Histories of Sociological Thought SOCI 2005 A

Instructor	Dr. Alexa Hilmarsson
Term	Spring/Summer 2025
Course Delivery	Online: Asynchronous/ Synchronous
Email Address	alexahilmarsson@cunet.carleton.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines foundational texts contributing to the development of sociological thought from classical 17th century philosophical writers to more current 21st century thinkers. We will explore key questions social thinkers have been contemplating and follow these issues as they transcend historical eras relating to the development of social processes in the organization of society at a micro-sociological and macro-sociological levels. This course will focus on primary texts from a range of classical and contemporary intellectuals, providing students with an overview of social and political perspectives during key historical turns: beginning with thinkers of the enlightenment era, such as Hobbes and Rousseau, followed by a focus on the rise of industrial capitalism underscoring key texts of critics of political economy such as Marx and Engels. In the context of capitalist social relations, we will also delve into the spheres of social order, social change and governance, highlighting readings from Durkheim, Weber, among others. Early feminists and race theories will include readings of W.E.B. Du Bois, Stuart Hall, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, among others. Microsociology of Simmel, and symbolic interactionism of Goffman will be discussed. We will also explore readings of post-modernist writers.

EVALUATION

Assessment	Weight (two semesters)
Quiz	10% x 2 = 20%
Midterm Test	15% x 2 = 30%
Final Assignment	15% x 2 = 30%
Online Reading Reflections (weekly ongoing)	10% x 2 = 20%

TEXT

Required readings will be provided through the Carleton Library electronic reserves system (ARES). Additional readings, video clips, and other supplementary material will be electronically linked to the Brightspace page of this course