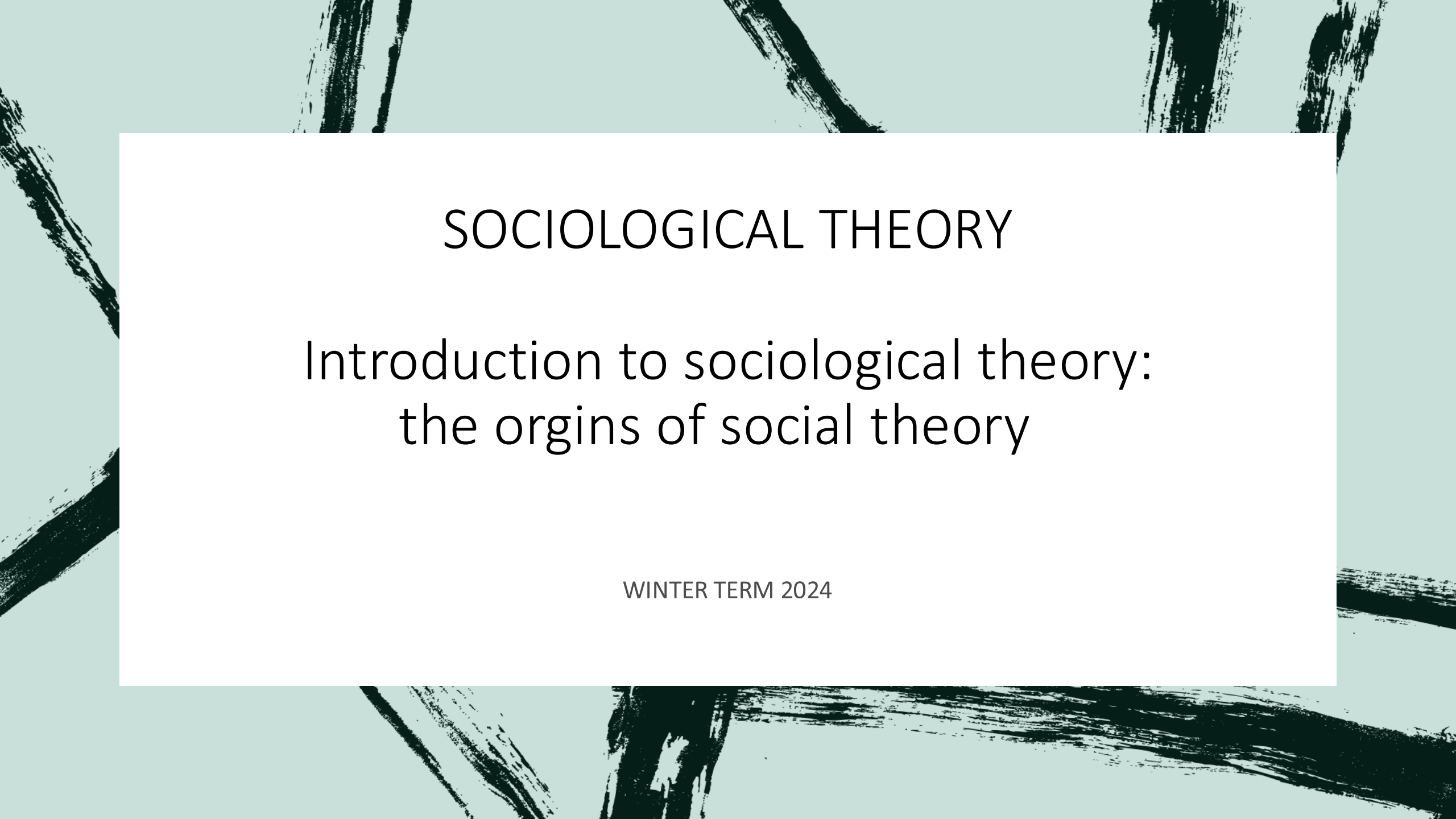


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SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Introduction to sociological theory:
the origins of social theory

WINTER TERM 2024

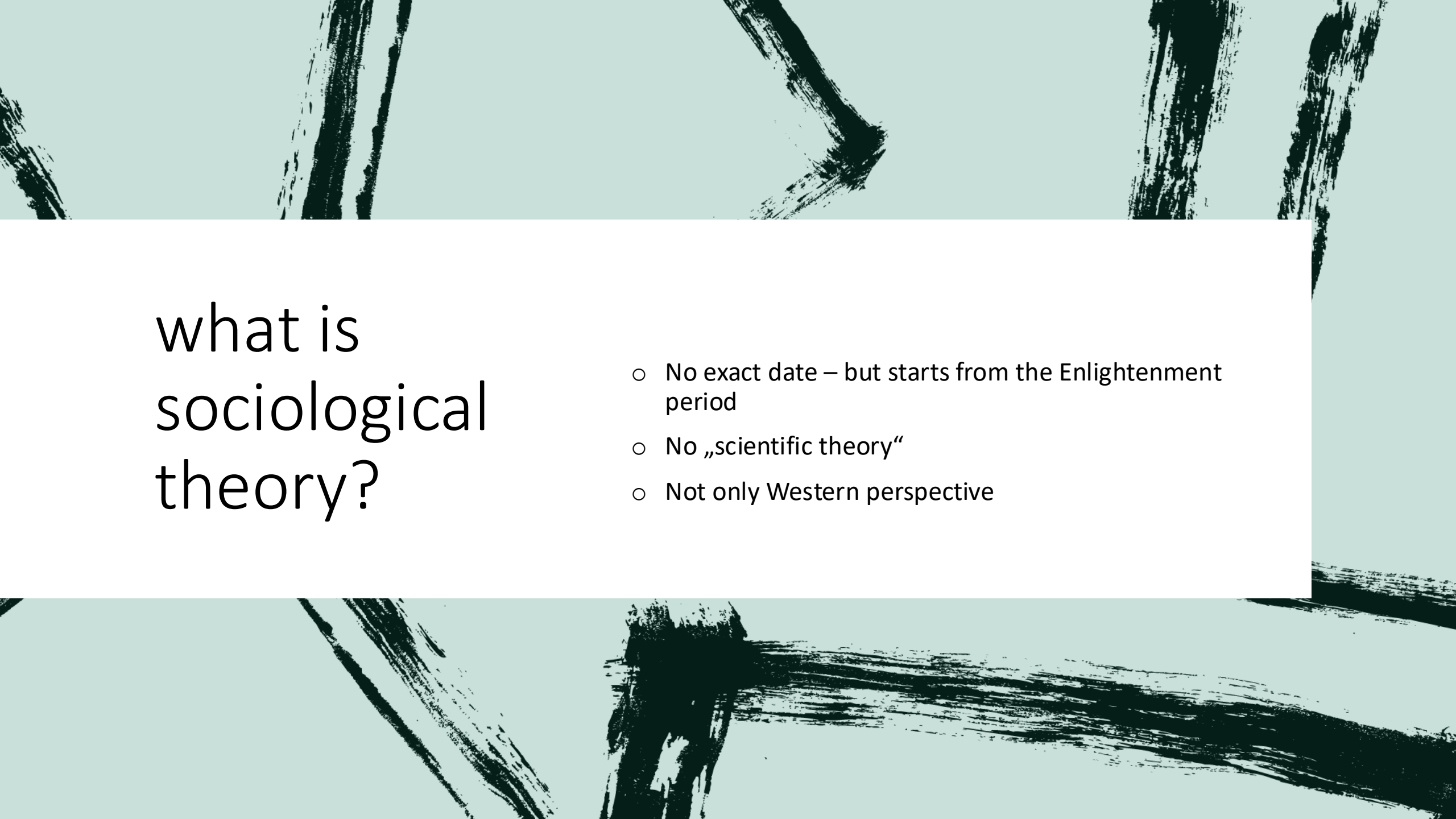
theory

...is a system of generalized statements and propositions about phenomena. Theories differ from religion or philosophy in that they:

- explain and predict the phenomena in question
- produce testable and thus falsifiable hypotheses

sociology

- sociology makes sense of the patterned relationships between people
- it is more perspective than profession
- it is a social science
- it has emancipatory and utopian impulses



what is sociological theory?

- No exact date – but starts from the Enlightenment period
- No „scientific theory“
- Not only Western perspective

before sociology

- Plato, Aristotle
- Abdel Rahman Ibn-Khaldun
- Confucius
- Machiavelli, Montagne
- Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Kant...

the beginning of sociology

FRANCE

- Henri de Saint-Simon
- Auguste Comte – the first to coin the term SOCIOLOGY
- Alexis de Tocqueville



what happened at the end of XVIIIth century in the West ?

- political revolutions (the French Revolution)
- Industrial Revolution and modern capitalism
- socialism
- urbanization
- secularization
- development of modern science

sociology in XIXth century

- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Italy

United States at the turn of the century (pragmatism).

Sociological dilemmas

- Individual x collective
 - Order x action
 - Static x dynamic
- Nonrational x rational
 - Micro x macro