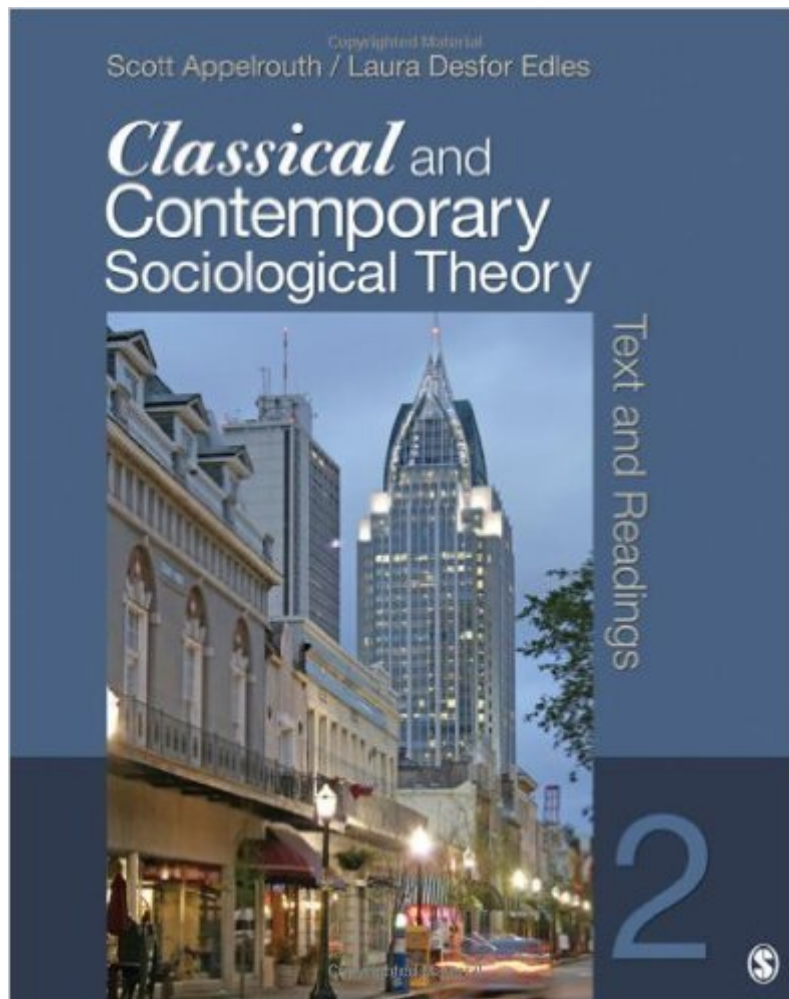


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Classical And Contemporary Sociological Theory: Text And Readings



Synopsis

Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory is a "hybrid" between a core textbook and a primary source reader. This book builds on the authors' Sociological Theory in the Classical Era and Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era, to combine the major writings of sociology's core classical and contemporary theorists with an historical and theoretical framework for understanding them. It provides not just a biographical and theoretical summary of each theorist/reading, but, in addition, an overarching scaffolding which students can use to examine, compare, and contrast each theorists' major themes and concepts. No other theory text combines such "student-friendly" explanation and analysis with original theoretical works.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've reviewed over ten (10) textbooks for the advanced undergraduate course I teach on sociological theory. Among them, this book is exceptional. Sociological theory texts fall into one of two camps: those that are collections of primary source material and those that are secondary analyses/interpretations of texts (this includes more narrowly-focus texts on "classical" and "contemporary" theory). In the past, I used one text from each camp. Rather than two texts, this semester I tried Appelrouth and it's turned out marvellously. This text begins each chapter with an overall summary of some of the main themes in a theorist's work, then provides a collection of critical primary source readings for a theorist. Each sample of a primary source text is preceeded by a brief narrative that helps students identify the main points that will be referenced in the piece. The collection is very thorough and goes beyond many other primary source collection-type texts. These

two aspects of the text: a solid, but very basic summary, and a thorough collection of primary source readings, make this the text I will continue to use in subsequent semesters teaching the course. I also really appreciate the sections on "Expanding the Foundation" and "Broadening Sociological Theory" that include theorists like DuBois, Gilman, Butler, Foucault, Bourdieu, and Said. This makes for a very dynamic class. I only have two relatively minor criticisms. First, the introductory chapter frames an analyses that guides each chapter's summary, which locates theorists on an continuum between emphasis on rational vs nonrational, and individual vs collective. Of course I "get" the frame, but I'm not sure students would understand it until they complete the course.

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