York University
Department of Sociology
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies

AP SOCI 4215 6.0 S1

Capitalism, Ideology, and Social Theory

Summer 2021
(May 10 – June 17)

Course Syllabus

Course Director: Marcello Musto

Class Time: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 2:30-5:30

Class Location: Synchronous and Asynchronous Online

Office Hours: By appointment (Skype: marcello.musto3)

Email: marcello.musto@gmail.com

Unit Description

The course explores the applicability of sociological theory - classical and contemporary - to the social issues of modernity particularly, in relation to inequality, exploitation, and democratic rights of subaltern groups and their relationship to elite.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

This course is taught in 24 daily lectures lasting 3 hours each. Participation will be marked on the basis of a combination of attendance to lectures and active participation to the discussion in class.
Attendance and informed participation at all classes are not only strongly recommended but required. Students are expected to attend class regularly, *complete the assigned readings on time,* and participate actively to each class.

Students are suggested to prepare prior to each class a one page abstract (around 500 words) about the readings, which may include reflections on the main concepts included in the texts, questions about them, problems encountered with the readings (terminology, historical context, etc.), critical comparison with contemporary issues, etc. This preparatory work will help you in the preparation for the exams.

Midterm Exams

Two midterm exams will be held on **May 24, 2021** and on **June 3, 2021**, at the regular class time and place. The exam will last 90 minute and it will consist of answering to 3 questions drawn from the readings assigned until that date. At the fall First mid-term exam students will be required to respond to questions concerning the readings from Day 2 to Day 8, while at the Second mid-term exam students will have to respond to questions related to the readings of the period lasting Day 10 to Day 15. Note that students who miss a test will not be offered the opportunity to repeat the test.
All students who require extra accommodation for either tests or assignments are responsible for consulting with the York University office in charge of alternate exam/test.
Marks of both mid-terms' exams will be available by email one week after each test.

Presentation

During the periods Day 5 to Day 13 (except Day 9, the date of the First mid-term exam) and Day 21 to Day 23, each student will be required to give a 20-minute presentation. The presentations will be scheduled in alphabetical order (from A to Z - according to surnames) and will be focused on the authors and theories indicated in the Presentation Sign-up Sheet.
Each presenter should expose the sociological theory of the sociologist(s) of the week. In addition to that, the presentations can include thoughts on her/his continuing relevance today, on the reception of her/his main ideas, and can also critically compare her/him with other main sociologists read until that date.
Presenters should provide a 1-page summary (about 500 words), or a PPT (at least 10 slides) to the course director. Avoid Plagiarism and consult the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.
A good presentation is very important to stimulate critical thinking. Therefore, please avoid just reading from a paper, and try to present ideas and raise questions for the engagement of others. To avoid overlapping with the lecture, presenters should not use the slides of the course director. Presentations should:

- expose some of the main arguments of the sociologist of the day;
- identify the key questions and the controversies implied by the readings of the day;
- critically analyze the text (for example: what are the limitations of the position expressed in the readings?);
- conclude with three discussion questions for the other students to debate.

Final Exam

A final exam will be held on **June 17, 2021**, at the regular class time and place. This exam will have an identical format to the two mid-terms exams. It will last 90 minute and it will consist of answering to 3 questions drawn from the readings assigned from Day 17 to Day 23.

Access to Course Readings

Many of the required readings are classical of sociological thought and are available on-line or through Scott Library. In any case, all readings have been uploaded on Moodle or are available through the links indicated below under Schedule of Classes and

Readings. Journal articles are available through Scott Library. Additional readings are only available through Scott Library.
The PPT of lectures are also available on Moddle. Please note that not every class has a PPT presentation and that other materials will be shared during the course.

Course Evaluation

Class Participation	ongoing	25%
Presentation		15%
First Midterm Exam		20%
Second Midterm Exam		20%
Final Paper		20%

Last date to add a course without permission of instructor is May 14, while the last date to drop course without receiving a grade is June 7.

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Schedule of Classes and Readings

Day 1 – 10 May: Introduction and Overview

Recommended Readings:

Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Revolution 1789-1848*, Chap. 1, 2 and maps, pp. 7-52 and 363-374. *Available through link:*
http://www.andallthat.co.uk/uploads/2/3/8/9/2389220/eric_hobsbawm_-_age_of_revolution_1789_-1848.pdf

Day 2 – 11 May: Saint-Simon and the Sociology of Industrialism

Required Readings:

Claude de Saint-Simon, *The Organizer* [1819], *Industrial System* [1821] and *On Social Organization* [1825]

Excerpts taken from the following volumes:
Saint-Simon, Henri. *Henri Saint-Simon (1760-1825): Selected writings on science, industry, and social organization.* Croom Helm. 1975.

Comte de Saint-Simon (ed. Markham), *Henri Comte de Saint-Simon 1760-1825 Selected Writings.* Blackwell Oxford, 1952.

Additional Readings:

Ghita Ionescu, *Introduction*, in Id. (ed.), *The Political Thought of Saint-Simon*, Cambridge University Press 1976.

Day 3 – 12 May: Liberalism

Required Readings:

John Stuart Mill, *Principles of Political Economy,* Book II, chapter I: "On Property".

Additional Readings:

Stefan Collini, *Liberalism and Sociology,* Cambridge University Press, 1979.

Day 4 – 13 May: Fourier and the New Associative Order

Required Readings:

George D. H. Cole, *Socialist Thought, Volume I: The Forerunners 1789-1850*, pp. 62-74 (Chap. VI: 'Fourier and Fourierism').

Charles Fourier, *Design for Utopia*, pp. 76-81, 120-30, 163-70, 203-4.

Additional Readings:

Charles Fourier, 'Attractive Labour'
http://marxists.org/reference/archive/fourier/works/ch26.htm

Day 5 – 17 May: Owen and the Cooperative Movement

Required Readings:

George D.H. Cole, *Socialist Thought, Volume I: The Forerunners 1789-1850*, pp. 86-101 (Chap. IX: 'Owen and Owenism - Earlier Phases')

Carl Landauer, *European Socialism*, pp. 46-59 (Chap. I: 'The Three Anticapitalistic Movement', subsection dedicated to “Robert Owen”)

Robert Owen, *A New View of Society* (Essay Four: 'The end of government is to make the governed and the governors happy'). *Available through link:* http://marxists.org/reference/subject/economics/owen/index.htm#new-view

Additional Readings:

Gregory Claeys, *Searching for Utopia: The History of an Idea*, New York: Thames & Hudson, 2011, pp. 113-140 (Chap. 8: “Ideal Cities” and Chap. 9: “Utopia as Community”).

Robert Owen, *A New View of Society* (Essay Two: 'The Principles of the Former Essay Continued, and Applied in Part to Practice').

Day 6 – 18 May: Marx's Anti-capitalism

Required Readings:

Marcello Musto, "New Profiles of Marx after the *Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe* (MEGA²)", *Contemporary Sociology*, vol. 49 (2020), n. 4, pp. 407-419.
NOTE: *This article can be downloaded by login in York University library and searching the title of the article and the name of the author in order to download it.*

Karl Marx, excerpts from the *Manifesto of the Communist Party* [1848], the *Grundrisse* [1857-58] and *Capital, vol. I* [1867].

Additional Readings:

Maximilien Rubel – Margaret Manale, *Marx Without Myth: A Chronological Study of his Life and Work*, Harper & Row, 1975.

Day 7 – 19 May: The Paris Commune and Workers' Self-Emancipation

Required Readings:

Marcello Musto, "The Paris Commune Is Still a Beacon for Radical Change". *https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/03/paris-commune-radical-change-history-revolution*

Marcello Musto, "Introduction", in Marcello Musto (ed.), *Workers Unite! The International 150 Years Later* (Editor), London–New York: Bloomsbury, 2014, pp. 30-57. *Available through my Academia.edu page [it is necessary to make an account to download]:*
https://yorku.academia.edu/MarcelloMusto/English

Marcello Musto (ed.), *Workers Unite! The International 150 Years Later*, New York: Bloomsbury, 2014, documents 46. *Available through link:*
https://marcellomusto.org/images/Workers-Unite-The-International-150-Years-Later-New-York--Bloomsbury-2014-336-pages.pdf

Additional Readings and Documentaries:

Prosper Olivier Lissagaray, *History of the Paris Commune of 1871* [1876], London: Verso.
https://www.marxists.org/history/france/archive/lissagaray/

Peter Watkins, *La commune (Paris, 1871)*, France, 345 min.

Day 8 – 20 May: Social Darwinism

Required Readings:

Herbert Spencer, *The Man versus the State* [1884] (excertps)

Additional Readings:

John Offer (ed.), *Herbert Spencer: Critical Assessments* (4 voll.), Routledge, 2000.

Day 9 – 24 May: **First Mid-Term Exam**

Day 10 – 25 May: **Durkheim**

Required Readings:

Emile Durkheim, excerpts from *The Division of Labour in Society* [1893] and other writings.

Excerpts taken from the following edition:
Emile Durkheim, *Selected Writings*, (ed. by Giddens), Cambridge University Press, 1972.

Additional Readings:

Anthony Giddens, *Durkheim*, Harvester, 1978.

Day 11 – 26 May: **Weber**

Required Readings:

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* [1904-05] (excerpts)

Additional Readings:

Joachim Radkau, *Max Weber: a Biography*, Polity, 2009.

Day 12 – 27 May: **Social Interactionism**

Required Readings:

Georg Simmel, *The Philosophy of Money* [1907] (excerpts); *Sociology* [1908] (excerpts).

Excerpts taken from the following volume:
Georg Simmel, *On Individuality and Social Forms,* (ed. by Levine), University of Chicago Press, 1971.

Additional Readings:

Norman Levine, *Introduction*, in Id. (ed.), Georg Simmel, *On Individuality and Social Forms,* University of Chicago Press, 1971.

Day 13 – 31 May: **Social Self After Psychoanalysis**

Required Readings:

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* [1930]
http://www2.winchester.ac.uk/edstudies/courses/level%20two%20sem%20two/Freud-Civil-Disc.pdf

Day 14 – 1 June: **Veblen's Institutionalism**

Required Readings:

Thorstein Veblen, *Theory of the Leisure Class* [1899] (excerpts)

Additional Readings:

Stephen Edgell, *Veblen in Perspective: His Life and Thought*, M.E. Sharpe, 2001.

Day 15 – 2 June: Cultural Hegemony

Required Readings:

Antonio Gramsci, *Prison Notebooks* [1929-35] (excerpts)

Additional Readings:

Joseph Buttigieg, *Introduction*, in Id. (ed.), Antonio Gramsci, *Prison Notebooks,* Columbia University Press, 1992.

Day 16 – 3 June: Second Mid-Term Exam

Day 17 – 7 June: Feminist Critique

Required Readings:

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* [1949] (excerpts).

Additional Readings:

D. Bair, *Introduction* to Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Vintage, 1989.

Day 18 – 8 June: The Frankfurt School

Required Readings:

Douglas Kellner, "The Frankfurt School" (selections of writings).

Additional Readings:

Andrew Arato, and Eike Gebhardt (Eds.), *The Essential Frankfurt School Reader*, Continuum, 1982.

Jay Bernstein (Ed.), *The Frankfurt School: Critical Assessments* (6 voll.), Routledge, 1994.

Day 19 – 9 June: The Sociological Imagination

Required Readings:

Charles Wright Mills, *White Collar* [1951] (excerpts)

Additional Readings:

John Eldridge, *C. Wright Mills,* Horwood, 1983.

Day 20 – 10 June: Theories of Alienation

Required Readings:

NOTE: *The articles below can be downloaded by login in York University library and searching the title of these articles and their authors in order to download them.*

Musto, Marcello (2010) "Revisiting Marx's Concept of Alienation", *Socialism and Democracy*, vol. 24, no. 3, pp. 79-101.

Nettler, Gwynn (1957) "A Measure of Alienation", *American Sociological Review*, vol. 22, n. 6, pp. 670-677

Seeman, Melvin (1959) "On the Meaning of Alienation", *American Sociological Review*, vol. 24, n. 6, pp. 783-791

Clark, John (1959) "Measuring alienation within a social system", *American Sociological Review*, vol. 24, n. 6, pp. 849-852

Day 21 – 14 June: Subalternity and Post-Colonialism

Required Readings:

Franz Fanon, excerpts from *The Wretched of the Earth* [1961].

Additional Readings:

Reiland Rabaka, *Forms of Fanonism: Frantz Fanon's Critical Theory and the Dialectics of Decolonization*, Lexington Books, 2011.

Conor McCarthy, *The Cambridge Introduction to Edward Said*, Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Day 22 – 15 June: Biopolitics

Required Readings:

Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics* [1978–1979] (excerpts)

Additional Readings:

Gary Gutting, *Foucault: A Very Short Introduction,* Oxford 2005.

Day 23 – 16 June: The Critique of the Spectacle and Consumer Society

Required Readings:

Guy Debord, *The Society of the Spectacle* [1967] (chapters 1-53).

Additional Readings:

Anselm Jappe, *Guy Debord*, University of California Press, 1999.

Day 24 – 17 June: **Final Exam**