (45%). Letter grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

93-100	A	83-86	B -	73-76	C	60-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F
87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+		

Attendance Policy: Attendance in discussion sections is mandatory. Students who miss more than eight class meetings or more than five discussion sections will receive N/A as their course grade. (Each two-hour Monday session counts as one class meeting and each one-hour Wednesday session counts as one class meeting). Those who enter class more than 20 minutes after its start will be considered absent on that date. Please do not ask for exceptions.

Academic integrity: Cases of plagiarism, cheating, and fraud will result in an F for the course grade and will be referred to the relevant Faculty Dean for potential disciplinary action. For Sabancı University's Academic Integrity Statement, see <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement> (ENG) or <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/tr/akademik-durustluk> (TR).

Readings: All readings are available as pdf files under the 'Resources' section of the course page at SuCourse+.

WEEK 1 | Introduction and Overview | October 2/4

- Mills, C. Wright. 1959. *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press, 3-13.
- Nisbet, Robert A. 1993. "The Two Revolutions." Pp. 21-44 in *The Sociological Tradition*. New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers.

WEEK 2 | Karl Marx: Alienation / Historical Materialism | October 9/11

- Marx, Karl. 1978. "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*: Introduction." Pp. 53-65 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd edition. Edited by Robert C. Tucker. W.W. Norton.
- Marx, Karl. "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844." Pp. 70-81 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*.
- Marx, Karl. "Theses on Feuerbach." Pp. 143-145 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*.
- Marx, Karl. "German Ideology." Pp. 148-175 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*.
- Optional: Giddens, Anthony. 1971. "Marx's Early Writings." Pp. 1-17 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the Writings of Marx, Durkheim, and Max Weber*. Cambridge University Press.
- Optional: Giddens, Anthony. "Historical Materialism." Pp. 18-34 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*.

WEEK 3 | Marx: Modern Capitalism / Social Classes | October 16/18

- Marx, Karl. Selections from *Capital, Volume 1*. Pp. 302-36; 344-61 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*.
- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. "Manifesto of the Communist Party." Pp. 473-500 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*.
- Optional: Giddens, Anthony. "The Relations of Production and Class Structure." Pp. 35-45 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory* and "The Theory of Capitalist Development." Pp. 46-63 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*.

WEEK 4 | Emile Durkheim: Social Facts / Solidarity / Anomie | October 23/25

- Durkheim, Emile. 1997. *The Division of Labor in Society*. The Free Press, 1-8; 38-41; 83-87; 329-341.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1982. "What is a Social Fact?" Pp. 50-59 in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. The Free Press.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1951. *Suicide*. The Free Press: 41-53; 171-276.
- Optional: Giddens, Anthony. "Durkheim's Early Works." Pp. 65-81 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory* and "Durkheim's Conception of Sociological Method." Pp. 82-94 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*.

WEEK 5 | Durkheim: Collective Representations / Religion | October 30 / November 1

- Durkheim, Emile. 1995. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. The Free Press, 1-44; 99-126; 207-236; 303-354; 429-448.

**** no class meeting on November 6 ****

WEEK 6 | Max Weber: The Protestant Ethic | November 8

- Weber, Max. 1992. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Routledge, xviii-xlii; 3-80; 102-125.
- Optional: Giddens, Anthony. "Max Weber: Protestantism and Capitalism." Pp. 119-132 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*.

WEEK 7 | Max Weber: Social Action & The Sociology of Domination | November 13

- Weber, Max. 2019. *Economy and Society*. Edited and translated by Keith Tribe. Harvard University Press, 101-117, 134-135, 338-382.

**** no class meeting on November 15 ****

WEEK 8 | Midterm Exam | November 20

**** no class meeting on November 22 ****

WEEK 9 | The Psychoanalytical Approach to Society | November 27/29

- Freud, Sigmund. 1930. *Civilization and Its Discontents*. W.W. Norton. Chapters 3-8, pp. 37-112.
- Marcuse, Herbert. 1956. *Eros and Civilization: A Philosophical Inquiry into Freud*. Beacon Press. Chapters 2 & 7, pp. 21-54, 140-158.

WEEK 10 | Critical Theory | December 4/6

- Horkheimer, Max and Theodor W. Adorno. 2002. *Dialectic of Enlightenment: Philosophical Fragments*. Stanford University Press, 1-34.
- Adorno, Theodor W. 1975. "Culture Industry Reconsidered." *New German Critique* 6: 12-19.

WEEK 11 | Race & Gender / Intersectionality | December 11/13

- Butler, Judith. 1998. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory." *Theatre Journal* 40(4): 519-531.
- Du Bois, William Edward Burghardt. 2007 [1903]. *The Souls of Black Folk*. Oxford University Press, 1-44.
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 1986. "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought." *Social Problems* 33(6): 14-32.
- Optional: Emba, Christine. 2015. "Intersectionality: A Primer." *Washington Post*, September 21.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2015/09/21/intersectionality-a-primer/>

WEEK 12 | Pierre Bourdieu: Culture and Social Reproduction | December 18/20

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Harvard University Press, 1-96.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. "The Forms of Capital." Pp. 241-258 in J. Richardson. Ed. *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*. Greenwood.

WEEK 13 | Michel Foucault: Truth and Power | December 25/27

- Foucault, Michel. 2012. Selections from *The History of Sexuality*, "Truth and Power," and *Discipline and Punish*. Pp. 295-321 in *Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Edited by Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk. Wiley-Blackwell.

WEEK 14 | Documentary Screening & Concluding Discussion | January 3

- Selections from *Sociology is a Martial Art*. 2001. Directed by Pierre Carles. C.P. Productions / V.F. Films Productions.

**** Final Exam – Date & Place TBA ****