Sociology 3140, Sociological Theory
Fall 2013
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-10:15am
Dixie State College of Utah

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Or by appointment

The Course

In this course we will discuss core sociological theoretical concepts and their founders. We will also examine ways in which the concepts are relevant to observations of the "real" world. Specifically, we'll explore the ideas of Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, Mead, Parsons, Adorno, Goffman, Foucault, Bourdieu and Ritzer and others, and their ideas about conflict, functionalism, symbolic interactionism, phenomenology among other theories of society and interaction.

Course Objectives

Students completing Sociological Theory will:

- demonstrate an ability to identify the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by sociologists;
- demonstrate an understanding of sociology as a scientific discipline (i.e. the gathering and analyzing of empirical data in a systematic fashion);
- demonstrate an understanding of basic sociological theoretical concepts such as conflict, functionalism, and symbolic interactionism;
- demonstrate an understanding of the major creators of sociological theory such as Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Mead, and Hochschild.

Text


Evaluation

Grades will be based on three exams, each worth 25% of your final grade, and one term paper worth 25% of your final grade.

Exams
Exams will be a mix of short answer and essay questions. They are worth 100 points each:

90-100 points = A
80-89 points = B
70-79 points = C
60-69 points = D
Less than 60 points = F

EXAMS MUST BE TAKEN ON ASSIGNED DATES.

Term paper

You will write a term paper in which you examine the work of a major sociologist within the context of a traditional sociological theoretical tradition.

Attendance is NOT mandatory. However, I lecture on material that is not in the text. There will be exam questions from my lectures, questions that are not from the text. If you miss class you risk missing information that will be on the exam.

NOTE: YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE BASED ON AN AVERAGE OF YOUR LETTER GRADES, NOT ON YOUR ACCUMULATION OF POINTS.

ANOTHER NOTE: You must complete all assignments and exams to pass this class.

FINAL NOTE: I reserve the right to (a) adjust individual grades based on my evaluation of your participation and enthusiasm in the course and (b) make changes to the syllabus during the course if I feel it will benefit the class.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE POLICY: Academic dishonesty in any form, including, but not limited to, plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person’s work as one’s own, and cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated at Dixie State College of Utah.

Teachers at Dixie State College of Utah have the right to manage their classroom environments to ensure a good learning climate.

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone 435-652-7516.

Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a dmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select “dmail” for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your dmail email, so please check it often.
Course Schedule

Reading/Topic/Assignment Schedule

Week 1
Introduction to Sociological Theory
Reading: Chapter 1

Week 2
Karl Marx
Reading: Chapter 2

Week 3
Émile Durkheim
Reading: Chapter 3

Week 4
Max Weber
Reading: Chapter 4

Week 5

Georg Simmel and George Herbert Mead
Reading: Chapters 6 & 8

Week 6
Charlotte Perkins Gilman and W.E.B. Du Bois
Reading: Chapters 5 & 7

Exam #1

Week 7
Structural Functionalism
Reading: Chapter 9

Week 8
Critical (Conflict) Theory
Reading: Chapter 10
Week 9
Exchange and Rational Choice Theories
Reading: Chapter 11

Week 10
Symbolic Interactionism and Dramaturgy
Reading: Chapter 12

Week 11
Phenomenology
Reading: Chapter 13

EXAM #2

Week 12
Feminist and Gender Theories
Reading: Chapter 14

Week 13
Poststructural and Postmodern Theories
Reading: Chapter 15

Term Paper Due

Week 14
Contemporary Theoretical Syntheses
Reading: Chapter 16

Week 15
The Global Society
Reading: Chapter 17

 Finals Week

EXAM #3