This paper analyses Simmel's diagnostic on the tragedy of contemporary culture. With this aim, (1) it casts light on the simmelian concept of tragedy, (2) reconstructs the reasons that allow to diagnose as tragic the contemporary culture, (3) analyses Simmel's sensibility to the tragic and other close concepts (ambivalence, duality, boundary) and (4) places his cultural diagnostic in the tragic thought tradition, starting with the ancient classical culture, in order to settle his differential identity.