SOC 321-SURVEY OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Nandita Sharma
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OFFICE: Rm. 304 George Hall
OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 3:00 to 4:00 PM or by appointment
OFFICE TEL.: 956.5354

CLASS: TR 1:30 to 2:45 PM
ROOM: CR 105

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the historical underpinnings of classical and contemporary sociological theories that try to understand shifting social relations of class, gender, ‘nation’ and ‘race’. We will begin by examining the sets of social relations and processes that shaped the emergence of the social sciences in general and of sociology in particular. We will then interrogate some of the key questions and arguments in sociological theory by carefully interpreting some of the authors who provided many of the key concepts and terms that have shaped sociology as a discipline. We will discuss how ‘classical’ sociologists posed questions about modernity, capitalism, colonialism, industrialization, urbanization and bureaucracy, and examine their different understandings of terms such as society, meaning, action, interaction and structure.

In the second part of the course, we will examine some key contemporary sociological theories that attempt to re-define key concepts and terms as well as create new modes of knowledge necessary to analyze our postmodern world. By analyzing a variety of theories, the student should be able to develop a comprehensive theoretical understanding of sociological research and a critical (i.e., analytical) orientation toward theory in particular and social relations in general.

This course is designed for students who have already taken introductory courses in sociology and who are, therefore, familiar with some of the basic concepts and methods of sociology. It is, therefore, highly recommended that you review your earlier exposure to sociology theory in preparation for this course.

CLASS FORMAT

The course consists of lectures, small group discussions, videos/films and individual as well as small-group work on assignments. Students will have the opportunity to practice the techniques of critical reading and thinking, of expository writing, of working with others and of oral expression.

Students are expected to come fully prepared for each class by having completed your assigned readings and having developed questions and comments that will allow you to be an active participant in class discussions.
REQUIRED READINGS


CLASS EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes on Course Readings (5)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group In-Class Assignments (3)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper (10-12 pages)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (AUGUST 26 & 28)

- Introduction to course topics, materials and assignments
- Social Relational Approach

Topics
- social relational approach
- binary codes of ‘race’, class and gender
- concept of “relations of ruling”
- significance of violence to the maintenance of relations of ruling
- introduce ‘triangle model’ of analysis
- introduce concept of ideology
- introduce concept of hegemony

WEEK 2 (SEPTEMBER 2 & 4)

- Modernity and the discipline of sociology

Readings:
KA “Section 1 Introduction: The Modern Agenda: Nineteenth-Century Theorizing,” pp.1-8

WEEK 3 (SEPTEMBER 9 & 11)

Due: Quiz on Course Readings (September 9)

Readings:
KA “Chapter 3: Cultural Diversity and Social Integration-Emile Durkheim (1858-1917),” pp.71-104.

WEEK 4 (SEPTEMBER 16 & 18)

Due: In-Class Assignment #1 (September 18)

Readings:
KA “Chapter 4, The Individual in Modern Society-George Herbert Mead (1863-1931), Georg Simmel (1858-1918)” pp.105-136.

WEEK 5 (SEPTEMBER 23 & 25)
Due: Quiz on Course Readings (September 23)

Readings:


WEEK 6 (SEPTEMBER 30 & OCTOBER 2)

Tuesday, September 30: Workshop in Hamilton Library (Meet in HL 113 - first floor, past the main elevators and restrooms)

Thursday, October 2: Optional Individual Library Research Project (potential of 5 % bonus on final grade)

WEEK 7 (OCTOBER 7 & 9)

Due: Optional Individual Library Research Project (October 9)

Review of Materials for Mid-Term Exam

Readings:

KA “Section II Introduction: Theory Cumulation and Schools of Thought in the Mid-Twentieth Century” pp.167-174.

WEEK 8 (OCTOBER 14 & 16)

Due: In-Class Midterm Exam (both days)

WEEK 9 (OCTOBER 21 & 23)

Due: In-Class Assignment #2 (October 23)

Readings:


WEEK 10 (OCTOBER 28 & 30)
Due: Quiz on Course Readings (October 28)

Readings:


WEEK 11 (NOVEMBER 6 – NOTE: NO CLASS ON TUES. NOVEMBER 4TH)

Thursday, November 6: In-Class Workshop: Refining and Completing Your Research Paper

WEEK 12 (NOVEMBER 13 - NOTE: NO CLASS ON TUES. NOVEMBER 11TH)

Due: Quiz on Course Readings (November 13)

Readings:


WEEK 13 (NOVEMBER 18 & 20)

Due: In-Class Assignment #3 (November 20)

Readings:


WEEK 14 (NOVEMBER 25 – NOTE: NO CLASS ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27)

Readings:

KA “Chapter 13, Identity Politics-Dorothy E. Smith (1926-), Cornel West (1953-), Patricia Hill Collins (1948-),” pp.471-518.

WEEK 15 (DECEMBER 2 & 4)

Due: Quiz on Course Readings (December 2)
Readings:

KA “Chapter 13, Identity Politics-Dorothy E. Smith (1926-), Cornel West (1953-), Patricia Hill Collins (1948-),” pp.471-518).
KA “Chapter 14, Post-Theories-Michel Foucault (1926-1984), Jean Baudrillard (1929-),” pp.519-568.

WEEK 16 (DECEMBER 9 & 11)

Summary of Course

Due: Term Paper (December 6)