

SOC 321
Survey of Sociological Theory (3 units)
Spring 2013 Outreach Extension CRN: 3135

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Nicholas Gibson

Office: Saunders Hall 217
Office Hours: Thursdays 12-2pm, Fridays 12pm-2pm
Or email/appointment
Phone: (808) 956-8462 (If you leave a message, leave your name and callback number
clearly and slowly)
E-mail: gibsonn@hawaii.edu
Prerequisite: SOC 100 or 200-level SOC

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Major theorists and their influences, from Comte to today.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This introductory sociological theory course will guide students through an examination of major classical theorists in the discipline, and contemporary sociological theorists. Historical perspectives and current philosophies will be introduced and discussed. Students will be expected to cover all assigned readings, and complete all written assignments. Students build upon theoretical works and will draw theoretical conclusions of their own. **This course is an online-only course. All students registered must have access to reliable internet connectivity to the Lulima workspace.**

3. LEARNING GOALS IN GENERAL EDUCATION

This course meets the University of Hawaii Diversification Requirements in the Social Sciences (DS) for the Core Competency standards for each of the following areas: Critical Thought, Communication, Civic Engagement, Ethical and Moral Development, Cultural Respect and Tolerance, and Global Awareness

4. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- Describe, connect and evaluate sociological concepts and theoretical frameworks
- Identify theoretical concepts and engage in critical evaluation of sociological theory through online discussions
- Describe comparisons between theorists and their selected works
- Illustrate connections between classical and contemporary sociological theories and their application to discussions of current social issues
- Demonstrate ability to analyze theoretical concepts in concise and accurate written work

5. REQUIRED TEXTS

Classical Sociological Theory (Paperback) – Editors: Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis

2012. Third Edition: Wiley-Blackwell

ISBN: 9780470655672

This is a collection of the major classical works in sociological theory, and will be our starting point of the session.

The New Social Theory Reader – Editors: Steven Seidman, Jeffrey Alexander

2008. Second Edition: Routledge

ISBN: 9780415437707

This reader starts by giving examples of the main schools of contemporary thought, and moves into theoretical works that are more issues-based in nature.

6. GRADING POLICY

Grading Criteria:

Discussion Board Participation	50 points
Theory Insights: 4 x 25pts	100 points
Theorist Comparison paper:	50 points

Total available points: 200 points

Grading percentiles:

95 – 100%	A	90-94%	A-		
88 – 89%	B+	83-87%	B	80-82%	B-
78 – 79%	C+	73-77%	C	70-72%	C-
68 – 69%	D+	63-67%	D	60-62%	D-
59% or lower		F			

This online course will have three components that will make up the grading structure:

1) **Discussion Board Participation:** Each week, every student is required to post on discussion boards. Each post does not have to be long or drawn out, but must be thoughtful and informed by the readings. The overall grade for the Discussion Board will be informed by the regularity, consistency, and thoughtfulness of each student's aggregate posts. Generally, it is expected that students will participate at least twice per week in order to facilitate overall learning requirements, which further supports the written assignments due towards the end of the term.

2) **Theory Insights:** Theory insights will provide an opportunity for each student to submit a short written piece illustrating a comparison between theoretical works, or identifying ways that a single theory or theorist can be developed or critiqued in an academic manner. **Each Theory insight will be no longer than one (1) page single-spaced Times New Roman 12pt font, and must meet a minimum length of 300 words.** Theory insights are meant to be short and powerful; they must meet the criteria for original academic critique or development of a discussed theoretical piece in short form.

For the theory insights, create a single-sentence thesis of their insight, and then briefly illustrate and discuss how the insight gives new meaning to our understanding of sociological theory or a sociological theory. This assignment is designed to support critical appraisal of theoretical works and creative scholarship.

3) Theorist Comparison Paper: The theorist comparison paper is an assignment designed to allow each student the opportunity to creatively demonstrate critical thought regarding sociological theorists and their theoretical works. This will be a compare/contrast assignment; this **will not be a summary assignment**. This paper will involve a discussion and analysis of theoretical concepts between two (2) or more theorists. Therefore, you must choose theoretical concepts that can be compared with their similarities, and contrasted with their differences (i.e. Marx and Durkheim on the nature of social cohesion, or Simmel and Mead regarding the creation or foundation of self-identity). The grade of this paper will depend on accuracy, innovation, and use of evidence from the primary theoretical texts as supplied. It should be **2 ½ to 3 ½ pages in length, single-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font**.

All assignments will be submitted in the 'Assignments' Section on the Lualima workspace.

Attendance

Attendance is measured in this online course through ongoing online discussion participation, and efforts by students to engage the assistance of the instructor and each other.

Missed Exams

Any exam that is not turned in on time will not be counted toward the student's final grade. The exams will be posted on the student portal ten (10) business days before their due date. Notification of an extenuating conflict is required, and a reasonable accommodation can be made.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may present themselves over the duration of the session, and will be clarified when the opportunities are presented to the class. Any extra credit opportunity will be accompanied by secondary options, and not turning in extra credit will not negatively impact a course grade.

Academic Dishonesty

The University of Hawai'i explicitly prohibits cheating or plagiarism of any kind in the academic environment. The UH Code of Student Conduct, Section 1D. Academic Dishonesty states:

“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."

Grading Disputes

Be sure to print out copies of the receipt of all exams turned in electronically, copies of extra credit work with grades, and any other communication between instructor and student in case of grade recording errors, which will be corrected if substantiated by the student. If there are any further disputes, academic affairs personnel are available to support students.

7. ACADEMIC SUPPORT

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 with 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](tel:8089567612) (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

8. ONLINE DISCUSSION ETIQUETTE

- **Discussion topics will sometimes be controversial. Therefore, it is expected that all contributors will respect the efforts of our fellow scholars, the diversity of the student body, and the learning environment as we engage in substantive discussions touching on social inequality, politics, and social institutions.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week/Meeting Dates	Readings: CST#: Classical Sociological Theory, NST#: New Social Theory Reader <i>*Posted handout on Laulima</i>	Topics/Assignments
Week 1 Week of January 28	CST 2, 3, 7, 8 <i>*Overview of Auguste Comte</i>	Jean-Jacques Rousseau Immanuel Kant Alexis de Tocqueville
Week 2 Week of February 4	CST 11, 13, 14	Karl Marx Fredrich Engels
Week 3 Week of February 11	CST 15, 16, 17, 18	Emile Durkheim
Week 4 Week of February 18	CST 19, 21, 23, 24	Max Weber
Week 5 Week of February 25	CST 25, 26, 27, 30	George Herbert Mead Georg Simmel W.E.B. Du Bois
Week 6 Week of March 4	Harriet Martineau <i>*The Peculiar Eclipsing of Women in Sociological Theory</i>	<i>*First Impressions</i> <i>*Weddings</i> <i>*First Sight of Slavery</i>
Week 7 Week of March 11	NST 1, 3, 4	New Critical Theory Poststructuralism
Week 8 Week of March 18	NST 5, 6	New Critical Theory Poststructuralism
Week of March 25	Spring Break – No Assignments	
Week 9 Week of April 1	NST 10, 11, 13, 14	Justice Ethics Truth
Week 10 Week of April 8	NST 15, 17	Performativity

Week 11 Week of April 15	NST 18, 19	Domination/Liberation Biopolitics Insights due Friday 04/19/13 10pm
Week 12 Week of April 22	NST 25, 27, 28,	Multiculturalism Nationalism
Week 13 Week of April 29	NST 32, 37	Gobalization Gender
Week 14 Week of May 6		Theorist Comparison Paper Due 05/08/13