

ANTH 488: Classical Social Theory in Anthropology
Fall 2015
Professor Ana Maurine Lara
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine classical social theory and its application in Anthropology.

EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students in the course will learn about the works of Durkheim, Weber and Marx as three theorists whose work has contributed to the development of the discipline. Through a deep engagement with their theoretical texts, students will also gain an understanding of how to read, analyze and apply theory. In this course, we will follow a theory lab model.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Durkheim, Emile (2008[1893]). *The Division of Labor in Society*. New York: The Free Press.
- Durkheim, Emile (2008 [1912]). *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York: The Free Press.
- Geertz, Clifford (1973). *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books.
- Marx, Karl Capital (1976[1867]) *A Critique of Political Economy, Volume One*. London: Penguin Classics.
- Marx, Karl (1978). *The Marx-Engels Reader*. New York: WW Norton.
- Mauss, Marcel (2000 [1924]). *The Gift: The Form and Reason for Exchange in Archaic Societies*. New York: WW Norton.
- Mintz, Sidney (1986 [1985]). *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. New York: Penguin Books.
- Weber, Max (1978[1946]). *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Weber, Max (2003 [1905]). *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Dover Press.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Format: Theory Lab

This course is designed as a theory lab. Students will be responsible for reading one book a week, starting with Week 2. They will come to class prepared to discuss the readings in class. One meeting a week is dedicated to work in lab groups. On occasion, the Professor will lecture in order to provide historical and/or social context to the theory in discussion.