

# History 10

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Theories of History/Theories of Society

in Modern Europe \_

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## Syllabus

### Fall Quarter

2001

Professor

Mark Traugott

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Many of our assumptions about the nature of modern life took shape in Europe during the "long" nineteenth century (1789–1914). This was also the period in which the relationship between history and the social sciences was defined. This course uses a combination of intellectual and social history and the close analysis of texts to acquaint students with theories and concepts that help make sense of human social existence in the contemporary era. Students will read, in the original, the landmark works of thinkers who defined the terms of debate over the past, present, and future course of human history. In the process, students will be asked to confront the timeless issues raised by life in a social context: how to make sense of the elusive patterns which govern day-to-day social interaction and long-term social development; how to balance the conflicting needs for social order and social change; and how to reconcile the mutual rights and obligations of individuals on the one hand and the social group on the other. Each segment of the course invites students to ask how the theorist conceived of the historical process and to what extent each advanced a coherent model of society. The objective of the course is to provide students with an overview of competing theories of history and to equip them for the task of interpreting the patterns they observe in the social world around them.

Most core readings in this course have been drawn from the works of four figures --- Tocqueville, Marx, Durkheim, and Weber --- all of whom made significant contributions to the study of history, even as they laid the groundwork for the disciplines of political science, economics, sociology, and anthropology. Our consideration of this material will be preceded by an introductory segment on precursors of the socialized perspective on history in the early modern period; and will be followed by a concluding segment that points in the direction of twentieth-century developments.

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## **LECTURES**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:30 to 10:40 p.m. in Social Sciences 2, Room 71

(Please note: Lectures may not be tape recorded without the instructor's explicit permission.)

## **INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

Office hours will be held on Monday from noon to 1 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon in 277 Stevenson Faculty Office Building. You may reserve a specific time slot by placing your name and phone number on the sign-up list posted on my office door. My office phone number is 459-2465.

Students with disabilities who feel that they may need accommodations should first register with the Disabilities Resource Center and then come to my office hours within the first two weeks of the quarter. Bring a copy of the DRC's Accommodation Request Form with you.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to attending lectures and staying current with the readings, students must complete four in-class, short-answer quizzes and two take-home essay examinations.

The precise date for each quiz will depend on how quickly we move through the material. In general, each will occur shortly after we conclude our consideration of one of the main theorists' writings. Your evaluation will reflect your performance on your three best quizzes. You must take at least three quizzes in order to pass the course.

The first take-home will be handed out at the end of class on Friday, October 28 and will be due at the start of class on Monday, November 2. Questions will cover the material on Tocqueville and Marx. Your essay will be strictly limited to no more than 1000 words (typewritten, triple-spaced, with generous margins; you must indicate the precise word count on your cover page.)

The second take-home will be handed out at the end of class on Friday, December 2 and will be due at my office (277 Stevenson), not later than noon on December 6. One question will cover the material on Durkheim and Weber. A second question will ask you to address the overarching themes of the course. Each essay will be strictly limited to no more than 1000 words (typewritten, triple-spaced, with generous margins; you must indicate the precise word count of each essay on your cover page.)

Please note: All work for this course must be completed in a timely fashion. The grade of incomplete is not available for failure to complete the course requirements on time. Students will be expected to hand in the corrected version of their first take-home essay along with their second take-home so that I have all of their written work available when I prepare narrative evaluations.

## **READING LIST:**

The following books will be available in paperback editions at the Bay Tree Bookstore. They have also been placed on reserve at McHenry Library.

- Bellah, Robert N., ed. Emile Durkheim on Morality and Society, U. Chicago Press.
- Tucker, Robert, ed. The Marx–Engels Reader, Norton.
- Weber, Max. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. (Either the Roxbury or the Scribners/Counterpoint edition is fine.)

In addition, a course reader is available at the campus Copy Center. Because the Tocqueville readings which correspond to the initial segment of the course are contained in that reader, it is essential that students obtain a copy as quickly as possible. All course readings are also available on two-hour reserve at McHenry Library.

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#### READING ASSIGNMENTS:

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Specific assignments are listed below. Students should complete readings in advance of the lectures which cover the corresponding material.

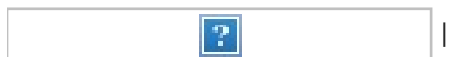
#### I. Introduction: Conceiving of History and Society in the Early Modern Era

Your primary task is to complete the Tocqueville readings quickly. (See next section.) If, however, you want to tackle supplemental readings from the early modern period, the first four of the following texts are available in an excerpted form on the course web page and the fifth at "<http://www.bibliomania.com/NonFiction/Smith/Wealth/index.html> (<http://www.bibliomania.com/NonFiction/Smith/Wealth/index.html>)".

1. Thomas Hobbes, excerpts from Leviathan.
2. John Locke, excerpts from "An Essay Concerning the True Original Extent and End of Civil Government".
3. Jean–Jacques Rousseau, excerpts from "A Discourse on Inequality".
4. Jean–Jacques Rousseau, excerpts from "The Social Contract".
5. Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*

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#### II. Alexis de Tocqueville and the Democratic Revolution



See the class reader for selections from Democracy in America corresponding roughly to the following passages:

Volume I: |

Introduction |

Chapters 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17

Volume II: |

Book I |

Chapter 2, 14

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Book II |

Chapters 1, 5, 10, 13

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Book III |

Chapter 12, 17, 21

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Book IV |

Chapters 6, 7

III. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and the Industrial Revolution (Tucker)



- a) Preface to "A Contribution to a Critique of Political Economy," pp. 3–6;
- b) "Socialism: Utopian or Scientific," pp. 683–717;
- c) "Manifesto of the Communist Party," pp. 469–500;
- d) Excerpts from "The German Ideology," pp. 146–175.
- e) "Working-Class Manchester," pp. 579–585.
- f) "Estranged Labor," (excerpts from the "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844") pp. 70–81.

IV. Emile Durkheim and the Search for a Moral Order (Bellah)



*The Division of Labor in Society*, 63–85, 103–13, 121–46.

"The Dualism of Human Nature and its Social Conditions", 149–63.

"The Principles of 1789 and Sociology", 34–42.

V. Max Weber and the Rationalization of the World (Weber)



*The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (complete, but pay particular attention to pages 13–128, 155–183)

VI. Synthesis and Conclusion: Modernity, Society, and History

[Main \(index.html\)](#) | [Readings \(Readings/index.html\)](#) | [Links \(links.html\)](#)