

Sabancı University
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
SOC 201: Social Theory
Fall 2020

Tuesdays 9:40-11:30 a.m. | Thursdays 2:40-3:30 p.m.

<https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/95996718629>

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

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Discussion Sections: (A) Thursdays 3:40-4:30 p.m.
(B) Thursdays 4:40-5:30 p.m.

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, and Max Weber. These classical texts on capitalism, individualism, religion, rationality, and domination will set the stage for the contemporary social theories of mid-to-late-twentieth-century that investigate the promises and consequences of Enlightenment rationality (Adorno and Horkheimer, Foucault), the workings of power (Foucault, Bourdieu), the fabric of culture (Geertz, Sahlins, Barthes), the construction of modern subjects (Butler, Goffman, Foucault), 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 take-home midterm exam (to be distributed at 10:00 a.m. and uploaded by 5:00 p.m. on December 1) and a take-home final exam (to be distributed at 10:00 a.m. and uploaded by 5:00 p.m., date TBA).

Evaluation: The course grade will be composed of class participation (20%), the take-home midterm exam (40%), and the take-home final exam (40%). 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 seven class meetings or more than four discussion sections will receive N/A as their course grade. (Each 1-hour-and-50-minute Tuesday session counts as one class meeting & each 50-minute Thursday 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 6/8

- 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 | October 13/15

- 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. New York and London: W.W. Norton.
- Marx, Karl. "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844." Pp. 70-81 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, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.

WEEK 3 | Karl Marx: Historical Materialism | October 20/22

- 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. "Historical Materialism." Pp. 18-34 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*.

WEEK 4 | Karl Marx: Social Class | October 27

- 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 5 | Emile Durkheim: Social Facts / Solidarity / Anomie | November 3/5

- Durkheim, Emile. 1997. *The Division of Labor in Society*. New York: 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*. New York: The Free Press.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1951. *Suicide*. New York: 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 6 | Emile Durkheim: Rituals / Collective Representations | November 10/12

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

WEEK 7 | Max Weber: The Protestant Ethic / Rationality | November 17/19

- Weber, Max. 1992. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. London: Routledge, xviii-xlii; 3-80; 102-125.
- Weber, Max. 1978. *Economy and Society, volume 1*. Edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 21-38; 53-54; 212-254.
- Optional: Giddens, Anthony. "Max Weber: Protestantism and Capitalism." Pp. 119-132 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*.

WEEK 8 | Max Weber: Politics and Domination | November 24-26

- Weber, Max. 1946 "Politics as a Vocation." Pp. 77-128 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Edited by H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.

WEEK 9 | Take-Home Midterm Exam | December 1

WEEK 10 | The Frankfurt School | December 8/10

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

WEEK 11 | The Cultural Turn | December 15/17

- Barthes, Roland. 1990. "The World of Wrestling." Pp. 87-93 in *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates*. Edited by Jeffrey C. Alexander and Steven Seidman. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Sahlins, Marshall. 1990. "Food as Symbolic Code." Pp. 94-101 in *Culture and Society*.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1972. "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight." *Daedalus* Vol.101, No.1, 1-37.

WEEK 12 | Dramaturgical Theory / Gender as Performance | December 22/24

- Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Doubleday, 1-140; 238-255.
- Butler, Judith. 1998. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory." *Theatre Journal* 40(4): 519-531.

WEEK 13 | Pierre Bourdieu: Culture and Social Reproduction | December 29/31

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge, Mass.: 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*. New York: Greenwood.

WEEK 14 | Michel Foucault: Truth and Power | January 5/7

- 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. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

- **Final Take-Home Exam – Date TBA**