

Selected Topics in the History of Sociological Thought

Sociology and Anthropology 849

Section: G100

Term: 2009 Fall

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Discussion Topics: This course covers the first one hundred years of sociological theorizing from around the 1830s to the 1940s. The classical tradition of sociological thought emerged in the writings of leading theorists of that period. Among these theorists are Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim. This course examines the earliest concepts, theories and methods of sociology found in the writings of these thinkers. Their critical engagement with what is often termed the Enlightenment of eighteenth century largely shaped sociology as a discipline. Therefore, the course will also briefly examine the writings of Montesquieu and Rousseau, who are often regarded as forerunners of sociological theory. The course will also include a brief review of the intellectual premises of the Enlightenment as evident in the seventeenth century thought of Hobbes and Locke which constitute a point of departure in the emergence of sociological theory. Throughout the semester this course will provide a forum to rethink politics and address historical and global dimensions of social change by making connections to today's world and by exploring Karl Polanyi's *The Great Transformation* and Giovanni Arrighi's *Adam Smith in Beijing*.

Grading: 1- Written summaries \x09\x09\x09\x0925%
2- Class presentations \x09\x09\x09\x0930%
3- Critical essays \x09\x09\x09\x0930%
4- Presenting the international news of the week \x09 5%
5- Participation (details will be discussed in class) \x0910%

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).

Required Texts: Karl Polanyi (1944). *The Great Transformation*. Beacon Press.
Giovanni Arrighi (2007). *Adam Smith in Beijing*. London: Verso

Plus Selected Readings. (You will have access to these readings in the reference library).

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Minimum of 72 units including SA 350, a GPA of at least 3.25 and consent of the instructor.

Notes: All students are expected to read and understand SFU's policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>

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