

# CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (SOCI 3003)

Second Term, 2021-2022  
Fridays 9:30am to 11:15pm

**Instructor:** Prof. Christian Greiffenhagen (Email: [c.greiffenhagen@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:c.greiffenhagen@cuhk.edu.hk))  
Office Hours: By appointment

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## ABOUT THE COURSE

This course examines the foundations of sociological theory as laid out by the classic writers at the end of the nineteenth century. The main focus will be on the work of the three great founding theorists of sociology: Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim.

The focus of this course will be a close examination of original texts and the ideas expressed in them (rather than their application to contemporary issues). The aim is for student to appreciate the complexity, possibly even inconsistency, of these writers, something that gets lost in textbook representations of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim.

## READINGS

### Required Texts

Calhoun, C., Gerteis, J., Moody, J., Pfaff, S., & Virk, I. (Eds.) (2012), *Classical Sociological Theory* (3rd ed.). Chichester: John Wiley. [CST]  
Hughes, J. A., Sharrock, W., & Martin, P. J. (2003). *Understanding Classical Sociology: Marx, Weber, Durkheim* (2nd ed.). London: Sage. [USC]

A bulk order for these books has been placed with the CUHK bookstore. Since quizzes will be 'open book', students are strongly encouraged to obtain both books.

### Supplementary Readings

Any supplementary readings will be announced through the course website. Check with your TA regarding accessing readings.

## NOTE ON LECTURE ATTENDANCE

It is expected that you attend all lectures. If you are absent for reasons other than those specified under university policies, then it is not the responsibility of the instructor or the TA to help you catch up with missed lecture material.

Attendance also includes arriving to class on time and staying for the entire time. Coming to a lecture late or leaving a lecture early is very disrespectful and disruptive.

Please refrain from bringing food to the class (water is okay). Students who are eating during the lecture or tutorial will be asked to leave.