

University of Hawaii at Manoa
Soc 321 – Survey of Sociological Theory
Spring 2017 (online)

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Course Description- This class will provide undergraduate students with an introduction to sociological theory. We will cover select classical and contemporary theories. The course will introduce and explain select theoretical traditions and orientations, paying close attention to their historical origins. This course will be writing intensive and discussion oriented. Students will be encouraged to engage social theory through critique and application. Each student will learn not only to discuss theory but how to use theories to explain phenomenon in which they are interested. Throughout the course of the session, students should begin to understand how social theory can help them to better understand their personal experiences and the larger world around them. The ultimate goal of this class is to develop students' abilities to think on an abstract sociological level—in short to enhance what C. Wright Mills called the sociological imagination.

Learning Objectives- At the end of the course each student should...

- Be familiar with major theoretical perspectives and concepts in sociology.
- Develop an ability to read theoretical texts and comprehension of such texts.
- Be familiar with major theorists, both classical and contemporary, and their historical roots.
- Understand the diversity of social theory, especially the strengths and weaknesses of major perspectives.
- Develop their ability to think theoretically, making theoretical arguments by applying theory to contemporary society.
- Enhance their sociological communication by developing an ability to communicate theoretical ideas, not only verbally but also in writing.

Writing Intensive- This class is designated writing intensive by the University of Hawaii. In order to meet the requirements of this designation,

- At least 18 pages of writing are required from each student.
- This class involves both formal (analytical papers and a final paper) and informal (discussion board posts) writing assignments.

- Students will be given extensive feedback on writing assignments.
- Students are encouraged to schedule conferences during the instructor's office hours to discuss writing improvement.
- It is expected that students will use constructive criticism to improve their writing throughout the session.

Required Reading-

- Ritzer, George- *Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots: The Basics* 3rd Edition. McGraw Hill
- Kivisto, Peter- *Social Theory- Roots and Branches*. Fifth Edition. Oxford University Press
- Additional Supplementary Readings will be provided in PDF format on Lulima

Grading Scheme-

Summary and discussion paper- 10%
 Critique Paper- 15%
 Paper Resubmission- 10%
 Discussion board posts- 30%*
 Final Application Paper- 15%
 Overall engagement/participation**- 20%

*- Scores for each of the 13 posts will be averaged for an overall grade.

** - Participation will be evaluated according to students' interaction with the instructor, participation on discussion boards, posting of reading notes, and scheduling one conference with the instructor (either in person or by telecommunication).

Grading Scale-

94 – 100%= A	80-83%= B-	67 – 69%= D+
90-93%= A-	76 – 79%= C+	64-66%= D
86 – 89%= B+	73-75%= C	60-63%= D-
83-85%= B	70-72%= C-	59% or lower= F

Assignments-

- Summary and Discussion Paper- The first paper for this course is a summary and discussion exercise. For this paper, students will choose one theory and write a short paper which summarizes the theory, reflects on its sociological significance, and discusses how it might be applied in sociological research.
- Critique Paper- The second paper for this course is a critiquing exercise. For this paper each student will discuss and critique a theoretical argument made by a

theorist we have covered in class. Students will summarize the argument, demonstrating their comprehension of the argument. Furthermore, students will critique the argument, discussing its strengths and weakness, and specifying possible solutions to problematic elements of the argument. The purpose of this assignment is for students to demonstrate that they not only comprehend a particular theory, but they can critically assess theories as well.

- Paper resubmission- Students will be required to take their critique papers and resubmit them after revising and editing the papers according to feedback provided by the instructor. Paper resubmissions will be due one week after original paper submissions. The purpose of this assignment is for students to demonstrate that they are carefully considering feedback, and using it to enhance their writing.
- Discussion Board Posts- Each week, students will write a short discussion board post about the course material from that week. Discussion board posts should be approximately one to two pages in length. Students should use this exercise as an opportunity to reflect on the course material and pose questions for the instructor to answer. For each reading, the instructor will provide questions to guide students' reading. Students are encouraged to use written responses to these guiding questions as the basis for their discussion posts.
- Final Application Paper- For a final project, students will pick a contemporary phenomenon and discuss how sociological theory can be used to explain it. This paper will be similar to the analytical papers in that students will discuss a theoretical argument and assess it. However, in addition to this, students will attempt to apply this theory, illustrating in detail, how theory can be used to study and explain a particular phenomenon. Additionally, students should engage more than one theory, comparing and contrasting how each theory can be applied to the phenomenon in question. The final paper will be approximately 7-10 pages long.
- Reading notes- Each week, students will be required to post their reading notes for that week's required readings. Students should try to summarize main points from the readings and any questions they have concerning the material. These notes do not have to be comprehensive. Students should instead focus on taking notes regarding the material they find most interesting and/or important. There is no required length for notes, and they will not be formally graded. However, the consistency with which students post these notes and their overall quality will be a major component of their participation grade. Students will be notified if their notes are satisfactory, unsatisfactory, or exceeding expectations regularly.
- Student-instructor conferences- This is an online course, so face-to-face interaction with classmates or the instructor is not required. However, I strongly recommend that each student either come meet with me in my office, or schedule a phone or video conference meeting at some point during the semester. This

meeting will function to discuss each student's progress in the course, their strengths and weaknesses as a writer, and their educational goals and interests.

Accommodation Requests-

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at 808-956-7511 or 808-956-7612 (voice/text) and is located in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty Policy-

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code. In it, plagiarism is defined as follows: "Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms" (University of Hawai'i at Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992: 6).

Furthermore, it is ultimately each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules, saying "I forgot about that" or "I made a mistake," are not considered valid excuses when it comes to plagiarism.

A brief summary of the American Sociological Association's Style Guide, which explains the rules clearly, can be found at: www.buffalostate.edu/library/docs/asa.pdf.

Any other forms of academic dishonesty, such as cheating on exams will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in academic dishonesty will be referred to Office of Judicial Affairs.

Course Schedule

Week	Readings	Topics	Assignments
Week 1 9/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritzer Ch. 1 • C. Wright Mills- "The Promise" (on Lailima) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to social theory • Roots of sociological theory • Introduction to sociological concepts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm

Week 2 9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritzer Ch. 2 • Karl Marx- Manifest of the Communist Party (in Kivisto) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classical Icons- Marx, Weber, Durkheim 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 3 9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emile Durkheim- On Mechanical and Organic Solidarity (Kivisto) • Max Weber- Class, Status, Party (Kivisto) • Max Weber- The Sprit of Capitalism (Kivisto) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classical Icons- Marx, Weber, Durkheim (cont.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 4 9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritzer Ch. 3 • Simmel- The Stranger (Kivisto) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classical Theories II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper #1 Due Friday, 11:55 pm • DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 5 10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorsten Veblen- Conspicuous Consumption (Kivisto) • On Marriage- Harriet Martineau (Kivisto) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classical Theories II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 6 10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritzer Ch. 4 • The Unanticipated Consequences of Social Action (Kivisto) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary Grand Theories I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 7 10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritzer Ch. 5 • C. Wright Mills- Culture and Politics (Kivisto) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary Grand Theories II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 8 10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norbert Elias- Shame and Repugnance (Kivisto) • Jurgen Habermas- Three Normative Models of Democracy (Kivisto) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary Grand Theories II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritzer Ch. 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critique

10/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbert Blumer- Society as Symbolic Interaction (Kivisto) 	<p>Interactionism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethnomethodology Exchange Theory Rational Choice Theory 	<p>Paper Due Friday, 11:55 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 10 11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erving Goffman- From The Presentation of Self In Everyday Life (on Laulima) Garfinkel- Conditions of Successful Degradation Ceremonies (on Laulima) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symbolic Interactionism Ethnomethodology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper resubmissions Due DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 11 11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ritzer Ch. 8 West & Zimmerman- Doing Gender (Kivisto) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feminist Theories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm Paper resubmissions Due
Week 12 11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raewyn Connell- Femininity and Masculinity (Kivisto) Patricia Hill Collins- It's All in The Family- The Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation (on Laulima) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feminist Theories (cont.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 13 11/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ritzer Ch. 9 Paul Gilroy- Between Camps: Race and Culture in Postmodernity (Kivisto) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postmodern theories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DB Post Due Friday, 11:55 pm
Week 14 12/5	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finals/course wrap-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Paper due TBD

General Writing Guidelines-

-All writing will be graded on content, overall writing quality, grammar, and proper format.

-Content-

- Content should be relevant to the paper topic.
- The paper must demonstrate adequate comprehension of subject matter.
- Any arguments should be supported with evidence, not opinion.
- The paper should not merely regurgitate class materials but expand upon them.

-Writing Quality-

- Writing should be simple, clear, and concise.
- Use vocabulary properly.
- Paper must be clearly organized.
- Ideas in the paper should follow a logical progression.

-Grammar and Spelling-

- All words, especially proper nouns, should be spelled correctly.
- All sentences should make sense.
- Proper punctuation must be used throughout the paper.
- Papers must demonstrate proper verb usage, especially in terms of subject/verb agreement.

-Format-

- Papers should be double-spaced, using 12-point, Times New Roman font.
- Papers should be in ASA format. I have provided a link to an accessible online ASA format guide on Laulima.
- Sources should be properly cited.
- Papers must have a references page.
- All quotes should be attributed properly.
- Be extremely careful not to plagiarize. Self-monitoring for plagiarism is not a passive activity; you must be vigilant, actively examining your writing to make sure you haven't plagiarized.

* I strongly encourage any students who have trouble with or are unsure of their writing to utilize the **writing center**. More information is available on their website at <http://www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/>