

Course name: SOC115 Key Texts in Soc.

Term: Spring 2025

Département: Sociology

Lecturer: Dr Rime Hanane Abdalli

Email: Rym.sociologie@gmail.com



Course Description

This course explores key sociological texts from classical to contemporary thinkers, examining foundational theories on society, power, identity, and inequality. Through critical readings and discussions, students will develop analytical skills to engage with sociological literature and apply theoretical concepts to modern social issues.



Learning Outcomes

- ✓ **Identify and explain** key sociological theories and their historical development.
- ✓ **Critically analyze** foundational sociological texts and their contributions to the field.
- ✓ **Compare and contrast** different theoretical perspectives and their applications.
- ✓ **Apply sociological concepts** to contemporary social issues and case studies.
- ✓ **Demonstrate critical thinking skills** by evaluating the relevance and limitations of sociological theories.
- ✓ **Communicate effectively** through written assignments and class discussions, articulating sociological arguments clearly.
- ✓ **Synthesize information** from multiple sources to develop well-supported sociological insights.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Classical Sociological Theory

Reading: "The Division of Labor in Society" by Émile Durkheim

Reading: "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" by Max Weber

Reading: "The Suicide" by Émile Durkheim

Discussion: Analysis of key concepts and ideas presented in the texts, such as social solidarity, rationalization, and the sociological imagination.

Unit 2: Structural-Functionalism and Conflict Theory

Reading: "The Functions of Social Conflict" by Lewis Coser

Reading: "The Sociological Perspective" by Peter Berger

Reading: "Class, Status, Party" by Max Weber

Discussion: Comparison of structural-functionalism and conflict theory, focusing on their explanations of social order, inequality, and change.

Unit 3: Symbolic Interactionism and Social Constructionism

Reading: "Symbolic Interactionism" by Herbert Blumer

Reading: "The Social Construction of Reality" by Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann

Reading: "Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity" by Erving Goffman

Discussion: Examination of symbolic interactionism and social constructionism, emphasizing the role of symbols, meanings, and social interactions in shaping reality.

Unit 4: Contemporary Sociological Theory

Reading: "The McDonaldization of Society" by George Ritzer

Reading: "Intersectionality: The Double Bind of Race and Gender" by Patricia Hill Collins

Reading: "Liquid Modernity" by Zygmunt Bauman

Discussion: Exploration of contemporary sociological theories, including postmodernism, globalization, and intersectionality.

Unit 5: Application and Critique

Reading: "The Sociological Imagination Revisited" by Jürgen Habermas

Reading: "Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center" by bell hooks

Reading: "Race, Class, and Gender: An Anthology" edited by Margaret L. Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins

Discussion: Application of key sociological theories to contemporary social issues and critical analysis of their strengths and limitation