SOCIOLOGY 321
FALL 2011

SURVEY OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Instructor: Hiro Saito
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Office Hours: Tue 3-5pm
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Lectures: Tue/Thu 10:30-11:45am
KUY 209

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

If you are not planning to go to graduate school in sociology, why do you have to study sociological theory? (Is sociological theory relevant to your life?) This simple but profound question motivates objectives of the course.

The first course objective is to understand how sociology has evolved historically. Having a sense of how sociology has developed helps you contextualize what you learn in other sociology courses. To accomplish this objective, you are going to read classical and contemporary sociological theories to understand core questions and controversies that generations of sociologists have grappled with.

The second and more important objective is to master theoretical concepts in sociology as heuristics to understand and explain phenomena in your everyday life. You are going to read sociological theories not simply to understand the history of sociology but also to acquire an intuition of what good sociological theories look like, so that you can start constructing your own.

GRADING

Pop Quizzes 20%
Attendance 10%
Three Response Papers 20% + 25% + 25% = 70%
Extra Credit Paper (TBA) 5%

Pop Quizzes
You will have a total of 20 pop quizzes about the assigned readings. Each pop quiz is worth 1%. You will complete and submit a pop quiz in class.

**Attendance**

You will get your attendance point every time you complete and submit a pop quiz in class. Each attendance is 0.5%.

**Response Paper**

You will write a short paper (5 pages, double-spaced) for each of the three sections of the course: “Classics,” “Self & Society,” and “Structure & Agency.” In your response paper, you are required to do the following: (1) summarize briefly the gist of arguments made by theorists in the section by focusing on how their arguments relate to each other (e.g. do they corroborate, complement, or contradict each other?); (2) assess strengths and weaknesses of their arguments in light of specific and real examples from current events found in local, national, or world news; and (3) attach a copy of newspaper/magazine articles that you used for your paper.

When you write a response paper, you must quote at least one specific passage from each theorist covered in the section. This is a crucial requirement. For the proper citation format, follow instructions regarding “references in the main text” at Quick Style Guide: http://www.asanet.org/page.ww?name=Quick+Style+Guide&section=Sociology+Depts

I will provide more specific instructions regarding each paper as a due date approaches.

The purpose of response paper assignments is to help you achieve one of the departmental student learning objectives (SLO): “Students will have clear and effective verbal and written communication skills.”

**Extra Credit Paper**

You will write a short paper (2 pages, double-spaced) on one of the three films that you are going to watch in class. I will provide more specific instructions toward the end of the semester.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please notify me privately or contact the KOKUA Program (808-956-7511) in room 013 of the Queen Lili‘uokalani Center for Student Services. I would be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course.
PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is representing the work of others as your own (including copying other students’ work or using Internet resources without proper citation). Those who plagiarize will receive an F and any sanctions imposed by the university. For more details, review the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992).

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Turn off cell phones during class.

REQUIRED TEXT


COURSE SCHEDULE

Introduction

August 21: Introduction (no reading)


Classics


September 20 & 25: The Corporation (145 min)

** Response paper #1 due in class on September 27 (Thr)

Self & Society


October 23 & 25: Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited: Japan, China and the United States (112 min)

** Response paper #2 due in class on October 30 (Tue)

Structure & Agency


November 6: Election Day


November 22: Thanksgiving


November 29 & December 4: City of God (133 min)

** Response paper #3 due in class on December 6 (Thu)

December 6: Reflection & extra credit assignment to be announced

** Extra credit due 4:30PM on December 11 (Tue) in my mailbox in the sociology department