

SOC307 Classical Social Thought

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY JULY

Synopsis:

Sociological theories have contributed to the development of our understanding of the social world. SOC307 Classical Social Thought covers key contributors to the foundations of modern social theory. These thinkers have pioneered conceptual thinking about the modern social order and methods of social research, shaping the discipline of sociology. The contributions of key figures such as Karl Marx, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim will be discussed, with the syllabus examining the development of the sociological tradition from its beginnings in the philosophy of the Enlightenment. The social and intellectual contexts within which their lifetime work and ideas were formed are explored. Students will appreciate how the workings of current society as well as prevailing societal problems may be rooted in the earlier developments in modern society. Also considered is how these theories continue to inform contemporary thought and can be applied to the major critical problems facing societies today.

Topics:

- Introduction to social theory and modernity
- Classical foundations and their contexts
- Contributions of key figures: Marx's historical materialism
- Contributions of key figures: Marx on labour and capital
- Contributions of key figures: Durkheim's rules of the sociological method
- Contributions of key figures: Durkheim's society
- Contributions of key figures: Weber's sociology
- Contributions of key figures: Weber on rationalization, politics and religion
- Expanding the foundation: Simmel's sociology
- Expanding the foundation: Elias
- Expanding the foundation: Mead
- Influence of classical sociology on contemporary theory, and conclusion

Learning Outcome:

- Examine the key tenets of classical social theory
- Appraise the intellectual contributions of thinkers in the course to sociological theory
- Illustrate the social and intellectual origins of classical sociology
- Demonstrate the applicability of sociological theory to understanding the current social
- Analyse problems in contemporary society using sociological theories
- Apply theoretical ideas to substantive social issues

Assessment Strategies (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
Overall Continuous Assessment	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	25

Overall Continuous Assessment	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 2	25
Overall Examinable Components	Written Exam	50
Total		100