

**21:920:409 - CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (3), Spring 2020**

**Prof. Melinda González**

**Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Class room: SMT 246**

**Office Hours: By appointment only**

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**Summary:** This course provides an overview of the nature and origins of “modern” society as understood by early sociological thought. It provides an introduction to the founding concepts of sociology including: society, capitalism, bureaucracy, and more. This course also offers foundations for a critical evaluation of society in our time.

The classics of sociology are socially constructed. We should not then expect to find a perfect overlap between the texts that are currently designated as classics and those that were in that category even a mere half century ago. By extension, there is no need to assume that our contemporary classics will continue to occupy that category 50 or even 25 years hence.

**Course Required Texts:** All Course Readings are on Blackboard. This course does not require that you purchase any texts. You must do weekly readings.

**Assignments:**

1. Students must do ALL of the reading assigned throughout the semester. Readings will be available on Blackboard.
2. Students will be required to **submit eight (8) weekly writing prompts** throughout the semester related to the reading.
  - Write a 300-500 word reaction paper to the text. This is not a summary of the text. Discuss important points and concepts in the text. What did you learn? What concepts are you struggling with? End with 2 questions that you would like to discuss in class. **Due Thursdays at 10 a.m.**
3. Students will **lead/facilitate one (1) lecture** throughout the semester. Due to the number of students in class, this will be done in groups of 2 or 3. Groups will be assigned during the first day of class. Students will assess their group members as part of the grading.
  - Student groups will facilitate the first half (at least 45 minutes) of the class. Presentations should include various learning modes/models, such as visual aids and audio that support the text. If you show films and/or present music, be sure to include lyrics/closed caption as part of the presentation. Feel free to be creative in your presentation. You may bring music or movie scenes that connect to the text. Be sure to include a summary of the text, information about the author, and to stimulate class discussion with questions and other aids.
4. Students will have a take-home **Midterm Essay Exam** and a take-home **Final Essay Exam**.
5. All assignments due **must be uploaded to Blackboard** or you will NOT receive credit.

**Week 1: Introduction**

**Thursday, January 23** – Syllabus Review

- Review Syllabus
- Students will select date to Lead Class Discussion
- Students will select weeks to submit their weekly writing prompts

**Week 2: Lao Tzu**

**Thursday, January 30**

- Read: Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*
- Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtGtqmC5wU4>
- Write weekly response.

**Week 3: Rabi'a al-Adawiyya & Ibn Khaldun**

**Thursday, February 6**

- Read: Rabi'a al-Adawiyya, *selected poems* & Ibn Khaldun, *On Sufism*
- Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f03zN\\_66HxU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f03zN_66HxU) & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SCyLFR-ck8>
- Write weekly response.
- Note: There will be two discussion groups this week.

**Week 4: Max Weber**

**Thursday, February 13**

- Read: Max Weber, *Bureaucracy*
- Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICppFQ6Tabw>
- Write weekly response.

**Week 5: Emile Durkheim**

**Thursday, February 20**

- Read: Excerpts from *Suicide* and *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*.
- Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZfGGF-YYzY>
- Write weekly response.
- Extra resources: <http://durkheim.uchicago.edu/Summaries/suicide.html>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9W0GQvONKc>

**Week 6: Karl Marx**

**Thursday, February 27**

- Read: Excerpt from *Communist Manifesto*.
- Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy\\_iIcc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_iIcc)
- Write weekly response.
- Extra resource: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2012/11/16/if-marxs-math-is-fundamental-why-do-so-few-teach-it/>

**Note:** This is the *warning period*. To be passing at this point, you should have completed at least **four weekly writing prompts**.

**Week 7: bell hooks**

**Thursday, March 5**

- Read: Excerpts from *Teaching to Transgress*.
- Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2bmnwehlpA>
- Write weekly response.

**Week 8: Mid-Term Exam**

**Thursday, March 12** – Take Home Mid-term Exam Due at 11:59 p.m. uploaded to Blackboard.

**Week 9: Spring Break**

**Thursday, March 19** – SPRING BREAK; NO CLASS

**Week 10: Double Consciousness, Part 1**

**Thursday, March 26**

- Read: Excerpt from *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B Dubois
- Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wny00Az3g8>
- Write weekly response.
- Resource: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/408/408-h/408-h.htm>

**Week 11: Double Consciousness, Part 2**

**Thursday, April 2**

- Read: Excerpt from *Borderlands/La Frontera* by Gloria Anzaldua
- Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wt3Jzo-6jtw>
- Write weekly response.

**Week 12: Aime Cesaire**

**Thursday, April 9**

- Read: Excerpt from *The Colonizer & The Colonized*
- Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG8rvp0BmOg&t=14s>
- Write weekly response.

**Week 13: Vine Deloria, Jr.**

**Thursday, April 16**

- Read: Excerpt from *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*
- Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-nVoQ4cZBE>
- Write weekly response.

**Week 14: Combahee River Collective**

**Thursday, April 23**

- Read: Combahee River Collective statement.
- Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iXhO\\_xiWSo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iXhO_xiWSo)
- Write weekly response.

**Week 15: Semester Wrap Up**  
**Thursday, April 30**

**Final Exam Due**

**Thursday, May 7**– Final Exam Due at 11:59 p.m. uploaded to Blackboard

**Grading:**

1. Eight (8) Weekly Writing Prompts = 40 points (5 points each)
2. Leading One (1) Class Discussion = 20 points
3. Mid-term exam = 20 points
4. Final Exam =20 points

Total = 100 points.

A=92-100; B+=90-91.9; B=82-89.9; C+=80-81.9; C=70-79.9; D=60-70; F=0-59.9

**Email and Classroom etiquette:**

1. All email correspondence **must** include Classical Sociological Theory in the subject line. Be sure to address me with the proper title – Professor or Instructor González in all correspondence. Sign your emails with your name and write formal emails, always.
2. Please silence your cell-phone at the beginning of class. No cell-phones or texting in class. If you need to use the restroom, you do not need permission. Please step out quietly and return promptly.
3. If using a computer during class time, please be sure to use it only for typing notes and turn the volume OFF.
4. Please be attentive and courteous to your classmates during class discussions.

**The Importance of Attendance and Lectures:** Students should do their best to attend all classes and arrive on time. On day ONE of the semester, you should select 3 members of your class and exchange email/phone numbers. These are your absence buddies. When you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to get notes and information from one of your absence buddies. All missed assignments must be completed. If you are absent on the day that you are due to lead class discussion, you will receive a grade of ZERO (0) on that assignment. No makeups will be allowed.

**Enrollment:** The Dean's Office prohibits me from issuing grades at the end of the term to any student not listed as enrolled on my roster.

**Withdrawal:** Any student wishing to withdraw must do so before the withdrawal deadline established by the Dean's Office. Consult the official Rutgers-Newark schedule for the date for this term.

**Examinations:** Exams will be organized as long-form take-home questions that require expository essays. Students will have approximately one week to complete the exam. Students will be expected to know the course material from both the reading assignments and the class lectures. Exam questions will ask students to think for themselves. Some exam questions will be written so that there is no single correct answer. Two (2) exams will be assigned during the term. All exams must be prepared in Microsoft Word and submitted via Blackboard on the due date.

**Academic Integrity:**

As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.

**Plagiarism:**

Every student must write an exam in his/her own words. Failure to write in one's own words will be regarded as plagiarism. Plagiarism includes: parallels in sentence structure, wording, or any rearrangement of material from another student's exam. Plagiarism also includes any material quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise used without footnote from any internet, published, or student-written sources. Exams or materials from paper and exam services will be treated as plagiarism. All forms of plagiarism will result in harsh penalties, including the ultimate penalty of failing the course. **I reserve the right to administer an oral examination to confirm that the written examinations are the product of a student's own work.**

**Disability Services:**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

**Learning Resources:**

Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)  
School of Arts and Sciences-Newark,

Spring 2019  
Room 140, Bradley Hall

(973) 353-5608

<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc>

Writing Center (tutoring and writing  
workshops)

Room 126, Conklin Hall

(973) 353-5847

[nwc@rutgers.edu](mailto:nwc@rutgers.edu)

<https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>