

## Approval: 9<sup>th</sup> Senate Meeting

**Course Name:** Classical Social Theories  
**Course Number:** HS 556  
**Credits:** 3-0-0-3  
**Prerequisites:** Consent of the Course Instructor  
**Intended for:** UG/PG  
**Distribution:** Elective  
**Semester:** Odd/Even

### **Course Preamble:**

The primary aim of this course is to familiarize students with classical sociological theories upon which the discipline of sociology and sociological research firmly stands today. In order to gain a thorough understanding of classical sociological theories, it not only deals with theoretical insights but also historical contexts in which they were propounded.

### **1. INTRODUCTION:**

1. What is social theory
2. Historical and Intellectual Contexts
3. Various traditions of social anthropology and sociology

#### **Essential readings:**

- Appelrouth, Scott and Laura Desfor Edles. 2008. *Classical and contemporary sociological theory: Text and readings*. California: Pine Forge Press. [It may be used as a textbook for theories in Sociology for undergraduate students].
  - Calhoun, Craig et.al. 2007. *Classical Social Theory*. Blackwell Publishing. [Chapter 2, What is Enlightenment. Pp 39-43].
  - Erickson, Paul A. and Liam D. Murphy. 2013. *A history of Anthropological theory*. Ontario: University of Toronto Press. (Chapter-1).
  - Ian Craib. 1997. Introduction: What's wrong with theory and why we still need it? In *Classical Social Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press; pp: 3-14.
- Randal Collins and Michael Makowsky. 2010. Introduction: Society and Illusion. In Randal Collins (ed) *The Discovery of Society*. pp. 1-15.

### **2. Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)**

- a. A Biographical Sketch; intellectual influences and core ideas
- b. Functionalism
- c. Social Fact, Social solidarity, collective conscience
- d. Theories of Religion: sacred and profane, Collective representation
- e. Anomie, Suicide

#### **Essential Readings:**

- Calhoun, Craig et.al. 2007. *Classical Social Theory*. Blackwell Publishing. Pp 133-202.

- Edles, Laura Desfor and Scott Appelrouth. 2010. *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings*. California: Pine Forge Press.
- Lewis A. Coser, 1996. *Masters of Sociological Thought*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.

### 3. Karl Marx (1818-1883)

- a. A Biographical Sketch; intellectual influences and core ideas
- b. Capital, Mode of Production, Relations of Production
- c. Class Consciousness and Class struggle
- d. Alienation/Estrangement, Commodity fetishism
- e. Surplus value Theory, Asiatic Mode of Production

#### Essential readings:

- Cohen, G.A. 2000. *Karl Marx's Theory of History*. Oxford University Press; pp: 63-87, 364-388.
- Calhoun, Craig et.al. 2007. *Classical Social Theory*. Blackwell Publishing; pp: 82-120.
- Edles, Laura Desfor and Scott Appelrouth. 2010. *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings*. California: Pine Forge Press.
- Lewis A. Coser, 1996. *Masters of Sociological Thought*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.

### 4. Max Weber (1864- 1920)

- a. A Biographical Sketch; intellectual influences and core ideas
- b. Social action and Sociology, *Verstehen*
- c. Ideal types, Types of Legitimate Domination, Bureaucracy
- d. Class, Status, and party; Protestant Ethic & the Spirit of Capitalism
- e. 'Iron cage' of rationality

#### Essential readings:

- Calhoun, Craig et.al. 2007. *Classical Social Theory*. Blackwell Publishing. Pp 228-246.
- Edles, Laura Desfor and Scott Appelrouth. 2010. *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings*. California: Pine Forge Press.
- Kalberg, Stephan. 2005. *Max Weber: readings and commentary on modernity*. London: Blackwell Pub. (This book has some good selections from Weber's writings)
- Ritzer, George. 2008. *Sociological Theory*. Chapter 4, pp 119-121; pp 125-127; pp 136-142.
- Lewis A. Coser, 1996. *Masters of Sociological Thought*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.

### 4. Georg Simmel (1858-1918)

- a) A Biographical Sketch; intellectual influences and core ideas
- b) Duality, sociation, the surplus value of wealth

#### Essential readings:

- Edles, Laura Desfor and Scott Appelrouth. 2010. *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings*. California: Pine Forge Press.
- Lewis A. Coser, 1996. *Masters of Sociological Thought*. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.