

St. Francis Xavier University
Sociology 201: Traditions in Social Thought
Dr. P. Cormack
Winter, 2012

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Office hours: Monday: 11:15-12:15, Tuesday: 9:10-11:00, Friday: 10:15-11:15.

This course will introduce you to some of the foundational texts in sociological thought – running from classical to contemporary authors. It will provide a foundation for upper level theory courses in Sociology: 301, 302, and 303.

The classes will be organized around a detailed discussion of the day's assigned reading. I will ask you each day to bring a written question or comment about the assigned reading that you are prepared to discuss. If you miss a few classes, volunteer to initiate the next class. The quality of your contribution is the basis of your participation grade.

The reading in this course is challenging, and we move from author to author quickly. It is essential to keep up with the reading in order to understand it. Your exam and assignments will be assessed in terms of how well you understand these texts.

Evaluation

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| Midterm: (Feb. 29) | 20% |
| Final: (TBA) | 50% |
| Essay: (March 7 for extensive comments; March 21 for less extensive) | 15% |
| Participation: | 15% |

Required Text

Gordon Bailey and Noga Gayle (eds.), *Social Theory: Essential Readings*. 2nd ed. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Readings

C. Wright Mills, from The Sociological Imagination (1959), pp. 280-285.

Harriet Martineau, from Society in America (1837), pp. 34-8.

Auguste Comte, from The Positive Philosophy of August Comte (1842) edited and trans by Martineau, pp. 6-14.

Herbert Spencer, from The Study of Sociology (1873), pp. 103-107; The Principles of Sociology (1876), pp. 107-110.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, from The Communist Manifesto (1848) pp. 65-73.

Emile Durkheim, from Suicide (1897), pp. 140-154.

Max Weber, from Economy and Society (1922), pp. 216-227 .

(Mid-term exam)

Charles Horton Cooley, from Human Nature and the Social Order (1902), pp. 239-245.

George Herbert Mead, from Mind, Self, and Society (1934 – posthumous), pp. 247-258.

Erving Goffman, from The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life (1959), pp. 288-296.

Michel Foucault, from The History of Sexuality (1980), pp. 307-315.

Edward Said, from Orientalism (1978), pp. 388-406.

Bernard, Jessie, from Women and the Public Interest (1971), pp. 263-276.

bell hooks, from Feminist Theory: From Margin to Centre (1984), pp.448-465.

Dorothy Smith, from The Everyday World as Problematic (1987), pp. 324-339.

(Final – inclusive of all readings.)