



CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

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IIT Madras

INTENDED AUDIENCE : Undergraduate as well as postgraduate students of sociology, aspirants of competitive examinations and general public who are interested in the discipline of sociology.

COURSE OUTLINE :

This course introduces students to the formative period of the discipline of sociology, the socio-cultural and intellectual factors behind the emergence of the discipline. The course offers a comprehensive analysis of key theorists such as Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber who are widely considered as the stalwarts in classical sociological theory. It explains how the theoretical concerns of these scholars laid the foundation for the subsequent development of sociology as a distinct social science discipline with clear theoretical as well as methodological foundations. The course enables students to develop a sociological perspective and theoretical insights through a systematic analysis of the key theorists of the discipline.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. R. Santhosh teaches sociology at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras. He specializes in the field of sociology of religion, focusing on Hindu and Islamic religiosity in the late modern contexts in India.

COURSE PLAN :

Week 1: Introduction to sociology; uniqueness of sociological perspective

Week 2: Historical context of the emergence of Sociology: European Enlightenment

Week 3: August Comte, Herbert Spencer and early thinkers of modernity

Week 4: Karl Marx

Week 5: Karl Marx

Week 6: Emile Durkheim

Week 7: Emile Durkheim

Week 8: Max Weber

Week 9: Max Weber

Week 10: G.H. Mead

Week 11: Classical theory and methodological orientations in sociology

Week 12: Sociology and modernity: wrapping up and conclusion