

SOCIAL THEORY
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2022

Course Number: SOCI 5328 (21430)

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

Location: Old Main 110

Instructor: Angela Frederick

Office: Old Main 315

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Office Hours: T/Th 1:00 – 2:30 and Zoom meetings by appointment

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:

- **Weekly Reflection Papers – 35%.** Throughout the semester, you will submit weekly reflection papers on the assigned readings. Reflection papers are due on Thursdays via email by 1:00 p.m. Students can submit reflection papers after this deadline, up until the start of that week's class, for a penalty of -5. Weekly reflection papers will not be accepted after class has begun that day. Your lowest reflection paper grade will be dropped, and the remainder of your grades will be averaged to comprise 35% of your final grade.
- **Midterm Exam – 15%.** Your midterm exam will be a take-home exam consisting of multiple essays.
- **Final Exam – 15%.** Your final exam will be a take-home exam consisting of multiple essays.
- **Final Paper -- 25%.** Your final paper will be 10 pages in length. You will select the topic with my guidance and approval.
- **Class Participation – 10%.** This portion of your grade will be determined by the frequency and quality of your participation in class discussions. 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. Quality participation involves a high level of engagement with course material, not just how many personal stories you share during class. Quality participation also requires active listening to others and efforts to illuminate what others are saying.

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 will be taken during every class session. Because this class meets just once a week, missing a class equates to missing an entire week of class time. Attendance during every meeting is therefore 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, serious illness, religious holidays, or school-sanctioned events, for which documentation will be required. Please note that discussion sets and reflection papers will not be accepted on days students acquire an unexcused absence.

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 20): Introductions

- Course overview and introductions.

WEEK 2 (Jan 27): Karl Marx & Antonio Gramsci

- Chap#2 "Marx"
- Crehan, Preface and Chap 1 in *Gramsci's Common Sense*.
- Crehan, "The Common Sense of Donald J. Trump"

WEEK 3 (Feb 3): Emile Durkheim

- Chap#3 "Durkheim"
- Klinenberg, "Denaturalizing Disaster"

WEEK 4 (Feb 10): Max Weber

- Chap#4 “Weber”
- Jackson Lears, “From Salvation to Self-Realization”
- Ritzer, Chap#16 in “McDonaldization of Society” (most important section is on the four components of McDonaldization)

WEEK 5 (Feb 17): W. E. B. Du Bois

- Chap# 7 “W. E. B. Du Bois”
- Thomas, “Race, Nation, and the Color Line in the 21st Century”

WEEK 6 (Feb 24): Erving Goffman

- Chap#12 “Irving Goffman” (skim the sections discussing other theorists)
- Goffman, Chap I in *Stigma*
- Goffman, Chap 1 in *Asylums*

WEEK 7 (March 3): Daniel Bell & Arlie Russell Hochschild

- Bell, “The Coming of Postindustrial Society”
- Chap#12 “Russell Hochschild”
- Russell Hochschild, “Emotional Life on the Market Frontier”

WEEK 8 (March 10): Mid-Term Exam

- **Mid-Term Exam Due at the start of class**

WEEK 9 (March 17): Spring Break

WEEK 10 (March 24): Pierre Bourdieu

- Chap#14 “Bourdieu”
- Lareau, Chaps 10 and 12 in “Unequal Childhoods”

WEEK 11 (March 31): Final Projects Workshop

- No reading assignment

WEEK 12 (April 7): Michele Foucault

- Chap#14 "Foucault"
- Additional reading to be announced

WEEK 13 (April 14): Theorizing Racism

- Bonilla Silva, "Feeling Race"
- Bonilla Silva, "The Storylines and Testimonies of Color-Blind Racism"
- Ray, "Racialized Organizations"

WEEK 14 (April 21): Theorizing Gender

- Chap #15 "Judith Butler"
- Ridgeway & Correll, "Unpacking the Gender System"
- Lee & McCabe, "Who Speaks and Who Listens"

WEEK 15 (April 28): Theorizing Intersectionality

- Chap#10 "Patricia Hill Collins"
- Frederick and Shifrer, "Race and Disability: From Analogy to Intersectionality"

WEEK 16 (May 5): Final Exam

- **Final Exam Due Thursday by 6:00 p.m.**

WEEK 17 (May 12):

- **Final Paper Due Thursday by 6:00 p.m.**