

**Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU**

**Course: Introduction to Sociological and Anthropological Theories**

**Level and status: 2 credit points, B.A., obligatory**

**Lecturer: Prof. Uri Ram**

**Course description:**

In these course are studied the classical theories in sociology and anthropology, starting in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century and up to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century. We start with a general introduction to the emergence of social theories, the meaning of theories and the map of theories. We move from there to some "precursors" such as Comte and Spenser in sociology and Morgan, Tylor, Fraser, Malinowski, and others in anthropology. Our main focus during the semester is on the three "founders" of sociology: Marx, Durkheim and Weber. We finish the semester with the synthesis of Talcott Parsons. The readings include secondary texts with regard to the precursors and primary texts with regard to the founders.

**Course requirements:** Students are required to be present in class; to read the course material.

**Grade:** an end-of the semester examination (100% of grade).

**Course schedule and reading list:**

George Ritzer. *Modern Sociological Theories*. Chapter 1.

Karl Marx. Selections from *The Communist Manifesto*; *The Capital*; *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*.

Max Weber. Selections from *Economy and Society*. From *The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism*.

Emile Durkheim. Selections from *The Rules of Sociological Method*; from *Suicide*; from *the Division of Labour in Society*; from *The Elementary Forms of Religious Lives*.

Talcott Parsons. "General Theory in Sociology". Pp. 3-38 in Robert Merton ed. *Sociology Today* (1959).