Course Description:
What are the social structures and conditions that restrict human development? What do we perceive to be the source of social order, solidarity or conflict? Do we live in social conflict based on scarcity of resources and power or do we live in solidarity based on shared power and a justified hierarchy? Theorists of social sciences have been trying to answer such pertinent questions in order to explain the social order. As old as these questions are they remain unanswered. What holds society together or tares it apart? What does a theorist see to be the relationship between consciousness (the inside) and society, the social structure (the outside)? Sociology emerged in opposition to a predominance of naïve psychological explanations of social order and conflict. In response to such psychology of utilitarian philosophy and social contract theory sociologists discovered the power of social forces and how they are intertwined with the individual. In this course we will begin with the Enlightenment and the "scientific" approach to study human behavior and continue to the present-day. We will be studying the theories of four thinkers who wrote on social relations: Marx, Durkheim, Simmel, and Weber. We will eventually delve into whether theory can help develop a society in which freedom can be realized.

Course Requirements:
Students will be required to carefully and analytically read all assigned sections of the book. Each student is responsible to read all pertaining material and participate in class discussions. Participation, and not just attendance, in class discussions determines more than 20 percent of your grade. This makes sharing your views with others especially important. Students are to write 4, five-page response papers for the reading assignments. Papers are to be written after readings and class discussions about each theorist has completed. The five-page paper is a critical analysis of the ideas put forth by the authors. Response papers should be thoughtful and analytical. Emailed and late papers will not be accepted. Furthermore, each class period will start with a discussant defending theories of the assigned theorist and a respondent who will argue against the theories. Missing more than two classes will result in earning a failing grade, no exceptions. No laptops allowed during class session.

Grades will be determined as follows:
- Response Papers: 4@ 20 points each-------------------------------80
- Presentations-------------------------------------------------------10
- Class Participation-------------------------------------------------10
- Total---------------------------------------------------------------100

Required Readings:
Capitalism and Classical Sociological Theory, by John Bratton et. al.
Reading Assignments:

Week One: Aug. 24th
   Introduction to course and Read: Introduction, pp. 1-12

Week Two: Aug. 31st
   Read: European Enlightenment, pp. 37-57

Week Three: Sept. 7th
   Read: Karl Marx: Philosophy, pp. 63-86

Week Four: Sept. 14th
   Read: Karl Marx: Theory of History, pp. 89-109

Week Five: Sept. 21st
   Read: Karl Marx: Economics of Capitalism, pp. 113-135----Submit paper #1

Week Six: Sept. 28th
   Read: Emile Durkheim: The Division of Labor, pp. 139-155

Week Seven: Oct. 5th
   Read: Emile Durkheim: The Rules of Sociological Method, pp. 159-177

Week Eight: Oct. 12th
   Read: Emile Durkheim: Religion and Education, pp. 181-197----Submit paper #2

Week Nine: Oct. 19th
   Read: Max Weber: Methodology, pp. 201-220

Week Ten: Oct. 26th
   Read: Max Weber: Capitalism and Society, pp. 223-242

Week Eleven: Nov. 2nd
   Read: Georg Simmel: Modernity, pp. 247-264----------Submit paper #3

Week Twelve: Nov. 9th
   Read: Gender and Social Theory, pp. 269-273

Week Thirteen: Nov. 16th
   Read: Gender and Social Theory, pp. 273-287

Week Fourteen: Nov. 23rd
   Read: Epilogue

Week Fifteen: Nov. 30th
   Mon. Submit paper #4