

SOAN 390: Classical Social Theory

First Paper

This paper should be 10-12 pages, typewritten, double-spaced with standard margins (that's about 2500-3000 words). It should be based on primary sources (esp. the "B" readings) though you may use secondary sources for ideas and guidance. Include proper footnotes, references and a bibliography (not part of the 10-12 pages), in ASA style (look it up!).

- Imagine that Karl Marx and Emile Durkheim are sitting in the Plaza Café (or a similar watering spot) discussing some current social problem.
 - Write a paper which recreates their conversation.
 - In it, show what each of these theorists would say about the problem, and what each would recommend to solve it.
 - Use dialogue to show what each fails to appreciate about the problem, and how this failure is the result of his basic approach to social life.
 - Be sure to give each theorist a chance to respond to these criticisms.
 - You may write yourself into the conversation, if you like.

You will write several drafts of this paper—this IS a WB course, remember!

HERE ARE THE STEPS:

1. Chose a current social problem about which you are seriously interested. Learn everything you can about it. Locate and read at least 6 sociological accounts of the problem, written from at least three different points of view. Work these into an annotated bibliography, which you are to turn in following the instructions on the [Course Schedule](#).
2. As soon as we have finished the unit on Marx, decide what Marx would say about this social problem. Organize your arguments into an outline, turning them in following the instructions on the [Course Schedule](#).
 - Begin thinking about where Marx & Durkheim will meet, what personalities you want to give them, etc.
 - I suggest that you begin drafting Marx's dialogue, also.
3. As soon as we have finished the unit on Durkheim, decide what Durkheim would say about this social problem. Organize your arguments into an outline, turning them in following the instructions on the [Course Schedule](#).
 - By the same date, turn in your decision about where Marx & Durkheim will

meet, any special circumstances of their meeting, and give a general sense of the personalities that you will give them. Two pages maximum!

4. Write a complete draft of your paper and turn in a copy following the instructions on the [Course Schedule](#). I am serious when I say that this draft should be complete; it should be as good as the typical paper that you turn in for the typical class. It should have no typographic errors, no issues of spelling or grammar, etc. It should also make sense. Handing in a piece of junk at this stage will result in no credit for the assignment.

(A word to the wise: you are advised to make this the actual second draft, having written a previous, private draft to get your ideas on paper. Good writers always write a throw-away draft. This frees them to write a second draft, whose ideas are inevitably better developed. This is the most important writing advice you will receive in this course.)

Simultaneously, give a copy to your writing partner (or group) for written peer review.

5. Review your writing partner's (or group's) paper(s), focusing first on their intellectual content and only secondarily on their style. (Authors: Don't depend on your partner to fix your grammar; do that yourself.) Write up at least 2 full pages of comments for each paper, in addition to the comments that you mark on the papers themselves. Submit a copy of your comments to the author and to me following the instructions on the [Course Schedule](#).
6. Write a final draft and submit it to me, along with a short summary (1 page maximum) of the changes that you made based on your writing partner's/s' feedback. Turn this in following the instructions on the [Course Schedule](#).

Part of your grade will be based on the quality of your feedback to your writing partner or partners. The rest of your grade will be based on your paper's content and on its writing at each stage of the process. (I.e.: drafts count.)

See the [Course Schedule](#) for a complete list of due dates, times, and submission methods.