

Sociology 321: Survey of Sociological Theory
Summer Session 2010: Session 2 (July 6, 2010 to August 13, 2010)

INSTRUCTOR

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will expose students to the major theories and theorists that inform the field of sociology. The course will cover both the classical sociological theorists (e.g., Marx, Weber, Durkheim), as well as many contemporary theorists (e.g., Bourdieu, Hill Collins, Foucault, Baudrillard). The structure of this course requires regular attendance and participation in class discussions and activities. Actively engaging with the class throughout the semester will greatly help students satisfactorily complete weekly quizzes, which will assess the student's knowledge of the content covered in that week's lectures and readings.

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 phenomena, (b) be integrated to explain, understand, and predict phenomena, and (c) can be used as a tool that 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.

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 problems from a plethora of angles and choose the perspective that best fits their position on 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 phenomena to create different understandings of the phenomena
- (4) Understand how sociological theories can be integrated with one another to explain social phenomena.
- (5) Discuss the changes in the various schools of sociological theory and understand how changes in the social world led to the changes and adaptations to the classical theories.
- (6) Consider various social issues from multiple perspectives, while being sensitive to the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective.

- (7) Coherently describe, discuss, and apply sociological theories to social phenomenon in written format.

COURSE TEXTS AND READINGS

The required texts for this course is available at the UH bookstore and online via various websites (e.g., www.amazon.com). Additional readings will also be used to compliment the textbook when needed. These additional readings will be available as handouts or available for download at <http://laulima.hawaii.edu>.

Ritzer, George. 2007. *Sociological Theory*. 7th ed. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill.

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.

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%

Final Grade	100%

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	FOCUS/TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1		
Day 1: July 6	Syllabus/Course Expectations/What is Sociological Theory?	None
Day 2: July 7	Early Thinkers (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Smith)	Handouts
Day 3: July 8	Early Thinkers (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Smith)	Handouts
Day 4: July 9	Quiz #1	Quiz #1
Week 2		
Day 5: July 12	Karl Marx	Chapter 2
Day 6: July 13	Karl Marx/Neo-Marxist Theories	Chapter 2 and Chapter 8
Day 7: July 14	Emile Durkheim	Chapter 3
Day 8: July 15	Emile Durkheim and Structural Functionalism	Chapter 3 and Chapter 7
Day 9: July 16	Quiz #2	Quiz #2
Week 3		
Day 10: July 19	Max Weber	Chapter 4
Day 11: July 20	Max Weber/Contemporary Theories of Modernity	Chapter 4 and Chapter 15

DATE	FOCUS/TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS
Day 12: July 21	Georg Simmel	“The Stranger”
Day 13: July 22	Georg Simmel	Chapter 5
Day 14: July 23	Quiz #3	Quiz #3 MIDTERM SUBMISSION OF THEORY PORTFOLIO DUE
Week 4		
Day 15: July 26	Symbolic Interactionism	Chapter 10
Day 16: July 27	Ethnomethodology	Chapter 11
Day 17: July 28	Exchange, Network, and Rational Choice Theory	Chapter 12
Day 18: July 29	Writer’s Workshop	Writer’s Workshop
Day 19: July 30	Quiz #4	Quiz #4
Week 5		
Day 20: August 2	Micro-Macro, Agency-Structure Integration	Chapter 14
Day 21: August 3	Micro-Macro, Agency-Structure Integration	Chapter 14
Day 22: August 4	Feminist Theory	Chapter 13
Day 23: August 5	Feminist Theory/Postmodern Social Theory	Chapter 13 and Chapter 17
Day 24: August 6	Quiz #4	Quiz #4
Week 6		
Day 25: August 9	Postmodern Social Theory	Chapter 17
Day 26: August 10	Talcott Parson’s Systems Theory	Chapter 9
Day 27: August 11	C. Wright Mills (Sociological Imagination)	“Sociological Imagination” Excerpt
Day 28: August 12	Writer’s Workshop	Writer’s Workshop

DATE	FOCUS/TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS
Day 29: August 13	PRESENTATION OF THEORY PORTFOLIO	FINAL SUBMISSION OF THEORY PORTFOLIO 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."

ACCOMODATIONS 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.