



LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social and Management Sciences
Department of Sociology and Psychology

COURSE PARTICULARS

Course Code: SOC 211
Course Title: History of Sociological Thought
No. of Units: 3
Status: Compulsory

LECTURER DETAILS

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Area of Specialization: Criminology and Penology

Course Description:

Sociology is a product of the historical development of ideas within changing societal contexts. Therefore this course is designed to make students know the standard history and interpretation of the development and evolution of social thought from social philosophy to scientific or Sociological thought. This course examines the ideas/thought/propositions and contributions of some Sociologists that contributed to the origin and development of Sociological discipline and that have shaped the current sociological research and theories.

Objective:

This course examines the ideas/thought/propositions and contributions of some Sociologists that contributed to the origin and development of Sociological discipline and that have shaped the current sociological research and theories i.e. Ibn Khaldun, Claude de- St. Simon; Comte; Spencer, Durkheim, Marx, Weber, Parsons, etc. Sociology employs a variety of overarching templates/traditions or “theories” to increase our understanding of how the social world operates. This course familiarizes students with major strands of theoretical reasoning in sociology that have appeared from the age of enlightenment to the 20th century.

Course Assessment: Grand Total = 100%

-Attendance: 5 marks
-Test(s) and Assignments: 25 marks
-Final Examination: 70%

LECTURE PLAN

Weeks	Topics
1	A review of the meaning/explanation of social thought; Characteristics of social thought
2	A review of the ideas of some age of enlightenment philosophers: i.e. Thomas Hobbes; John Locke; Charles Montesquieu; J. J. Rousseau; Rene Descartes
3	Evolution/development from social thought to scientific/sociological thought

Scientific Thought/Sociology: The contributions of the following scholars to the development of Sociology:	
4	Relationship between science and society
5	Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406)
6	George W. F. Hegel (1760-1825) and Henri-de-Saint Simon (1760-1825)
7	Auguste Comte (1798-1857)
8	Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) and Talcott Parsons (1902-1979)
9	Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)
10	Karl Marx (1818-1883)
11	Max Weber (1864-1920)
12	Revision

Reading Lists:

- Coser, A.L. 1971. Masters of Sociology: Ideas in Historical and Social Context. NY, Harcourt Brace, Jovanovich
- Mitchell, Geoffrey Duncan (1968, 2007). A Hundred Years of Sociology: A Concise History of the Major Figures, Ideas, and Schools of Sociological Thought. New Brunswick, N.J: Transaction Publishers.
- Nisbet, A. Robert. 1967. The Sociological Tradition. Heinemann Educational Books, London.
- Willis, Evans. 1996. The Sociological Quest: An Introduction to the study of Social Life. New Brunswick, N.J: Rutgers University Press.

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

- 1 a) What is the relationship between Science and Society
b) How has Science influenced Society?
2. The Enlightenment Age was a key preceding era to the Scientific Age. Discuss its relevance to Sociological Thought and Sociology as an academic discipline.
- 3 How is Social Thought different from Sociological Thought?
4. Vividly discuss the concept “**DIALECTICS**”
5. Discuss Herbert Spencer’s work on “Social Evolution” and “Structural-Functionalism”
6. Human life is regulated and influenced by the environment/society we live in. Discuss this using C. W. Mills Sociological Imagination.
7. French society was confronted with the challenges of Old and New Social Order and Spiritual and Temporal/Secular Leaders. Discuss these views of Henri-de-Saint Simon
8. Why is Auguste Comte being referred to as the founding father of Sociology?

- 9.** “Growth, Structure and Differentiation”, “Mechanical and Organic Solidarity are characteristics of complex society. Discuss these Durkheimian views
- 10.** Vividly discuss Emile Durkheim’s work on SUICIDE (1897)
- 11.** Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of capitalism influenced capitalism. Discuss this Weber’s view
- 12.** Parsons Structural Theory posits that, there are Four Functional Imperatives necessary for any Social system to survive (AGIL). Discuss.