

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code / Title : HS2001 Classical Social Theory

Pre-requisites : HS1001 Person and Society

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

The objectives of this course are to introduce you to the theoretical foundations of sociology as a discipline. It focuses on the key ideas and perspectives developed by "classical" social theorists in their analyses of basic features of social life, the making of modern society and the consequences of modernity. In particular, the contributions of major thinkers such as Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber are discussed against the backdrop of the social and intellectual contexts of their times. In understanding the pivotal influence of such contributions on the development of the discipline, the course also considers their continuing relevance for analysing social change in the contemporary world.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Evaluate the different ways "classical" social theorists have understood modern society
2. Situate these "classical" social theorists in their historical social and intellectual contexts
3. Elaborate the specific ways these theorists have influenced the discipline of sociology
4. Apply concepts of "classical" social theory to issues in the contemporary world

Course Content

Week 1	- Introduction: What is classical social theory and why does it matter?
Week 2	- Karl Marx: What is society?
Week 3	- Karl Marx: What are the central problems of society?
Week 4	- Karl Marx: Where is society headed and how will it get there?
Week 5	- Max Weber: What is society?
Week 6	- Max Weber: What are the central problems of society?
Week 7	- Max Weber: Where is society headed and how will it get there?
Week 8	- In-class midterm test

- Week 9 - Emile Durkheim: What is society?
- Week 10 - Emile Durkheim: What are the central problems of society?
- Week 11 - Emile Durkheim: Where is society headed and how will it get there?
- Week 12 - Critique: key biases, blindspots, unanswered questions
- Week 13 - Semester-end review/revision

Course Assessment

CA1 Class participation : 10%

CA2 Midterm Test : 25%

CA3 Team essay : 15%

Final Examination : 50%

Total -----
100%