

**Sociology 321: Survey of Sociological Theory
Summer 2009: Session 2 (July 6-August 14)**

INSTRUCTOR

Daniel B. Eisen

Office: Saunders Hall, Room 219

Office Hours: TBD

Email: deisen@hawaii.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will expose students to the major theories and theorists that inform the field of sociology. This course will cover both the classical sociological theorist (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Simmel), as well as many contemporary theorists. Each week will end with group discussions that will allow students to apply, critique, and integrate the theories discussed in the week's lectures within the context of various social issues. Therefore, the structure of this course requires regular attendance and active participation. While this class 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) be integrated to explain, understand, and predict social phenomena, and/or (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, so that students can apply, expand upon, and integrate the major 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, the student is asked to consider each perspective as a way of looking at the world, rather than 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 same social phenomena to create different understandings of the phenomena and how sociological theories can also be integrated with one another to explain social phenomena.
- (4) 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.

- (5) Consider various social issues from multiple perspectives, while being sensitive to the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective.

COURSE TEXTS AND READINGS

The required text for this course is available at the UH bookstore and online via Amazon.com. Handouts will also be used to complement the textbook when needed.

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

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend classes regularly, come prepared for class by completing the assigned readings, and actively participate in class discussions or activities. Students are expected to have no more than 3 unexcused absences throughout the course. Each absence after the 3rd unexcused absence will result in a 2% deduction off the student's final grade. If a student is unable to attend class he/she is expected to let instructor know via email before the start of class on that day.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: A student's class participation grade will be determined by his or her performance on four (4) in class assignments. In class assignments will be group projects, where students are expected to engage in theoretical discussions with their group members. The in class assignments will be completed on Fridays and will require students to reflect upon, apply, critique, and integrate the theories covered in the week's lectures. Due to the nature of these assignments students need to attend class to receive points for the assignment. Students cannot make up the points for these assignments, except in cases where the student gains permission from the instructor to makeup the assignment prior to the date the assignment is given. Each in class assignment will be worth 10% of the student's final grade. The combined in-class assignments will comprise 40% of the student's final grade.

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 questions and will be worth 5% of the student's final grade. Therefore, quizzes will comprise 20% of the student's final grade.

MIDTERM: The midterm exam will assess the student's knowledge of all the material covered prior to the day of the exam. The format of the midterm has not been decided and will be negotiated with the students enrolled in the class. The midterm exam will be worth 20% of the student's final grade.

FINAL: The final exam will assess the student’s knowledge of all the material covered from the day after the midterm exam to the day before the exam is administered. Like the midterm, the final exam format has not been decided and will be negotiated with the students enrolled in the class. The final exam will be worth 20% of the student’s final grade.

Therefore the final grade comprises of the following:

Quizzes	20% (5% each quiz)
In Class Assignments	40% (10% each assignment)
Midterm	20%
Final	20%
<hr/>	
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	History of Sociological Theory	Chapter 1 and Chapter 6
Day 3: July 8	Early Thinkers (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Smith)	Handouts
Day 4: July 9	Early Thinkers (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Smith)	Handouts
Day 5: July 10	THEORY APPLICATION	DISCUSSION GROUP
Week 2		
Day 6: July 13	Marx	Chapter 2
Day 7: July 14	Neo-Marxist Theories	Chapter 8
Day 8: July 15	Durkheim	Chapter 3
Day 9: July 16	Structural Functionalism/ Neofunctionalism	Chapter 7
Day 10: July 17	THEORY APPLICATION	DISCUSSION GROUP
Week 3		
Day 11: July 20	Systems Theory	Chapter 9
Day 12: July 21	Weber	Chapter 4
Day 13: July 22	Simmel	Chapter 5
Day 14: July 23	REVIEW FOR MIDTERM EXAM	REVIEW FOR MIDTERM
Day 15: July 24	MIDTERM EXAM	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 4		
Day 16: July 27	Symbolic Interactionism	Chapter 10
Day 17: July 28	Symbolic Interactionism	Chapter 10

Day 18: July 29	Ethnomethodology	Chapter 11
Day 19: July 30	Exchange, Network, and Rational Choice Theory	Chapter 12
Day 20: July 31	THEORY APPLICATION	DISCUSSION GROUP
Week 5		
Day 21: August 3	Micro-Macro, Agency-Structure Integration	Chapter 14
Day 22: August 4	Contemporary Theories of Modernity	Chapter 15
Day 23: August 5	Structuralism, Poststructuralism, and Post-Modernism	Chapter 17/Handouts
Day 24: August 6	Structuralism, Poststructuralism, and Post-Modernism	Chapter 17/Handouts
Day 25: August 7	THEORY APPLICATION	DISCUSSION GROUP
Week 6		
Day 26: August 10	Globalization Theory	Chapter 16
Day 27: August 11	Feminist Theory	Chapter 13
Day 28: August 12	Identity Theory	Handouts
Day 29: August 13	REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM	REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM
Day 30: August 14	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM

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 in the classroom during instruction. While the use of computers is not prohibited during instruction, it is expected that students be using the computer for content related to the lecture. If it is clear that students are using computers for other purposes (eg. Facebook, myspace, etc.) students will be asked to discontinue using the computer. If this becomes a consistent problem, the use of computers will be prohibited during class time unless instructor grants the student approval to use the computer.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Students should strive to turn in their assignments on time, as late assignments will suffer a substantial reduction in points. For everyday that an assignment is late (this includes weekends, as papers can be turned in via email) the assignment will automatically lose 5%. Assignments more than two (2) days late will not be accepted.

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 the final grade all course work must be completed. If a student fails to complete an assignment or an exam the extra credit will not 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.**