

HTS 3102 Syllabus

Social Theory and Structure HTS 3102, Section I, 3 Credits

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor

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General Course Information

Description

This course explores the original writings of Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and W.E.B. Du Bois, whose work collectively maps the main threads of sociological research. Selected texts include the concepts that have proven most useful and durable in social scientific research.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify major theorists in the classical sociology canon and describe the theoretical perspective associated with each.
- Position social thinkers in an intellectual lineage and explain how these lineages form a scholarly conversation, one with another.
- Assess the logical integrity, underlying assumptions, and inherent implications of different theoretical positions.
- Apply social theories to explain contemporary phenomena and postulate future trajectories.
- Evaluate contemporary political, economic, and social claims relative to established theoretical traditions.

Required Course Materials

Books:

- Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folk*.
- Durkheim, Emile. *The Division of Labor*.
- Tucker, Robert C. (ed.) *The Marx-Engles Reader*.
- Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.

Additional articles/excerpts/book chapters:

- 1) "What Is Enlightenment?" by Immanuel Kant
- 2) *The Wealth of Nations*, chap 1-3, by Adam Smith
- 3) Excerpt from *Suicide*, by Emile Durkheim
- 4) Excerpt from *The Writings of Max Weber*.

Grading Policy:

- Attendance and Participation (20% of grade)
- Reflections (20% of grade)
- Mid-Term 1 (20% of grade)
- Mid-Term 2 (20% of grade)
- Final Exam (20% of grade)

Description of Graded Components

- **Attendance and Participation:** In accordance with the Institute's Student-Faculty Expectations, students must come to class on time and prepared to engage in discussion of the assigned readings. Students begin the semester with 95% participation. Points may then be added or lost. Evident deficiencies from normal expectations will cause point deductions, which may accrue exponentially.
- **Mid-Terms:** The mid-term exams will take place in class. Students need to purchase a Blue Book with lined paper and bring it to class on examination days. The mid-term exams will ask several short answer questions, wherein students will identify and discuss certain concepts that were covered in class.
- **Reflections:** For each theorist covered, students must write a reflection essay (about 3 pages) that takes a key concept from the reading and applies it to a contemporary issue for analysis.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will comprise three essay questions selected from a list of six questions circulated in advance. It will take place in class on the assigned day at the assigned time. Students need to purchase a Blue Book and bring it to the final exam.

Grade Point Breakdown

A: 100-90
B: 89-80
C: 79-70
D: 69-60
F: 59-0

*If taking this course as pass/fail, the threshold for passing the course is 70.

Use of Generative AI is Prohibited

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy. Using Generative AI at any stage of the writing process without attribution is plagiarism. While some faculty allow students to use generative AI as long as it is properly cited, I do not. For the purposes of this course, the use of generative AI is absolutely prohibited.

Late Assignments

Late assignments: Assignments completed after their due dates without an excuse will drop in letter grade (10% of total score) for every two days beyond their due date and receive a 0 if turned in over 7 days late.

USG Required Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussion of the readings and assignments. Students may miss 3 classes throughout the semester, no questions asked, with no impact on their grade. Absences may be excused if documented by the institute (e.g., student-athletes for games, institute sponsored programming, personal issues documented by the Dean of Students, etc.).

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcomes:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social or geographic relationships develop, persist or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Additional Georgia Tech Required Policies

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Recordings of Class Sessions and Required Permissions:

Classes and class recordings may not be recorded or distributed by students without the express consent of the instructor unless it is according to accommodations granted by the Office of Disability Services. Class recordings, lectures, presentations, and other materials posted on Canvas are for the sole purpose of educating the students currently enrolled in the course. Students may not record or share the materials or recordings, including screen capturing or automated bots, unless the instructor gives permission.

This syllabus is subject to change.