

## **Sociology 375, section 3: Classical Sociological Theory**

Professor: Noel Byrne, Ph.D.

Fall, 2009. Contact Information: [noel.byrne@sonoma.edu](mailto:noel.byrne@sonoma.edu); telephone: 707-664-2517

**Prerequisites:** No

**GE:** upper-division GE, category D1 (Individual and Society)

### **Catalog Description**

A critical examination of the major writings of sociological theorists, including Marx, Weber and Durkheim. This course will involve students in critical analysis of central sociological theories and offer them tools for understanding the development of sociological theory and its unique role in sociology. Satisfies upper-division GE, category D1 (Individual and Society). Required for majors.

### **Course Objectives**

- Understanding of the underlying issue that serves as a unifying theme in all classical sociological theorizing.
- Comprehension of the distinctive contributions provided by each of the major thinkers studied in this course in relation to that unifying theme.
- Development of each student's ability to compare & contrast these contributions.
- Promotion of each student's ability to engage in his or her own theorizing about the issues associated with that unifying theme..
- Enhancement of each student's ability to frame his or her own theorizing in relation to the major thinkers addressed in this course.

### **Course Content**

Lectures, presentations, discussion and activities.

### **Student Responsibilities**

- To stay current with the large and demanding body of reading assignments.
- To write extensively, coherently, and with willingness to offer one's own critical thinking about the subjects of our attention in this course.
- To work very hard.

### **Recommendation**

Take fewer units this semester than you ordinarily enroll in, in order to devote sufficient attention to this course. Also, if you anticipate that other obligations will interfere with your regular and consistent attendance in this course, realize that it is not in your interest to register for this class.

### **Grading Factors**

- Attendance (very, very important) and participation
- Short papers
- Essay exams
- Miscellaneous assignments
- Clear evidence of having carefully read all of the assigned reading in this course.

### **Required Readings**

Please see the course syllabus.