SOCIOLOGY 9187
SEMINAR IN SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY I
Spring 2009

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Office Hours: 2.30-3.30 pm, Tuesday & Thursday or by appointment

Schedule of Classes and Location: 3 – 5.50 pm, Monday, 7 Middlebush Hall.

Course Description
Classical Sociological Theory is often treated as a homage paying exercise. This course aims at engaging in a critical dialogue with classical sociological theories. It is divided into three sections, so as to critically interrogate some of the main concerns of sociology, namely ‘structure’, ‘agency’, ‘social consciousness’, and ‘social classification’. Interrogation of the above-mentioned sociological concerns/concepts will be conducted as dialogues with three key sociological theorists – Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. The course is organized as a seminar. Grades will be based on three short analytical papers and students’ participation in the class.

Course Requirements
Grades will be based on class participation (25%) and three analytical papers (3 X 25% = 75%).

Plagiarism will result in the student getting an F in the course. If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify the Office of Disability Services, A048 Brady Commons, 882-4696, or the course instructor immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

Class Participation: Students will be expected to make presentations of assigned readings. The aim of such presentations should not be to summarize the article(s) or book’s main arguments, but to raise certain critical issues that the student feels are important and need to be further discussed. Presenter should deal with two-three points and explain why s/he thinks they are important. Students are also expected to participate in discussions in the class. This is a seminar course aimed at fostering dialogue and students will be evaluated for their contributions in that regard.

Analytical Papers: Students are expected to write three analytical papers in relation to the three thematic areas that are being discussed in this class. These papers will have to be around 2500 words (excluding references). The aim is to clearly and succinctly analyze a particular problematic that the student(s) has chosen. You can use other articles or books but the ones assigned for that particular area have to be a part of the analysis. You can
surely discuss with the instructor in relation to choice of the problematic or your analysis. Students can co-author the paper with another student in the class. The aim of this exercise is to engage with theory as a dialogue among students.

Course Outline

Jan 26: Introduction

Capitalism and Social Structure


Collective Consciousness and Social Classification


SPRING BREAK


**Individual(ity) and the Society**


May 11: Final analytical paper due.