Department of Sociology, Uppsala University

Classical Sociological Theory

Advanced Course for Doctoral Students

Fall Term 2018:

Duration: 4/9 2018 – 3/11 2018
Credits: 7.5 ECTS

Course Director: Vessela Misheva (vessela.misheva@soc.uu.se)
Instructors: Peter Sohlberg (PS), Patrik Aspers (PA) and Vessela Misheva (VM).

Course Description

This purpose of the advanced course in classical sociological theory is to provide a solid theoretical ground capable of supporting a wide variety of research interests and projects. The learning outcomes and objectives are secured through lectures, individual thematic assignments, individual final essay writing, and seminars.

The language of instruction is English.

The course will examine the classical foundations of sociology. It will focus on the works of the most important contributors to the rise and development of modern sociology, who informed the development of modern sociological thought and research. Its content will reflect the birth of the idea of sociology as well as the variety of perspectives concerning what sociology is supposed to be that date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in both Europe and North America. The publications that will be discussed include those of such influential sociological pioneers, both well-known and less well-known, as Comte, Marx and Engels, Spencer, Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, Addams, Cooley, Mead, DuBois, and Fanon. This will present a more realistic picture of the foundation of sociology as a science because it goes beyond the established sociological canon and examines the work of men and women who have been overlooked as founders of the discipline, whose contributions to sociological thought still remain insufficiently explored. A particular emphasis will be placed on the ways in which classical theories continue to shape modern scholarly debates and research, and on the social issues and social problems that influenced their emergence, which are of central importance and social concern even today.

Attendance: Mandatory for both lectures and seminars. Students must notify the teacher in advance if they need to miss a class.

Assessment forms:

(1) Formative Assignments:
Writing a short text-reflection on the lecture theme to be submitted before the corresponding seminar.
Presentations of chapters from the assigned literature to a seminar meeting;
Discussion of one of the theoretical texts and its key ideas; leading a critical question at a seminar meeting.
Detailed instructions will be given in class.

(2) Final Assignment:
Deadline: 31 Oct 2018, 10:00 AM.
Assignment type: an essay on the work of one of the theorists covered in the course with reflection on its current use in sociological discourse and its place in the sociological canon.
Length: 4,000 to 5,000 words.

Readings:


https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch04.htm
Marx and Engels (1848) The Communist Manifesto (on-line reading).
http://marx.eserver.org/1848-communist.manifesto/
Marx (1852) The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte (on-line reading).
http://marx.eserver.org/1852-eighteenth.brumaire/


https://archive.org/stream/systemofpositive02comt#page/n11/mode/2up
http://catdir.loc.gov/catdir/samples/cam031/00063093.pdf

8. Addams, Jane (1902) *Democracy and Social Ethics*. Macmillan
   [http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15487/15487-h/15487-h.htm](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15487/15487-h/15487-h.htm)
   [https://archive.org/details/neweridealspeac04addagoog](https://archive.org/details/neweridealspeac04addagoog)


   [https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1918/Cooley_1918_05.html](https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1918/Cooley_1918_05.html)
   [https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1909/Cooley_1909_01.html](https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1909/Cooley_1909_01.html)
   [https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1902/Cooley_1902toc.html](https://brocku.ca/MeadProject/Cooley/Cooley_1902/Cooley_1902toc.html)

   [http://www.brocku.ca/MeadProject/Mead/pubs2/mindsel M ead_1934_toc.html](http://www.brocku.ca/MeadProject/Mead/pubs2/mindsel M ead_1934_toc.html)


Additional on-line readings and articles will be assigned or suggested in connection with discussion topics in class.