

Sociology 2270A

Foundations of Sociological Theory

Brescia University College, Fall 2020 Online
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This course will deal with the foundations of social theory, starting with the French and Scottish Enlightenments and the beginnings of a specifically sociological worldview, moving on to Durkheim's organic view of society, then to Marx's dialectic materialism, finishing with Weber's *Verstehen* sociology and ideal types of authority and Freud's dim view of civilization. We'll try to understand their theories not just as historical relics, but as living sets of ideas relevant to contemporary social issues, which will come out both in your reports and in our Zoom discussions. We will study how classical social theory created the key concepts, if not the very language, of modern sociology.

Texts

Craib, Ian. *Classical Social Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.
Karl Marx. *Selected Writings*. Ed. Lawrence H. Simon. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994.

Workload

Warmup Test (October 15 online - will cover about a month of work): 20%
Report (several topic choices, each with their own due date): 20%
Participation (on Zoom, can be replaced by second report: see Owl for details): 20%
Final Exam (will cover about two-thirds of the course): 40%

Schedule

Here is the order of topics and readings. I'll post a detailed Zoom schedule on Owl. We'll meet virtually on Zoom once per week in the early evening to discuss the readings and lecture notes I will post on Owl. Readings with a ☺ will be posted on Owl.

Part I: The Origins of Social Theory

1. The Basic Concepts of Social Theory and the Enlightenment Origins of Sociology
Reading: ☐ Craib, *Classical Social Theory*, Chapter 1, pp. 1-10. ☐ Map of Social Theory, notes. ☺
2. Historical Progress in Early French Social Theory: Condorcet and Comte [long lecture]
Readings: ☐ Condorcet, *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind*, trans. Jane Barraclough (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1979), Introduction: pp. 3-13; Sixth Stage, pp. 77-88. ☺
☐ Notes on Condorcet's Ten Stages of History. ☺ ☐ Craib pp. 23-26.
☐ Comte Cartoons in Richard Osborne, *Philosophy for Beginners* (NY, 1992), pp. 134-135. ☺
3. The Scottish Enlightenment on Property and Social Structure [long lecture]
Readings: ☐ Anand Chitnis, *The Scottish Enlightenment: A Social History* (London: Croom Helm, 1976), Chapters 1 and 5, pp. 4-10, 91-123. ☺
☐ Alan Swingewood, "Origins of Sociology: The Case of the Scottish Enlightenment," *British Journal of Sociology* 21 (1970): 164-180. ☺
☐ Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*, 1767, selections on rude nations & property, subordination, and the division of labour: Part 2 Sections II & III, 3.II, 4.I, 4.II. ☺ OPTIONAL
☐ Notes on the Scottish Enlightenment. ☺

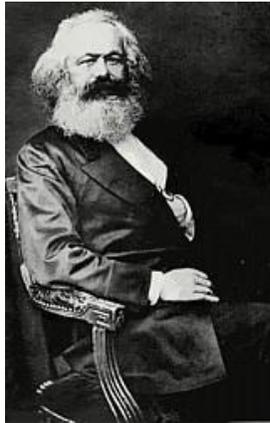
Part II: Durkheim

4. Durkheim on Social Facts and Suicide

Reading: ☐ Craib Chapters 2 and 3, pp. 11-34.

5. Durkheim on Solidarity, Religion and Politics

Reading: ☐ Craib Chapter 7, pp. 63-85 and Chapter 11, pp. 187-203.



Part III: Marx

6. Marx's Historical Materialism

Readings: ☐ Karl Marx, *Theses on Feuerbach*, Simon 98-101.

☐ Karl Marx, *Preface to a Contribution to a Critique*, Simon 209-213.

☐ Karl Marx, *Capital Volume I Preface*, Simon 214-219.

☐ Karl Marx, *Afterword to Capital*, Second German Edition. ☺

☐ Frederick Engels, Letters to Bloch and Mehring. ☺

☐ Craib Chapter 4, pp. 35-42.

7. Marx on Alienation and the Economics of Capitalism (heavy readings!)

Readings: ☐ Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844* on alienation, Simon 54-55, 58-68.

☐ Karl Marx, *Capital Volume I*, Chapters 1, 6, 7 (on commodities, fetishism of commodities, the buying and selling of labour power, the labour process and

surplus value), Simon 220-243, 264-291.

☐ Karl Marx, *Capital Volume I*, Chapter 25, on the industrial reserve army. ☺

☐ Craib Chapter 8, pp. 86-104.

8. Marx on Ideology and the Family

Readings: ☐ Marx and Engels, *The German Ideology*, Simon 102-126, 129-132. Browse Part II of *The Communist Manifesto* (see unit 9).

☐ Craib Chapter Chapter 8, pp. 105-118.

9. Marx on the Stages of History

Readings: ☐ Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, Parts I, II, IV, Simon 157-176, 185-186.

☐ Karl Marx, *Capital Volume III* Chapters 48.3, 52 (on necessity and freedom, classes). ☺

☐ Craib Chapter 12, pp. 201-231.

Part IV: Weber & Freud

10. Weber's Verstehen Methodology (short lecture)

Reading: ☐ Craib Chapter 5, pp. 43-52.

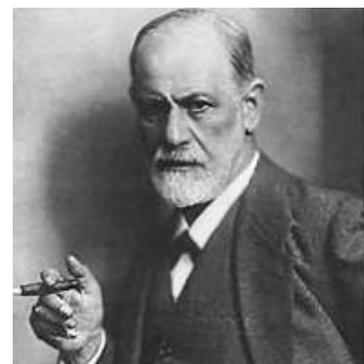
11. Weber on Classes, Groups, Legitimacy and Authority

Reading: ☐ Craib Chapter 9, pp. 119-145.

12. Weber on Religion

Readings: ☐ Max Weber, "Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism," Chapter 5 of *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. ☺

☐ Craib Chapter 13, pp. 232-260 (concentrate on 232-238, 248-260).



13. Freud on Civilization

Readings: ☐ Sigmund Freud, Chapters 2 & 5, *Civilization and its Discontents*, Trans./Ed. James Strachey, (New York: Norton, 1990), pp. 22-36, 64-74. ☺

Reports

Under normal circumstances, students will be expected to write **one report**, worth 20%. Their format will vary in structure: I'll post 5 or 6 topics on Owl. Most will be 5 pages long excluding the cover page and bibliography. Some will be screenplays or diaries. For screenplays, don't use Courier font: single-space speeches and scene descriptions, leaving spaces between these. I'll post an example of screenplay format. Each will have a definite due date, with a standard **5% per day late penalty** applying, no exceptions. If you run out of time on a topic, stop working on it and start on the next one! Make sure you read over your topic carefully, fulfilling all requirements.

They should be formatted as short essays with a proper bibliography and internal proper citations: I prefer MLA style. See my "how to write an essay" blog (link under Owl Resources) for details on formatting and handy tips like stating your thesis on page 1. Reports should be submitted in DOC format (so I can format out extra space) to the drop box on Owl.

Early topics will be graded more leniently; the last one more strictly. You absolutely must show you've read the required readings or face losing at least a full grade level. The inclusion of one or two additional academic sources is encouraged. Proofread and spell check please!

Second Report Option: You may, but don't have to, write a second report to replace your participation grade. You may pick any topic other than the one you wrote a regular report on. Clearly indicate on the cover page that you want this report to replace your participation grade.

Participation and Zoom

I'll post full lecture notes for each topic on Owl. It's your job to read these over in preparation for class (as opposed to me reading them online and you taking notes). Zoom classes will take place once per week, lasting up to two hours. They will be a dialectical discussion of a series of questions I'll post each week, based on the readings and lectures. I'll keep track of your participation in these classes by giving you a mark of 0-3 each class, at the end of the course adding up the totals, rank ordering everyone, and then using the following rough schema to give you a specific grade out of 20:

- 0: You never talk, or never attend class.
- 1-5: You talk a few times (grade based on how often you talk).
- 6-9: You attend most classes AND participate about 6-9 times.
- 10-14: You attend most classes AND participate meaningfully in over half of them. You show *some* knowledge of the texts.
- 15-17: You say something meaningful in every class but one or two and clearly know the texts.
- 18-20: You always participate meaningfully, skipped at most one class, show clear evidence that you know the readings, and aren't afraid to critique your classmates.

For mark ranges your actual grade will be based on the frequency and quality of your participation. A high premium will be placed on **knowledge of the texts and lecture** and willingness to engage with key issues (even if your fellow students disagree with you!), while uninformed opinions will be lightly regarded. So knowledge of the course materials counts.

Cell Phones and E-Mails

Please don't text on your cell phone during class. It's both rude, an illustrative of a severe lack of engagement. I reserve the right to **deduct 1%** from your participation grade each time I see you using one without any notice.

If you have complex questions, please just stay on Zoom after class and ask me then. Please don't email me complex questions about course content or your assignments: it's far more efficient for both of us if you just talk to me. However, short questions about the course, a recommendation of interesting books, films or TV shows, or a follow-up discussion of issues raised in the lecture are entirely fine. I will delete with hyper-speed questions or complaints concerning **grades** - present these in person – or pleas for extensions. This excludes any typos on my part.

Activating your Karma: The same standards of civility apply to electronic communication as personal conversations or letters. If I receive an impolite or rude e-mail I will blacklist your e-mail address. Don't rely on e-mail for any communication you think is important: thoughtless e-mails lead to bad feelings, though kind words and reading suggestions are always welcome!

Plagiarism

This is copying text from another source and claiming that you wrote it yourself by not properly referencing where you got it from. Plagiarism is a serious offense: expect to *at least* fail the course if you get caught. I may request that students submit their essays to www.turnitin.com to avoid problems with plagiarism: don't be offended if I do. If it's not your idea, and it's not common knowledge, cite it! Common knowledge: "The Earth rotates around the Sun," "Karl Marx is a famous political theorist," "People read less in the digital era." Not common knowledge: "Joseph Campbell's *Hero with a Thousand Faces* promotes a monomyth that consists of seventeen stages."



2020-21 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12.

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24** hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such

requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to the [Registrar's website](http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/), <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls

within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.
