

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

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| 1 | Module Title | Classical Social Theory |
| 2 | Module Credits | 20 |
| 3 | Module Level | 5 |
| 4 | Module Code | SOC5043 |

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| 5 | Module Overview |
| <p>This is a core module and it introduces students to a range of classical social and sociological theories and links these theories to their historical and social contexts. It develops students' in-depth knowledge and understanding of the origins of and rationale for these theories, and enables students to appreciate the relevance of these theories to an analysis of contemporary social life. By the end of the module, students should not only have a good understanding of these theories but also demonstrate an ability to apply them to the world around them and also to the topics and issues raised in other modules. Key issues and theories we will explore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of modernity and the Enlightenment to Classical social theory and sociology as a whole • The classic (and contemporary) significance of liberalism and the work of Adam Smith • The importance of Marx's critique of capitalism • The importance of Durkheim's theory of solidarity • The importance of Weber's focus on religion and rationalisation • Those 'Other' theorists often excluded from the 'Canon' of social theory (such as DuBois and Gilman). <p>In alignment with the wider Programme Philosophy and Aims, this module will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice a form of sociological inquiry that is theoretically informed, knowledge-applied, evidence based, and interdisciplinary to provide students with an understanding of the important role of social theories in our understanding of the contemporary social world • Provide students with in-depth and critical knowledge of social institutions, social changes, and the social dynamics that shape identities and interactions in society on a local, national and international level; it will also encourage students to reflect on their own theoretical assumptions, and 'common sense' knowledge, to date • Enable students to acquire a broad range of transferable and employability-related skills, knowledge, and professional behaviours and attitudes relevant to a wide range of graduate employers <p>The module will be taught in a lecture and seminar format utilising a range of teaching and learning methods, including: inter-active lecturing, group work, class discussion and on-line learning activities (via Moodle). The lectures will provide a structured, in-depth overview of a given topic, summarise the key arguments and debates, stimulate thought, and provide a series of points for further debate and discussion. Students will then develop and expand on this knowledge through seminar discussions and activities, tutorials, and pre-/post-session reading and research.</p> | |

In alignment with the wider Programme Learning and Teaching Strategy, this module will:

- Encourage engaged and deep - rather than passive and surface-level –learning
- Facilitate students becoming independent learners engaged in a range of pre-, and post-, sessional tasks outside the classroom, such as reading, research, collaborative work, and practical experience
- Provide formative learning activities to aid understanding, confidence building and provide valuable feedback opportunities to support continuous development

6 Indicative Content

This section covers indicative subject matter only.

Classical Social Theory and the Modern World

The Enlightenment & Modernity (Part 1 & 2)

Classical Liberalism (and Neo-liberalism)

Karl Marx and His Critique of Capitalism (Part 1 & 2)

Durkheim & the development of organic solidarity (Part 1 & 2)

Weber and the Modern World (Part 1 & 2)

‘Other’ Classical Sociological Voices: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and W. E. B. Du Bois

7 Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

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| 1 | Demonstrate a deep and critical understanding of a range of classical social theories and perspectives along with their key concepts and arguments. |
| 2 | Evaluate classical social theories in relation to their historical and social contexts. |
| 3 | Critically apply aspects of classical social theories to important social problems and issues of our times. |
| 4 | Apply understanding, appreciation and use of a wide range of relevant reading, whilst demonstrating an individual approach to the material that draws conclusions based on an analytical and critical approach, and presenting such work in a clear and well-structured manner. |

8 Module Assessment

| Learning Outcome | | | |
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| | Coursework | Exam | In-Person |
| 1,2,3,4 | | X | |

| 9 Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities | |
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| Learning Activities | Hours |
| Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable | 36 |
| Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE | 48 |
| Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams | 116 |
| Total Study Hours: | 200 |