

**COURSE OUTLINE - SOCIOLOGY 321 – SURVEY OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**

**Summer Session # 1 2009 – University of Hawaii at Manoa**

**Instructor:** Don Fetherston, B.Ed., M.A.(Ed), M.A. (Soc.),LL.B., Ph.D.

**Office:** tba

**Phone:** tba

**Office Hours:** 9am -1:30 am Monday to Friday (or by appointment)

**Catalogue Description**

Major theorists and their influence from Compte to today. Pre: 100 or any 200 level SOC course or junior standing, or consent

**Overview**

This course will focus on theories that have a wide range of applications, deal with centrally important social issues, and have stood up well to the test of time. A major assumption of the course is that sociological theory has an eminently practical function for understanding ourselves and the world.

**Required Texts**

George Ritzer, *Contemporary Sociological Theory and its Classical Roots: The Basics*, 2007, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Taleb, Nassim, *The Black Swan*, 2008, Random House.

Other readings will be handed out in class

**Evaluation**

Two short papers applying and evaluating a theory	40%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	40%

## TOPICS AND READINGS

### A. INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

### B. THE BEGINNINGS OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY – INTERPLAY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS , IDEAS, AND SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

1. Niccolo Machiaveli, *The Prince*
2. The Enlightenment
3. The Conservative Reaction to the Enlightenment
4. Edmond Burke: *Reflections of the Revolution in France*
5. Auguste Comte

### C. CLASSICAL THEORISTS AND CRITICAL RESPONSES TO THEIR IDEAS

- 1) Karl Marx
- 2) The legacy of Marx in the Marxian Critical Theories of Marcuse, Gramsci, Habermas ,Anyon. Athusser, and Gitlin.
- 3) Emile Durkheim
- 4) The legacy of Durkheim the ideas of Robert Merton in *Social Structures and Anomie*
- 5) Max Weber
- 6) The legacy of Weber- Robert Reich – *The Work of Nations*

### D. MICROSOCIAL THEORIES IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

1. Charles Cooley
2. George Herbert Mead
3. The legacy of Cooley and Mead *The Glorified Self* by Patricia Adler and Peter Adler.

### E. CONTEMPORARY GRAND THEORIES

1. Structural Functionalism - Talcott Parsons
2. Systems Theory – Luhmann

3. Conflict Theory – Ralf Dahrendorf
4. Critical Theory and the emergence of the culture industry – Herbert Marcuse
5. The civilizing process – Norbert Elias
6. The colonization of the life-world – Jurgen Habermas
7. The Juggernaut of Modernity – Anthony Giddens
8. The Black Swan – Taleb
9. *The Modern World-System* – Immanuel Wallerstein
10. Structuration – Anthony Giddens

#### **F. GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

1. *Society and Sexualities* – John D’Emilio
2. The social construction of gender – *Gilbert Herdt and Ada Cheng*
3. Gender and power – Dorothy Smith

#### **G. CONTEMPORARY THEORIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE**

4. Symbolic Interactionism
5. Dramaturgy
6. Ethnomethodology

#### **H. MEDIA AND CULTURE IN THE INFORMATION AGE**

1. *Understanding Media* – Marshall McLuhan
2. *The Society of Spectacle* – Guy Debord
3. Postmodernism – Michael Foucault

d by building on the ideas of pre-eminent thinkers.