**SYLLABUS[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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| **SOC 4050\_Sections 003 and 502: Basic Sociological Theory** | |
| Term: | Winter 2017 |
| Meeting Time: | Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 12:10 pm |
| Location: | 105 Main Hall |
| Instructor: | Nicole Trujillo-Pagán, Ph.D. |
| Email: | [Bb3729@wayne.edu](mailto:Bb3729@wayne.edu) |
| Office Hours: | Tuesdays, 9 am – 12 pm, or by appointment |
| Office Location: | 2256 FAB or 3315 FAB |

**Description:**

Sociological theories try to render the social world understandable. They are tools of logic that have empirical implications. In this course, we will explore both the internal logic of sociological theories and how theory explains social processes. We will also work at developing students’ analytical skills.

**Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will understand the role of theory in sociology, such that the student will be able to engage in structured weekly assignments that:

* define theory and describe its role in building sociological knowledge;
* compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations;
* show how theories reflect the historical context of the times and cultures in which they were developed; and
* describe and apply some basic theories or theoretical orientations in at least one area of social reality.

**Course Policies**

*Differently-Abled Students*

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TTY: telecommunication device for the deaf; phone for hearing impaired students only). Once you have your accommodations in place, you or SDS should contact me via email to discuss your needs. Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

*The Syllabus and Course Outline:*

The syllabus and its outline will guide the course. Students are expected to keep up with the class syllabus and outline. The syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced on blackboard.

*Blackboard:*

*The instructor expects student familiarity with blackboard software.*

*All course information will be posted on Blackboard.* Any notices, revisions on this syllabus, last-minute class cancellations, and other information will be posted on Blackboard. Not checking blackboard is no excuse for missing assignments or other information relevant to this course. You can learn about Blackboard at: <http://computing.wayne.edu/blackboard/>

*Email:*

Each student has been assigned an email account by WSU. If you decide to use a different account, be sure you figure out how to forward any email to that alternative account. Not checking or not getting your email is no excuse for missed communication with the instructor regarding information relevant to this course.

*Reading*

**Bring your own copy of required readings to class sessions**.

*Assignments*

*Written Assignments*

**No assignments will be accepted by email or in person.** Students must submit written assignments on blackboard using the dropbox feature.

Written assignments should be in MSWord. If there is a problem with your file, the instructor will post a note in blackboard to this effect. If this note is posted on your blackboard account, **you are responsible for checking your grades and resubmitting a compatible file within one week of your original submission.** If necessary, you should work with C&IT to prevent a recurrence of corrupt or incompatible submissions.

*Due Dates/Times*

Late assignments will be penalized for every week they are late. This policy applies irrespective of whether a written assignment is submitted 15 minutes or 6.5 days after it is due.

You may avoid late penalties with a signed and dated doctor’s note indicating your lack of availability to submit the assignment on its due date.You have one week from the due date of the assignment to contact and provide documentation to the instructor.

*Academic Protocol:*

Wayne State University **severely penalizes plagiarism, cheating, making up false information for papers, and copying from other students.** If you are caught doing any of these, you may fail the specific assignment, fail the class, referred to the University administration for further academic discipline including, but not limited to, being expelled from the University.

Avoid plagiarism [misrepresenting the words, ideas or work of others as your own], cheating [copying from another student's term papers and exams, **knowingly sharing information or answers of exams and papers to be turned in for evaluation and grading,** taking an exam for another student, using unauthorized notes during exams, etc.], and fabrication [making up false information for papers, citing work you never actually read, etc.]. Cutting and pasting a sentence and/or paraphrasing the content from books, journals and/or the internet without appropriate in-text citation and bibliography represent forms of plagiarism.

Paraphrasing and/or cutting and pasting more than 15% of a paper’s content, even with appropriate citation, is not acceptable in this course.

If you have any questions about this policy, please visit:

http://doso.wayne.edu/academic-integrity.html

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| **Grading Scale:** | |
| A | 100-93 |
| A- | 92.9-90 |
| B+ | 89.9-87 |
| B | 86.9-83 |
| B- | 82.9-80 |
| C+ | 79.9-77 |
| C | 76.9-73 |
| C- | 72.9-70 |

**Grading Criteria:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Graded Activity | Overall effect on grade |
| 1 | **Attend** required classroom sessions | 10% |
| 2 | Group Discussion Papers (3) | 45% |
| 3 | Group Presentation | 10% |
| 4 | Paper | 20% |
| 5 | Final Exam | 15% |
| *Total* | | 100% |

*Attendance*

There are fourteen (15) required sessions (see bold-faced session topics on course outline). Attendance is called at the beginning OR end of a required session. Your presence at each roll call will be counted as 1 point. Except in extreme cases, the attendance record will **not** be revised after attendance is called. In other words, if you arrive late and/or leave early to a required session, your attendance **will not** be counted for the session. Your attendance grade is calculated as the number of points earned / 15.

*Group Discussion Papers*

We learn sociological theory through discussion. The purpose of group discussion papers is to encourage you to discuss theory with a (1) partner. You should choose a different partner for each paper that you can work with either in person, by phone, or electronically (skype, facetime, google docs, etc.). In your paper, you will:

1. complete several assigned short-answer questions on the reading, and
2. Choose, watch and analyze a relevant film (documentary or feature).

You are strongly discouraged from “dividing up” each of the tasks covered in the paper. Instead, in order to promote a productive and egalitarian collaboration, you should each complete a draft of your own answers to the short-answer questions before meeting with your partner.

Short answer questions will be posted to blackboard. Cite the text as needed using an abbreviated format, e.g (A&E, 7). You should limit short-answer responses to one paragraph.

Identify the film you will watch and when you will discuss it with your partner. You must identify at least two (2) major concepts in the classical theorist’s work (Marx, Durkheim or Weber) that you see reflected in the film. In addition to your responses to the short-answer questions, write two (2) pages discussing a) the concept and its meaning and b) the ways the concept is demonstrated in the film. **You MUST cite the theorist’s work** in your discussion of each concept.

Upload your short-answer responses and film analysis as a single document to blackboard. Be sure to identify your partner. In the event you did not identify a partner or work together effectively, your submission header should clearly note that you are solely responsible for the submitted paper. Otherwise, you and your partner will receive the same grade*.* Group discussion papers are due by midnight on the following dates:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Group Analysis Papers | 1: 1/27 |
| 2: 2/10 |
| 3: 2/24 |
| 4: 3/24 |

*Group Presentation*

You will choose one-two partner(s) to work on a group presentation that goes beyond the classic theories presented by the instructor (see the list at the end of the syllabus). Your presentation must outline and critique the chosen theorist’s writing and theories. Limit any discussion of the theorist’s biography to how it may have shaped his/her **ideas.** Your grade on both presentation and paper is based on the effectiveness of how you:

1. outline the chosen theorist’s ideas,
2. compare your chosen theorist's ideas to the canon (Marx, Weber, Durkheim),
3. identify the ways your theorist’s **writings explain how race and/or gender** shape social life,
4. **critique** limitations in the chosen theorist’s ideas, and
5. explain how your chosen’ theorists ideas are **relevant** today. Of these, your presentation and paper should emphasize #1-3.

Your presentation should limit any discussion of the theorist’s biography to the goal of how and why it reflects the time and place in which his/her **ideas** emerged. Any discussion of the theorist’s biography that does not accomplish this objective will count against your grade.

Your group presentation should last no longer than twenty (15) minutes. You have access to email, a USB plug, computer and CD/DVD player.

Groups *may* opt to record their presentation **ahead** of their scheduled date. The recording may be in a format of the group’s choosing with prior instructor permission, e.g. Camtasia, video, etc. This recording will be posted to blackboard in lieu of a physical presentation. As a result, please check blackboard prior to a presentation session (weeks 12-16) to ensure that we will meet in our classroom.

*Paper*

It is expected that your group presentation is based on discussion. In addition to your group presentation, you will submit an individual paper. You are **not** encouraged to share draft versions of your written paper with you group partners. You are ultimately responsible for your individual paper and meeting all five (5) criteria outlined above. Your paper may or may not be similar to that of your group partners. Your paper must be in essay format and Your paper must **include clear references and/or quotations directly from your primary sources, e.g. the theorist’s writing**. You can use in-text citations, footnotes, or endnotes. Include a bibliography (the format of the bibliography doesn’t matter, but be consistent in the style you use). You will upload this paper to blackboard.

Please keep in mind the university’s academic protocol (reproduced on pg. 3 of this syllabus) as you write and be sure to proofread before you submit your paper.

Your paper is due by midnight on the date of your presentation.

*Final Exam*

The final exam reviews the material covered in readings, lecture and discussion in the second half of the course, e.g. beginning with Critical theory. More details about the exam format will be announced in class in week 9.

**Required Texts:**

* 1. Appelrouth, Scott A and Laura Desfor Edles. *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Sage.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**COURSE AND SESSION OUTLINE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week |  | Date | Topic | Required | |
| 1 | M | 1/9 | Organizational Meeting |  |  |
| W | 1/11 | **Intro to Classical Theory** |  | Read [[3]](#footnote-3)Ch. 1 |
| 2 | M | 1/16 | No Class | | |
| W | 1/18 | **Marx Lecture** |  | Read Ch. 2 |
| 3 | M | 1/23 | Marx Analysis | Assignment [[4]](#footnote-4) | SE questions and analysis |
| W | 1/25 | Marx’s Complex Legacy: Examples of Wallerstein and Bourdieu |  | Read Ch. 16, pgs. 760-787  Read (on bb): selections from Bourdieu |
| 4 | M | 1/30 | **Marx Discussion** |  |  |
| W | 2/1 | **Durkheim Lecture** |  | Read Ch. 3 |
| 5 | M | 2/6 | Durkheim Analysis | Assignment | SE questions and analysis |
| W | 2/8 | Durkheim’s Legacy in the United States: Examples of Structural Functionalism and Conflict Theories: Merton, Mills and Myrdal |  | Read Ch. 9, section on Merton  Read (on bb): selections from Mills, Myrdal |
| 6 | M | 2/13 | **Durkheim Discussion** |  |  |
| W | W | 2/15 | **Weber Lecture** | Read Ch. 4  Read (on bb): selection from Weber |
| 7 | M | 2/20 | Weber Analysis | Assignment | SE questions and analysis |
| W | 2/22 | Weber’s Legacy: Ritzer |  | Read Ch. 17, section on Ritzer |
| 8 | M | 2/27 | **Weber Discussion** |  |  |
| W | 3/1 | **Weber’s Legacy continued: Critical Theory Lecture** |  | Read Ch. 10, pgs. 396-435 |
| 9 | M | 3/6 | **Critical Theory Discussion** |  |  |
| W | 3/8 | **Simmel** |  | Read Ch. 6  Read (on bb): selection on Simmel |
| 10 | M | 3/13 | No Class | | |
| W | 3/15 |
| 11 | M | 3/20 | **Goffman** |  | Read Ch. 12 section on Goffman |
| W | 3/22 | **Foucault** |  | Read Ch. 14 section on Foucault |
|  | *Su.* | *3/26* | *Last Day for Course Withdrawal* | | |
| 12 | M | 3/27 | **DuBois Lecture** |  | Read Ch. 7 |
| W | 3/29 | DuBois Legacy 1 |  | Presentations: Johnson, Cox, Frazier |
| 13 | M | 4/3 | DuBois Legacy 2 |  | Read Ch. 17 section on Said  Read (on bb): selection from 1) Fanon, 2) James, and 3) Anzaldua  Presentations: Fanon, James, Anzaldua |
| W | 4/5 | DuBois Legacy 3 |  | Read (on bb): selection from 1) Gates, 2) Anderson, 3) Wilson, 4) Omi and Winant  Presentations: Gates, Anderson, Wilson |
| 14 | M | 4/10 | **Gilman Lecture** |  | Read Ch. 5 |
| W | 4/12 | Gilman Contemporaries 1 |  | Read (on bb): selection from Addams  Presentations: Addams, Weber, Webb |
| 15 | M | 4/17 | **Gilman Contemporaries 2**  **& Collins Lecture** |  | Read (on bb): “The foundations of Black Feminist Sociology”  Read Ch. 10, pgs. 469-481  Presentations: Wells-Barnett, Cooper |
| W | 4/19 | Collins Contemporaries |  | Read (on bb): selection from 1) Lorde, 2) Allen  Presentations: Davis, Lorde |
| 16 | M | 4/24 | **Summary** |  |  |
|  | W | 4/26 | **Final Exam, 10:30a - 12:15p** |  |  |

**Winter 2016\_SOC 4050\_Group Presentation Sign-Up Sheet**

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| Week | Social Theorist | Group |
|  | 1. Charles Spurgeon Johnson   “*A Negro in Chicago: A Study of Race Relations and a Race Riot*” |  |
| 1. Oliver Cromwell Cox |  |
| 1. E. Franklin Frazier |  |
| 1. Frantz Fanon |  |
| 1. C. L. R. James |  |
| 1. Henry Louis Gates |  |
| 1. Elijah Anderson   *Cosmopolitan Canopy* |  |
| 1. William Julius Wilson |  |
| 1. Gloria Anzaldua   *Borderlands* |  |
|  | 1. Jane Addams   relevant section in *The Women Founders* |  |
| 1. Marianne Schnitger Weber   (see "Marianne Weber (1870- 1954): A Woman-Centered Sociology," in *The Women Founders: Sociology and Social Theory.* |  |
| 1. Beatrice Potter Webb   *Our Partnership* and relevant section in  *The Women Founders* |  |
| 1. Ida Wells-Barnett   *Southern Horrors and Other Writings* |  |
| 1. Anna Julia Cooper   *A Voice From the South* and relevant section in *The Women Founders* |  |
| 1. Angela Davis   *Are Prisons Obsolete?* |  |
| 1. Audre Lorde   *Sister Outsider* |  |

1. The syllabus represents a “contract” between the student and the instructor. The student is responsible for reviewing and understanding the syllabus. The student is also responsible for obtaining clarification on any parts of the syllabus that may be unclear. A student’s decision to stay in the course past the add/drop deadline represents his/her acceptance of all policies outlined on the syllabus. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The 3rd edition is the latest. If you use an earlier edition of the text, you are responsible for ensuring compatibility. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Read** means a required exercise that should be completed prior to the class meeting indicated on the same row. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Assignment** refers to a graded exercise that is due by 11:59 pm on the class session indicated on the same row. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)