

SOCIAL THEORY
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2021

Course Number: SOCI 5328 (21566)

Time: Thursdays 6:00 - 8:50 p.m.

Location: On Zoom

Instructor: Angela Frederick

Office: Old Main 315

Email: ahfrederick2@utep.edu

Office Hours: Zoom or phone appointments

How to join Zoom for class:

Link: <https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/8022413824?pwd=VXhjeXNJZHgrdUthb0FPOGZqY2dYZz09>

Meeting ID: 802 241 3824

Password: 677396

COURSE OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

Course Overview. This graduate seminar will provide students with a survey of social theory, covering important thinkers from the classical and contemporary eras. The bulk of the classical approaches we will discuss concern efforts to come to grips with rapid social change in Western Europe and North America. Many of the theories, particularly from European thinkers, have been variously critical of the forms and paths of capitalist modernity as it transformed social practices and social landscapes across the 'West.' In the portion of the course devoted to contemporary theory, we will take up questions of power, inequality, and identity.

Learning Objectives. Students who complete this course should achieve the following objectives:

- Be able to name and describe the major theories that have shaped the discipline of sociology.

- Cultivate an understanding of how sociologists employ social theory in their research.
- Be able to effectively apply both classical and contemporary social theory to enhance your own research.

Required Readings. The following book is required for the course. All additional assigned readings are available on the course Blackboard page.

- Applerouth, Scott and Laura Desfor Edles. 2020. *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Fourth Edition. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Requirements. Grades for this course are distributed as follows:

- **Reading Reflections – 35%.** Each week of the semester, you will submit a short paper reflecting on the week's assigned readings. Reading reflections are due on Mondays via email before class begins. You are allowed one late submission during the semester in which you may submit the reflection by Tuesday night at 11:59 p.m. Your lowest reading reflection grade will be dropped, and the remainder of your reading reflection grades will be averaged to comprise 25% of your final grade.
- **Mid-Term Exam – 25%.** Your midterm exam will be a take-home exam consisting of multiple essays.
- **Final Exam – 25%.** Your final exam will be a take-home exam consisting of multiple essays.
- **Class Participation – 15%.** This portion of your grade will be determined by the frequency and quality of your participation in class discussions on Zoom. To earn high marks for this portion of your grade, you should prepare to be a prominent voice in every class discussion and demonstrate that you are engaging thoroughly with course readings and concepts. Your participation grade will also include small group discussions designed to help students develop your research plan.

Grading Scale. The grading scale in this course is as follows:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 0%-59%

Attendance Policy. Attendance during each Monday Zoom meeting is mandatory. After your first absence, your final grade will drop by five points for every additional class you miss. Exceptions will only be made for family emergencies, illness, religious holidays, or school-sanctioned events, for which documentation will be required. I recognize flexibility is essential during these difficult times; however, to insure fairness to all students, I request that you notify me in a timely manner, i.e. before class and before an assignment is due, should you request an excused absence or excused extension.

Grading Policy. All assignments should be submitted before their deadlines. Five points will be deducted from your papers and exams should you submit them after the deadline for the day. Ten points will be deducted from your papers and exams for each day submitted after the deadlines. Late discussion question sets will not be accepted after class has begun for that day.

Honor Code. As in all courses at UTEP, students are expected to act honorably in accordance with our mutual educational objectives. If you use someone else's idea, opinion, concept, or fact, you must cite your source. If you use more than three consecutive words from someone else, you must put the phrase in quotation marks and cite your source. This includes notes from class. Failure to do so is plagiarism and will result in a penalty.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (Jan 21): Introductions

- Course overview and introductions.

WEEK 2 (Jan 28): Karl Marx

- Chap# 2 "Marx"

Week 3 (Feb 4): Antonio Gramsci

- Crehan, Preface and Chap 1 in *Gramsci's Common Sense*.
- Crehan, "The Common Sense of Donald J. Trump"

WEEK 4 (Feb 11): Emile Durkheim

- Chap# 3 “Durkheim”
- Mishra & Rath, “Social Solidarity During a Pandemic.”

WEEK 5 (Feb 18): Max Weber

- Chap#4 “Weber”
- Ritzer, Chap#16 in “McDonaldization of Society” (most important section is on the four components of McDonaldization)

WEEK 6 (Feb 25): W. E. B. Du Bois

- Chap# 7 “W. E. B. Du Bois”

WEEK 7 (March 4): Erving Goffman

- Chap# 12 “Irving Goffman” (skim the sections discussing other theorists)
- Frederick, “Visibility, Respectability, and Disengagement”

WEEK 8 (March 11): Open Day

- **Mid-Term Exam Due before class begins.**
- **We will meet on this date; however, you do not have a reading assignment.**

WEEK 9 (March 18): Spring Break

WEEK 10 (March 25): Michele Foucault

- Chap# 14 “Foucault”

WEEK 11 (April 1): Theorizing Race

- Bonilla Silva, “Feeling Race”
- Other reading to be announced.

Week 12 (April 8): Theorizing Immigration)

- Readings to be announced.

WEEK 13 (April 15): Theorizing Class, Part I

- Bell, “The Coming of Postindustrial Society”
- Chap#12 “Russell Hochschild”

WEEK 14 (April 22): Theorizing Class, Part II

- Chap# 14 “Bourdieu”
- Review PPT on forms of capital
- Lareau, Chaps 10 and 12 in “Unequal Childhoods”

WEEK 15 (April 29): Theorizing Gender

- Readings to be announced.

WEEK 16 (May 6): Intersectionality

- Chap# 10 “Patricia Hill Collins”
- Terriquez, “Intersectional Mobilization, Social Movement Spillover, and Queer Youth Leadership in the Immigrant Rights Movement”

WEEK 17 (May 13): Finals

- **Thursday, May 13: Final Exam due by noon.**