**SYLLABUS**

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| **SOC 6060: Contemporary Sociological Theory** | |
| Term: | Fall 2018 |
| Meeting Time: | Tuesdays, 5-7:30 pm |
| Location: | 201 State Hall |
| Instructor: | Nicole Trujillo-Pagán, Ph.D. |
| Email: | [Bb3729@wayne.edu](mailto:Bb3729@wayne.edu) |
| Office Hours: | Wednesdays, 8:30am-11:30am |
| Office Location: | 2215 FAB (Humanities Center) |

**Description:**

Sociological theories try to provide conceptual order on social worlds. They engage sociologists in enduring questions underpinning human existence that include the relationships between social structure and human agency, multiscalar analyses (micro/meso/macro) and the time-space continuum. Essentially, they are tools of logic that have empirical implications. In this course, we will 1) explore the internal logic of sociological theories, 2) identify how theory explains social processes, particularly related to these three perennial questions and 3) endeavor to shape new questions that move our collective agenda at answering these questions forward.

**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.

**Assignments:**

* Exam (30 points)
* Two Presentations (40 points)
* Final Paper (30 points)

*Consistent attendance and participation are expected.*

The *Exam* is in essay format. Its questions evaluate the extent to which you can explain how theoretical problems are developed by a group of scholars. You will also provide your own theoretical explanation for the acceptance of a particular approach. “Working smart” means you’re keeping your goals for *Final Paper* in mind.

You will be responsible for two *Presentations* during the semester. An effective presentation identifies the theoretical argument(s) discussed in the reading and asks at least (3) related questions to initiate group discussion. Your presentation should refer explicitly to the reading using page numbers and quotes.

Your *Final Paper* is an opportunity for you to build upon the work you’ve done during this course by applying it as a section of your (Master’s thesis, Ph.D.) proposal.

**Required Texts:**

The following materials are REQUIRED for the course.

* 1. Garner and Hancock, *Changing Theories*
  2. Goffman, *Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.*
  3. Morris, *The Scholar Denied.*

Other readings will be accessible through Canvas.

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|  |  | Topics | Required Reading |
| 1 | 9/4 | What are we doing here? | Joas and Knobl, “What is Theory?” in *Social Theory: Twenty Introductory Lectures* |
| The Early Years | | | |
| 2 | 9/11 | Du Bois, Pt. 1  *On space* | 1. Morris, *The Scholar Denied,* Intro-Ch. 3 2. Loughran, “The Philadelphia Negro and the Canon of Classical Urban Theory”[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| 3 | 9/18 | Chicago School and Beyond:  Cooley, Mead, grounded theory | 1. Simmel, *Metropolis* 2. Chapter 15, 16, 18 in *Social Theory: The Formative Years* 3. Morris, *The Scholar Denied,* Ch. 4-5 4. Abbott, “Of Time and Space”[[2]](#footnote-2) 5. Itzigsohn and Brown, “Sociology and the Theory of Double Consciousness” |
| 4 | 9/25 | Marginalization, Voice  Cooper and Wells | 1. Cooper 2. Wells, 3. Morris, *The Scholar Denied,* Ch. 7-8*.* 4. Haraway, “Cyborg Manifesto” 5. Chodorow, Reproduction of Mothering” 6. Connell, *Masculinities,* Ch. 3 |
| Conflict and Change | | | |
| 5 | 10/2 | Action Theory (Parsons, Functionalism)  *On structure - event* | 1. *Changing Theories,* Introduction and Ch. 1-2 2. Joas and Knobl, Ch. 2-4 in *Social Theory: Twenty Introductory Lectures* |
| 1. Sewell, “Three Temporalities” |
| 6 | 10/9 | Neo-Marxian Theories 1: Critical Theory / Hegelian Marxism | 1. *Changing Theories,* Ch. 6 2. Horkheimer and Adorno, “The Culture Industry” |
| Neo-Marxian Theories 2: Marxism and Feminism | 1. Hartmann, “Unhappy Marriage,” in *Women and Revolution* 2. Young in *Women and Revolution* 3. Joseph in *Women and Revolution* 4. Vogel in *Women and Revolution* |
| 7 | 10/16 | Neo-Marxian Theories 3: Marxism, Du Bois… and Race | 1. Patterson, 1982, *Slavery and Social Death,* pgs. 1-34. 2. Johnson and Lubin, eds., *Futures of Black Radicalism,* Preface and Intro. 3. Hier, “The Forgotten Architect: Cox, Wallerstein and world-system theory”[[3]](#footnote-3) 4. Roediger, “Accounting for the Wages of Whiteness”[[4]](#footnote-4) 5. Anderson, *Marx at the Margins*, Ch. 3 |
| 8 | 10/23 | Scripts and Performances | 1. *Changing Theories,* Ch. 3 2. Goffman, *Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* 3. Goffman, *Frame Analysis,* 1-39. 4. Feagin*, White Frames* |
| From Sociological to Social Theory | | | |
| 9 | 10/30 | Alternate Ways of Understanding Power (Foucault) | 1. *Changing Theories,* Ch. 4 2. Foucault, 1975. *Discipline & Punish,* pgs. 200-228. |
| Alternate Ways of Understanding Capital: Bourdieu | *Changing Theories,*  Ch. 5 |
| 10 | 11/6 | Alternate Ways of Understanding History and Globalization | Go, 2016, *Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory,* pgs. 1-63, 118-131  Sassen, *Territory, Authority, Rights*, Introduction  Perry, *Vexy Thing,* Ch. 4 |
| Alternate ways of Understanding Race | *Changing Theories,*  Ch. 6 (Hall) |
| 11 | 11/13 | Alternate Ways of Understanding Agency (Culture) | 1. Geary, *Beyond Civil Rights*, Ch. 1 2. Anderson, *Cosmopolitan Canopy,* Ch. 1 3. Wilson, “Why Both Social Structure and Culture Matter in a Holistic Analysis of Inner-City Poverty” 4. Watch Patterson’s 2016 lecture[[5]](#footnote-5) |
| 12 | 11/20 | **Exam** | |

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| 13 | 11/27 | Alternate Ways of Understanding Stratification (Affect and Performance) | 1. Butler, 1990, *Gender Trouble,* pgs. 134-141 2. Cho, et. al. “Toward a Field of Intersectionality Studies”[[6]](#footnote-6) 3. Nash. “Practicing Love” 4. Brubaker, *Trans,* intro |
| 14 | 12/4 | Final Session | *Changing Theories,* Conclusion |

1. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1742058X15000132> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.jstor.org/stable/2580667 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1578F4oLibtQEZvirOHL8uDhQWu\_2dLsE/view?usp=sharing [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-fGv6YwiDWKFDpzRq7kSYNxgN3IBiuQ\_ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=We3hLvOLjl4 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/669608 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)