

PSC 3148 - Main Current in Political & Social Theory - I

Introduction

Political theory is one of the exciting areas in the discipline of political science. Political theory has also been influenced by many other traditions – philosophy, political economy, sociology and more recently feminism, post-colonial and cultural studies.

This course will provide students with an understanding of political and social theories in the early period of the development of modern social science. It will focus on key pioneering social theorists -- Comte, Durkheim, Marx and Weber.

Course Objectives

- i To enable students to gain an understanding of the beginnings and development of modern social and political theory .
- ii To learn the key theoretical approaches that constitute modern social and political theory.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of this course student will be able to:

- i. Critically understand the key sociological and political teachings of the founding fathers of modern social and political analysis.
- ii Be aware of the contributions of these thinkers to shaping the political and social institutions as well as the thinking in the modern world.

Course Content

- 1 **Introduction:** What is ‘modern’ in the political and social theory?
- 2 **August Comte:** Role of Social Science, Society and Positivism, Method of Inquiry, Hierarchy of Science.
- 3 **Emily Durkheim:** Bases of Solidarity, Division of Labor ,Types of Solidarity Anomie and Suicide.
- 4 **Karl Marx:** The Intellectual Context of Marx’s Ideas, Analysis of Capitalist Society, Human Potential & Alienation, Modes of Production and Exploitation, Theory of Revolutionary Change, Class Struggle, Communism.
- 5 **Max Weber:** Concept of Ideal Types, Types of Rationality, Authority Structures & Rationalization, religion and capitalism, Concept of the Self.

Assessment

Method	Weightage
Mid-Semester Test	20%
Assignment	10%
Class Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Examination	60%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>

Recommended Reading

Coleman, James. 1994. *Foundation of Social Theory*, Harvard University Press.

Durkheim, Émile, 1951 [1897], Translated by John A. Spaulding & George Simpson, 1979. *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*, New York: Free Press.

Giddens, Anthony. 1995. *Politics, Sociology and Social Theory*, Stanford University Press.

Heywood, Andrew, 2004. *Political Theory: An Introduction*, New York: Macmillan.

Inglehart, Ronald and Welzel, Christian, 2002, *Modernization Cultural Change and Democracy*. Cambridge University Press.

Jonson, Robert A, 1999, *The Development of Durkheim's Social Realism*, Cambridge University Press.

Marx, Karl, (Translated by Martin Milligan), 2007 *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, London: Dover Publications.

Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, (1848), 2002, *Communist Manifesto*, London: Penguin Classics.

Mills, Charles Wright and Gerth, Hans Heinrich., 1998. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, London: Routledge.

Weber, Max, 2002. *The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Translated by Stephen Kalberg. Los Angeles: Roxbury.