

## SOCIOLOGY 321: SURVEY OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (WI)

*"Whenever a theory appears to you as the only possible one, take this as a sign that you have neither understood the theory nor the problem which it was intended to solve" --Karl Popper*

### COURSE DETAILS

INSTITUTION: University of Hawaii at Manoa  
SEMESTER/YEAR: Summer Session I 2011  
CLASS LOCATION: Kuykendall Room 310  
DAYS/TIMES: Monday-Friday 10:30-11:45AM

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Daniel B. Eisen, MA  
EMAIL: deisen@hawaii.edu  
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment: I can usually be available from 9:30-10:30AM. Please email me or see me before/after class to schedule a meeting. I also check my email often throughout the day, so emails that contain questions will be answered within a 24-48 hour period.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to expose students to the major theories and theorists that inform the field of sociology. In this course students will be exposed to the "classical" theorists (e.g. Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Simmel), as well as "contemporary" social theorists (e.g. Bourdieu, Foucault, Hill-Collins, and Baudrillard). The structure of this course requires regular attendance, as the class will be structured around class discussions and activities. Furthermore, since theory is constantly in the process of being constructed and often builds upon previous theoretical constructions regular attendance in this class is vital, as many discussions will refer to previously discussed class material. Actively participating in the class discussions and activities will greatly help students satisfactorily complete weekly quizzes, which will assess the student's knowledge of the content covered in that week's lectures, readings, and discussions.

While this course will explore the theories and theorists separately, the course will encourage students to view theories as ideas that (a) can explain, understand, and predict social phenomena, (b) can be integrated to explain, understand, and predict social phenomena, and (c) can be expanded upon to explain, understand, and predict social phenomena. Overall, the goal of this course is to provide students with a firm understanding of sociological theory, allowing students to apply, expand upon, and integrate the theories that inform the field of sociology.

This course has also been approved as a writing intensive course and, therefore, students will complete a substantial (approximately 20 pages) amount of writing

throughout the course. This will be accomplished through the completion of sociological theory portfolio, which will be submitted for a grade at two different points (midterm and final) in the course. The portfolio consists of a collection of 8 short essays that the student will complete throughout the course.

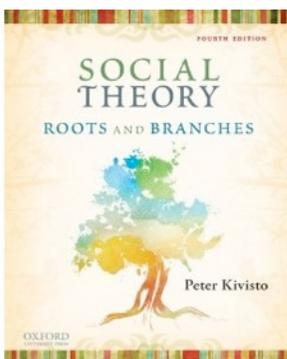
In this course students are asked to have an open mind and explore the many possibilities that sociology offers in the examination of the world around us. Many of the perspectives covered in this course may not agree with the student's worldview. However, students are asked to consider each perspective as a way of looking at the world, rather than as an absolute truth on the subject. Therefore, students should leave this course being able to see various social phenomena from a plethora of viewpoints and choose the perspective that best fits their position on the issues.

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- (1) Identify and discuss the thoughts and ideas of the major theorists who inform the field of sociology
- (2) Understand how sociological theory can be applied to social phenomena
- (3) Understand how sociological theories can be applied to the same social phenomenon to create different understandings of the phenomenon
- (4) Understand how sociological theories can be integrated with one another to explain social phenomena
- (5) Consider various social issues from multiple perspectives, while being sensitive to the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective
- (6) Coherently describe, discuss, critique, and apply sociological theories to social phenomena in written format

### COURSE TEXTS AND READINGS



Kivisto, Peter. 2010. *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings may be assigned throughout the course. These additional readings will be available as handouts or available for download

<http://laulima.hawaii.edu>.

### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Students are expected to attend class regularly, come prepared for class by completing the assigned readings, and actively participate in

class discussions and activities. Students are expected to have no more than three (3) unexcused absences. Each additional absence will result in a 2% weighted deduction off the student's final grade. If a student is unable to attend class (s)he is expected to let the instructor know via email before the start of class on that day.

Furthermore, the classroom environment should be one where the students engage in classroom discussions and activities to create an engaging environment, where students not only learn from the textbook and lecture materials, but also from each other. Students are expected to engage and participate in classroom discussions and activities. The student's attendance and participation grade will account for 20% of the student's final grade, with a greater emphasis on the student's participation.

**QUIZZES:** There will be four quizzes throughout this course. Each quiz will focus on the readings and lectures for the week that the quiz is administered. Each quiz will consist of 10-20 questions and will be worth 10% of the student's final grade. Therefore, quizzes will comprise 40% of the student's final grade.

**THEORY PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT:** To successfully complete this course students will be required to complete a theory portfolio, which is a major writing assignment. The completed project will be approximately 20 pages in length. The theory portfolio allows students to discuss, illustrate, apply, and critique sociological concepts and theories. Students are required to submit an initial theory portfolio during the third week of the course and will receive extensive feedback from the instructor. Furthermore, because students are asked to reflect on their course performance at two points in the semester (midterm submission of project and final submission of project) the instructor gains further insight into the theoretical development of each student. The midterm submission of the theory portfolio will constitute 10% of the student's final grade and the final submission of the theory portfolio will constitute 30% of the student's final grade. Therefore, the student will earn 40% of his/her grade from the theory portfolio assignment. A handout with more specific details about the theory portfolio assignment will be provided during the first week of the course. In brief, the theory portfolio will contain the following collection of essays (2-3 pages each, unless otherwise noted):

1. Front cover that visually illustrates a sociological concept or theory, along with a 2-3 paragraph explanation about what concept is portrayed and how it is portrayed in the cover.
2. Introduction: A revised definition of sociological theory that the student wrote the first day of class.
3. Essay 1: Why Study Sociological Theory?
4. Essay 2: You don't understand the world until you know this theory...
5. Essay 3: Why \_\_\_\_\_ Theory doesn't work...

6. Application 1: Analyze one day of your life through the eyes of Durkheim, Marx, or Weber
7. Application 2: Analyze on Film or Play using a theorist of your choice
8. Application 3: Analyze a contemporary event from the news in relation to sociological theory.
9. Midterm self-reflection and Final self-reflection

GRADING SUMMARY: Therefore, the student's final grade comprises of the following:

Quiz 1	10%
Quiz 2	10%
Quiz 3	10%
Quiz 4	10%
Theory Portfolio Midterm Submission	10%
Theory Portfolio Final Submission	30%
Attendance/Participation	20%
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Final Grade	100%

### COURSE SCHEDULE

**Day 1: May 23, 2011**

Paulo Freire: *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Excerpt (Laulima)  
bell hooks: "Conversation" in *Teaching Critical Thinking* (Laulima)

**Day 2: May 24, 2011**

C. Wright Mills: *The Sociological Imagination--The Promise* (Laulima)  
bell hooks: "Critical Thinking" in *Teaching Critical Thinking* (Laulima)

**Day 3: May 25, 2011**

Karl Marx: "Commodities"  
Karl Marx: "The General Formula for Capital"  
Karl Marx: "The Fetishism of Commodity and Its Secret" (Laulima)

**Day 4: May 26, 2011**

Karl Marx: "Alienated Labor"  
Karl Marx: "Manifesto of the Communist Party"

**Day 5: May 27, 2011**

No Readings: Quiz 1

**Day 6: May 30, 2011**

No Class Meeting: Memorial Day

**Day 7: May 31, 2011**

Emile Durkheim: "What is a Social Fact?"

Emile Durkheim: "On Mechanical and Organic Solidarity"

Emile Durkheim: *Suicide*, Excerpt (Laulima)

**Day 8: June 1, 2011**

Max Weber: "Class, Status, and Party"

Max Weber: "The Nature of Charismatic Domination"

Max Weber: "Objectivity in Social Science and Social Policy"

**Day 9: June 2, 2011**

Emile Durkheim: "The Human Meaning of Religion"

Weber: "The Spirit of Capitalism"

Marx: Excerpts from "A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of the Right" and "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844" (Laulima)

**Day 10: June 3, 2011**

No Readings: Quiz 2

**Day 11: June 6, 2011**

Georg Simmel: "The Problem of Sociology"

Georg Simmel: "Conflict as the Basis of Group Formation"

Georg Simmel: "The Stranger"

**Day 12: June 7, 2011**

George Simmel: "Fashion"

Thorstein Veblen: "Percuniary Canons of Taste"

Pierre Bourdieu: *Distinction* Excerpt

**Day 13: June 8, 2011**

G.H. Mead: *Mind, Self, and Society* Excerpt (Laulima)

Herbert Blumer: "Society as Symbolic Interactionism"

Albert Shutz: "Indirect Social Relationships"

**Day 14: June 9, 2011**

WRITER'S WORKSHOP DAY

**Day 15: June 10, 2011**

No Class Meeting: Kamehameha Day

**Day 16: June 13, 2011**

Erving Goffman: Performances

Erving Goffman: *Stigma* Excerpt (Laulima)

**Day 17: June 14, 2011**

Homans: Social Behavior as Exchange  
Emerson: Power-Dependence Relations  
Coleman: Human Capital and Social Capital

**Day 18: June 15, 2011**

Talcott Parsons: "The Subsystems of Society"  
Robert Merton: "The Unanticipated Consequences of Social Action"  
Jeffery Alexander: "After Neofunctionalism"

**Day 19: June 16, 2011**

Randall Collins: "The Basics of Conflict Theory"  
Lewis Coser: "The Functions of Social Conflict"  
C. Wright Mills: The Power Elite, Excerpt (Laulima)

**Day 20: June 17, 2011**

No Readings: Quiz 3

**Day 21: June 20, 2011**

Michael Omi and Howard Winant: "The Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race"  
Haunani Trask: "From a Native Daughter" (Laulima)  
Mary Waters: "Optional Ethnicities" (Laulima)  
Claude Steele: How Stereotypes Affect Us, Excerpt (Laulima)

**Day 22: June 21, 2011**

Delgado and Stefancic: Critical Race Theory, Excerpt (Laulima)  
Pierre Bourdieu: "Forms of Capital" (Laulima)  
Tara Yosso: "Whose Culture Has Capital" (Laulima)

**Day 23: June 22, 2011**

West and Zimmerman: "Doing Gender"  
Connell: "Femininity and Masculinity"

**Day 24: June 23, 2011**

bell hooks: Feminism is for Everybody, Excerpt (Laulima)  
bell hooks: Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center (Laulima)  
Patricia Hill Collins: "Towards a New Vision" (Laulima)

**Day 25: June 24, 2011**

No Reading: Quiz 4

**Day 26: June 27, 2011**

Michel Foucault: History of Sexuality, Excerpt (Laulima)  
Michel Foucault: "Panopticism"

**Day 27: June 28, 2011**

Jean Baudrillard: "Advertising"

Jean Baudrillard: America, Excerpt (Laulima)

Jean Baudrillard: Simulation and Simulacra, Excerpt (Laulima)

**Day 28: June 29, 2011**

TBD

**Day 29: June 30, 2011**

WRITER'S WORKSHOP

**Day 30: July 1, 2011**

Final Portfolio Submission Due

GENERAL ISSUES

**CELL PHONES AND COMPUTERS:** Students are expected to silence/turn off their cell phones during the class period. It is also expected that students will not use their cell phones during instruction. While the use of computers is not prohibited during instruction, it is expected that students are using the computer for content related to the lecture. If it is clear that students are using the computer for other purposes (e.g., Facebook, Myspace, Twitter) students will be asked to discontinue using the computer. If this becomes a problem, the use of computers will be prohibited during class time unless the instructor grants the student approval to use the computer.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Students should strive to submit their assignments on time, as late assignments will suffer from a substantial reduction in points. For everyday that an assignment is late (this includes weekends, as assignments can be turned in via email) the assignment will be automatically lose 5% of the students weighted grade. For example, the midterm submission of the theory portfolio in this class is worth 10% of the student's final weighted grade. Therefore, a midterm submission of the theory portfolio that is one day late will only be worth 5% of the student's final weighted grade. Thus, the student automatically loses 5% of his/her weighted grade. To be granted an extension, student's must contact the instructor with a valid reason for needing an extension at least 24 hours prior to the assignment deadline.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There may be a possibility that extra credit will be offered during this course. However, in order for any extra credit to be applied to a student's final grade, (s)he must have completed all required coursework. If the student fails to complete an assignment or an exam, no extra credit will be counted towards the student's final grade.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** The University of Hawaii at Manoa explicitly prohibits cheating or plagiarism in the academic environment. Section IH of the student code of conduct defines these as:

*“Cheating includes but is not limited to giving or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination; obtaining unauthorized information about an examination before it is given; submitting another’s work as one’s own; using prohibited sources of information during an examination; fabricating or falsifying data in experiments and other research; altering the record of any grade; altering answers after an examination has been submitted; falsifying any official University record; or misrepresenting of facts in order to obtain exemptions from course requirements.”*

*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.”*

ACCOMMODATIONS AND KOKUA: Students who need accommodations in this class due to the impact of a disability are encouraged to contact both the instructor and KOKUA to ensure the appropriate accommodations are made. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612. KOKUA is located in room 013 of the Queen Lili’uokalani Center for Student Services.

\*\*The instructor reserves the right to change the order/content of the syllabus to accommodate scheduling conflicts and any other unforeseen circumstances.