

SOC.270H: HONORS CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Spring 2010

Class Schedule: Mon & Weds 9:30 – 10:50 am



This course helps to fulfill graduation requirements for liberal arts social science & sociology majors.

Did you know that the “father” of sociology, Auguste Comte, once tried to kill his mother-in-law because she burned his meal? Or that Max Weber suffered a mental breakdown in 1897 because he thought he was responsible for his father’s death? Or that Emile Durkheim’s son, Andre, was killed during WWI? Meet the giants of sociology in this new honors course as we explore the development of the discipline in the nineteenth century.

Course Prerequisite: Soc. 121 or HIS 121 or PSY 123

Honors Criteria for Eligibility: Newly admitted students who have a combined SAT score (math and critical reading) of 1200 OR a cumulative 3.5 GPA out of a 4.0 grading scale (high school) and who require no developmental coursework are eligible to take Honors courses. Current MCC and transfer students who have a cumulative 3.5 GPA after the completion of 12 college credits and who have completed any necessary developmental coursework for their major are also eligible.

How to Register: Because this course is an honors course, you will need to contact one of the program’s Co-Directors for an approval form. Please contact Prof. Donna-Marie Gardner (dgardner@middlesexcc.edu) or Prof. Mathew Spano (mspano@middlesexcc.edu).

Benefits: As a student in an honors class, you will enjoy a small class size (10 students minimum and 15 students maximum) and privileged domain. You will have access to advanced resources and research technology. Taught in a seminar format, this course will also allow you to explore your own area of interest in sociological theory. You will engage in original readings of some of the greatest thinkers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. You will enjoy intellectually stimulating readings and discussions

Description: Students will explore the lives and theories of the great sociological thinkers who formed the classical movement. Original readings are discussed and presented from various perspectives. Analogies to “modern society” are explored. Students are given the opportunity to develop their own topics in power point presentations. Students examine various sociological perspectives through the “eyes” of these theorists. Critical thinking and analysis are manifested through intellectually challenging readings, research, critical discussions and concept syntheses.