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 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:
Classical Sociological Theory, by George Ritzer
**Reading Assignments:**

Week One: Jan. 9th and 11th  
Mon: Introduction to Course and syllabus

Week Two: Jan. 16th and 18th  
Mon. Enlightenment, Industrialization, and social theory  
Wed. Intro. pp. 2-11

Week Three: Jan. 23rd and 25th  
Mon. Read: Alex de Tocqueville  
Wed. Read: Tocqueville

Week Four: Jan. 30th and Feb. 1st  
Mon. Read: August Comte  
Wed. Read Comte

Week Five: Feb. 6th and 8th  
Mon. Read: Herbert Spencer  
Wed. Read: Spencer-------------------------------------Submit paper #1

Week Six: Feb. 13th and 15th  
Mon. Read: Karl Marx  
Wed. Read Marx

Week Seven: Feb. 20th and 22nd  
Mon. Read: Emile Durkheim  
Wed. Read: Durkheim

Week Eight: Feb. 27th and 29th  
Mon. Read: Max Weber  
Wed. Read: Weber-------------------------------------Submit paper #2

Week Nine: Mar. 5th and 7th  
Mon. Read: Georg Simmel  
Wed. Read Simmel

Week Ten: Mar. 12th and 14th  
Mon. Read: Early Women Sociologists  
Wed. Read: Early Women Sociologists

Week Eleven: Mar. 19th and 21st  
SPRING BREAK

Week Twelve: Mar. 26th and 28th  
Mon. Read: W.E.B. Du Bois  
Wed. Read: Du Bois-------------------------------------Submit paper #3

Week Thirteen: Apr. 2nd and 4th  
Mon. Read: Thorstein Veblen  
Wed. Read: Joseph Schumpeter
Week Fourteen: Apr. 9th and 11th
Mon. Read: Karl Mannheim
Wed. Read: Karl Mannheim

Week Fifteen: Apr. 16th and 18th
Mon. Read: Mead
Wed. Read: Mead----------------------------- Submit paper #4