**SOCIOLOGY 4050**

**BASIC SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**

**WINTER 2013**

**MONDAY/WEDNESDAY**

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| **INSTRUCTOR:** | Dr. George K. Ntiri |
| **OFFICE HOURS:** | By Appointment (313-577-2930) or (313-598-8888). |
| **REQUIRED TEXT:** | Michele Dillon (2010).INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY, Blackwell Publishers.  Ken Morrison, MARX, DURKHEIM, and WEBER: FORMATIONS OF MODERN SOCIAL THOUGHT, 2nd Edition.  Thomas R. Shannon, AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD-SYSTEM PERSPECTIVE, 2nd Edition.  Copies of Text, Sample Term Papers and Exams are on reserve at the Graduate Library. |
| **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** | This is an introductory course in sociological theory. It explores major concepts, range of perspectives and trends in the processes of social theory construction. |
| **COURSE OBJECTIVE:** | To equip students with basic understanding of theoretical perspectives in sociology and their uses to examine and explain the ways in which society functions.  The course will begin with an overview of what the discipline of sociology is about, important concepts, the meaning and uses of theory. This will be followed by examination of sociology’s multiple perspectives, ranging from classical to post-modern theories. |
| **COURSE FORMAT:** | A lecture format will be used but in a way that provides opportunity for maximum participation and inputs by students. It is anticipated that students will read assigned materials for each week in order to participate more creatively in class discussions. A report on Marx, Durkheim and Weber based on the text by Morrison and chapters from Dillon will serve to deepen student’s understanding and appreciation for the imprint of classical social theory on contemporary social thoughts. |
| **COURSE**  **EVALUATION:** | Students will be evaluated on the basis of one report, two examinations and group project. |

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| **REPORTS:** | Students will select one of these classical theorists: Marx, Durkheim or Weber and use the assigned readings to: 1) demonstrate that they have read the materials, and provide comments to illustrate their understanding of 2) similarities and 3) contrasts between the selected theorist and the other two. Paper format will be as follows:   1. INTRODUCTION: Background and significant influences on the thinking of theorist. (5 Points)   II. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE: Significant and/or unique theoretical contributions of selected theorist (10 Points).  III. SIMILARITIES AND CONTRASTS WITH OTHER TWO THEORISTS (10 Points).  IV. CONCLUSION: General overview and enduring contributions/ relevance to post industrial society and global system. (5 Points)  V. REFERENCES: **Cited pages** from assigned readings and  Reference page. (2 Points)  Papers are to be typed double-spaced and 8-10 pages in length plus cover page and citations. Corresponding readings on theorists are as follows:  Karl Marx: Morrison Chapter 2, Dillon Chapter 1. .  Emile Durkheim: Morrison Chapter 3, Dillon Chapter 2.  Max Weber: Morrison Chapter 4, Dillon Chapter 3.  \*REPORTS ARE TO BE STUDENT’S AUTHENTIC WORK AND DELIVERED IN CLASS ON THE DUE DATE: April10 |
| **CLASS PRESENTATION:** | Groups of students will select or assigned a theory and/or theorist to prepare and make fifteen (15) minutes presentation to the class. The selected/assigned topic, an outline and references are due on March 18 for review by instructor and distribution to the class. |
| **EXAMINATIONS:** | There will be two examinations. The scope and dates of the examinations are as follows:  Exam 1: Assigned readings and lectures from January9 – February20.  Exam Date: Midterm Exam Date: March 6.  Final Exam 2: Assigned readings and lectures from February27 – April 23.  Final Exam Date: April 30 – 8:00 a.m.  **\*THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMINATIONS.** |
| **GRADING:** | Mid-Term Exam March 6 30%  Final Exam April 30 30%  Report April 10 30%  Group Project March 25th and 27th 10% |
| **ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**: | 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 (TDD only).  Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately to discuss your special needs. |

**READING ASSIGNMENTS**

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| **WEEK OF** | **TOPIC** | **READING** |
| January7 | INTRODUCTION   1. Course Overview 2. Overview of Sociological Perspectives | Lecture |
| 14 | Overview of Sociological Perspectives  Classical to Post-Modernism | Dillon, Pages 1-30  Morrison, Chpt. 1 |
| 21 | CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY  Structural Functionalism (Monday MLK Holiday) | Dillon Chpt. 4 |
| 28 | Conflict Theory | Dillon Chpt. 6 |
| February 4 | Exchange and Rational Choice | Dillon Chpt. 7 |
| 11 | Symbolic Interaction | Dillon Chpt. 8 |
| 18 | Critical Theory: The Frankfurt School | Dillon Chpt. 5 |
| 25 | Critical Race Theory  Race and Racism | Dillon Chpt. 12 |
| March 4 | REVIEW and MID-TERM EXAM | Lecture |
| 11 | SPRING BREAK |  |
| 18 | Feminist Theories  Sexuality and the Body | Dillon Chapters 10-11 |
| 25 | Student Presentations |  |
| April 1 | WORLD SYSTEM  Globalization  Origins, Structure, Early and Contemporary | Dillon Chpt. 15  Shannon Chpts 1-4 |
| 8 | Dynamics, Criticism, New Directions and Assessment |  |
| 15 | Summary and Review |  |
| 29 | FINAL EXAM (Tuesday April 30, 2013, 8:00 a.m. |  |