GENERAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY SYLLABUS

SOCIO 4301: General Sociological Theory
Instructor: Olga Ochoa
Office Hours: Monday, Friday @10:30-11:30am
Email: olochoa2@utep.edu

Course Description
In this course you will learn how to apply critical-thinking skills and strategies to sociological concepts. This course reviews social theory, covering important thinkers from the classical and contemporary eras. Theory in its most simple form is defined as an idea that guides observations of the world. In the portion of the course devoted to contemporary theory, we will take up questions of power, inequality, and identity. In addition to engaging directly with theory, a central component of this course will be to explore how sociologists apply and challenge theory as they analyze empirical evidence. It is important to understand the role of these theories in analyzing and understanding the complexities of societal dynamics. Understanding theory can be a challenging task for many students. It often involves repeatedly reading the same paragraph, referring to a dictionary for unfamiliar words, and taking pauses to reflect on the material before progressing to the next paragraph. To further analyze and comprehend the text, it is beneficial to take thorough notes while reading and ask yourself relevant questions about the content. This proactive approach facilitates a deeper understanding of the theory being studied.

This is an asynchronous course, 100% online. We will NOT meet. Assignments, discussions, and check-ins will be posted weekly. You will receive an email reminding you of what must be completed for the week. It is important to note that ALL assignments are due Saturday by midnight. I have a very strict NO LATE policy. Few exceptions are made, in which documentation must be provided in order to receive an extension. All feedback will be given through blackboard or emails if requested.

Required Text
*Sociological Theory by George Ritzer & Jeffrey Stepnisky 11th edition*

Writing Overview
This course focuses heavily on writing skills. Each assignment in this course will necessitate academic writing utilizing sociological theory. The objective is for you to apply the concepts and knowledge acquired in this course to various scenarios or contexts. In all of your assignments, including the incorporation of supporting evidence and appropriate citations, it is expected that you adhere to the guidelines of the APA citation style. Writing in this course aims to expand on the fundamental concepts of social theory. Therefore, it is crucial that you develop your thoughts and ideas, effectively organize your writing, and provide proper acknowledgment when necessary. Things to remember when writing:
• Your voice should be heard, even when using someone else’s work
• Giving credit when needed is important, do not plagiarize
• Writing takes time, never submit a first draft
• Keep in mind who your audience is
• Review the rubric for each writing assignment to earn full credit.
• Always use APA Citation style. See https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Course Requirements

1. Unit Discussions (25 points each)
Discussions are an important component of understanding and applying what you have read in social theory. They allow you to make connections between the theories and real-life situations, enhancing comprehension and critical thinking skills. By reflecting on the theories and considering their relevance in modern scenarios, you can further deepen your understanding and grasp the practical implications of social theory in today's world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISCUSSION’S RUBRIC</th>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer question</td>
<td>answer all questions in an acceptable level of quality.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text-Evidence (In-text citations)</td>
<td>Include direct examples, quotes, or phrases from the text, book, or other articles used.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respond to two Discussion:</td>
<td>Quality responses are required. Your responses must be more than “I agree” or “I feel the same way”</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
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2. Unit Check-Ins (50 points each)
Unit check-ins are brief assessments designed to evaluate your understanding of the chapters that have been covered within a specific unit. These checks typically consist of 25 multiple-choice questions. By completing these quizzes, you can gauge your comprehension of the material and identify areas that may require further review or clarification.

3. Unit Assignments (100 points each)
In this course, there will be three unit assignments which serve as opportunities for you to apply the knowledge you have acquired. These assignments will require you to demonstrate your understanding and comprehension of the topics covered throughout the unit. It is important to note that these assignments must adhere to the guidelines APA format.

   1. **Unit Presentation**: Select a social theorist and create a slideshow presentation of what you learned. You are allowed to use outside sources, but make sure to reference them. Presentation must be a minimum of 8 slides and no more than 12. Add a title slide and a
reference slide, which will not count towards the minimum requirement. Each slide must include: summarization of what you learned, image(s), reflection 2-3 sentences. If you don’t have access to Powerpoint, create a google account and use google slides for free. Download your slideshow/powerpoint as a PDF and submit it as a PDF.

2. **Infographic:** Create an infographic. The purpose is to create a visual image used to represent information or data. Search infographics online for examples. Include the following information: Attention grabber, Summary of the theory selected, images that summarize major facts, and other information/content that educates the reader on the theory selected.

3. **Reflection:** Write a two-page reflection about the chapter using APA Citation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Expectation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>assignment requested (Slideshow, infographic, reflection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text-Evidence</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Student provides text-evidence to support writing. Use APA Format, include a reference page at the end.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Structure</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Student demonstrates organization in their writing: Introduction, body, and conclusion. APA format of 12 size font, title page, reference page, 1-inch margins, cover page. The infographic will have a different structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
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4. **Final Assignment (100 points)**
Students will write an essay applying sociological theories to the study of a specific social issue. When it comes to the formatting requirements, ensure that the font size is set to 12, specifically using Times New Roman font. Furthermore, your document should be double-spaced, providing appropriate spacing between lines. APA citations are a crucial component of academic writing. In order to receive full credit for your unit assignments, it is essential to include in-text citations to support and acknowledge any information, ideas, or quotes that you have obtained from external sources. Neglecting to provide proper in-text citations may result in a deduction of 30 points automatically, so it is important to be diligent and accurate in your referencing.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Expectation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applies</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>sociological theory to a specific social issue and demonstrates an understanding of the theory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text-Evidence</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Student provides text-evidence to support writing. Use APA Format, include a reference page at the end.</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
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Grading
The overall grade of this course is based on a point system. The more points you earn the higher your grade will be. This is done to give you an advantage. The more points you earn in the assignments you find less difficult will benefit you in assignments you find difficult. Using text-evidence is highly important in this course. If you look at the rubrics text-evidence is worth a lot of points!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-90</td>
<td>1375-1238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-79</td>
<td>1237-1086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>78-69</td>
<td>1085-948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>68-59</td>
<td>947-811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>58-below</td>
<td>810-below</td>
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Academic Integrity
To excel in this class and achieve a high grade, it is important to dedicate time and effort to this course. Keeping up with the assigned readings and materials is crucial for success. It will enhance your understanding of the subject matter and allow you to actively participate in class discussions and assignments. Plagiarism, or using someone else's work without proper acknowledgment, will not be tolerated. It is important to respect your own work and the work of others by properly referencing any sources used.

Additionally, following all guidelines for writing assignments and other tasks is crucial. Not meeting the required length for papers or failing to adhere to the specified formatting and citation style may result in a lower grade. Therefore, pay close attention to the instructions provided for each assignment and ensure that you fulfill all requirements. Respecting your peers is essential in creating a positive and conducive learning environment.

Grades in this class are based on a point system, meaning that the more points you accumulate, the higher your grade will be. By adhering to these guidelines and committing to your studies, you can expect to succeed in this class and achieve a high grade.

VII. Late work
Meeting deadlines for assignments is a strict requirement for this course. While there may be exceptional circumstances that could warrant an extension, they will be infrequent and granted only in rare cases in which you must provide documentation.
VII. Technical Problems
I recommend NOT using Internet explorer or Safari when using blackboard for better internet connection use Google chrome or Firefox. Call the HELP DESK if you have any technical problems.

IX. Drop Rule
If you make the decision to drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so. I will not drop the course for you. Failure to do so may result in a grade of “F” on the student’s academic record. Students are limited to a six course drop during their academic career. There are a few exceptions that may allow a student to drop a course without having it counted toward the six-drop limit. For more information on that check the UTEP’s academic website.

Note: If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS’ Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.
# Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKS</th>
<th>READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
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| WEEK 1 | **Read the Syllabus**  
  - Discussion #1: Introductions  
  - Check-In #1: Syllabus | January 20, 2024 By midnight |
| WEEK 2 | **Chapter 1: Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Early Years**  
  - Check-In #2  
  - Discussion #2 | January 27, 2024 By midnight |
| WEEK 3 | **Chapter 3: Emile Durkheim**  
  **Chapter 2: Karl Marx**  
  - Check In #3  
  - Unit Assignment #1: Select a chapter and create a slideshow that presents what you learned about that social theorist. | February 3, 2024 By midnight |
| WEEK 4 | **Chapter 4: Max Weber**  
  - Check In #4  
  - Discussion #3 | February 10, 2024 By midnight |
| WEEK 5 | **Chapter 5: George Simmel**  
  - Check In #5  
  - Discussion #4 | February 17, 2024 By midnight |
| WEEK 6 | **Chapter 6: Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Later Years**  
  - Check-in #6  
  - Discussion #5 | February 24, 2024 By midnight |
| WEEK 7 | **Chapter 7: Structural Functionalism, Systems Theory, and Conflict Theory**  
  - Check-In#7  
  - Unit Assignment #2: Create an infographic of one theory. | March 2, 2024 By midnight |
| WEEK 8 | **Chapter 9: Symbolic Interactionism**  
  - Check-In #8  
  - Discussion #6 | March 9, 2024 By midnight |
| WEEK 9 | Chapter 10: Ethnomethodology  
- Check-In #9  
- Discussion #7 | March 23, 2024  
By midnight |
| WEEK 10 | Chapter 11: Exchange, Network, and Rational Choice Theories  
- Check-In #10  
- Discussion #8 | March 30, 2024  
By midnight |
| WEEK 11 | Chapter 12: Contemporary Feminist Theory  
- Check-In #11  
- Unit Assignment #3: Write a two Page Reflection | April 6, 2024  
By midnight |
| WEEK 12 | Chapter 13: Micro-Macro and Agency Structure Integration  
- Check-In #12  
- Discussion #9 | April 13, 2024  
By midnight |
| WEEK 13 | Chapter 14: Contemporary Theories Modernity  
- Check-In #13  
- Discussion #10 | April 20, 2024  
By midnight |
| WEEK 14 | Chapter 17: Globalization Theory  
- Check-In #14  
- Discussion #11 | April 27, 2024  
By midnight |
| WEEK 15 | ** FINAL ASSIGNMENT ** | May 8, 2024  
By midnight |