**SOCIOLOGY 4050**

**BASIC SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**

**FALL 2016**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **INSTRUCTOR:** | Dr. George K. Ntiri |
| **OFFICE HOURS:** | By Appointment (313-577-2930) or (313-598-8888). |
| **REQUIRED TEXT:** | Michele Dillon (2010 or 2014). INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY, Blackwell Publishers.Ken Morrison, MARX, DURKHEIM, and WEBER: FORMATIONS OF MODERN SOCIAL THOUGHT, 2nd Edition. |
| **RECOMMENDED** **TEXT:** | ‘Thomas R. Shannon, AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD-SYSTEM PERSPECTIVE, 2ND Edition. |
| **LIBRARY** **RESERVE:** | Copies of Texts, sample exam questions and term papers 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 perspec-tives 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. |
| **LEARNING****OBJECTIVES:** | The student will understand the general meaning of the concept of theory and its applications in the social sciences.The student will be able to distinguish between classical, modern and post-modern sociological theories.The student will be able to identify similarities and contrasts in the ideas of Marx, Durkheim and Weber in classical sociological theory.The student will demonstrate understanding of the underlying assumptions about human nature and social behavior that set sociological perspectives apart.The student will be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of different sociological perspectives.The student will be able to use sociological theories to examine contemporary social issues and their related public debates.The student will demonstrate understanding and the uses of sociological theory to make sense of everyday social behavior.In addition the student will be able to: (a) define theory and describe its role in building sociological knowledge; (b) compare and contrast basic theoretical orientations; (c) show how theories reflect the historical context of the times and cultures in which they were developed; and (d) describe and apply some basic theories or theoretical orientations in at least one area of social reality. |
| **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 students’ 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. |
| **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:I. INTRODUCTION: Background and significant influences on the thinking of the selected theorist. (5 Points)II. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE: Significant and/or unique theoretical contributions of selected theorist (10 Points).III. SIMILARITIES AND CONTRASTS WITH THE THEORITICAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE OTHER TWO THEORISTS. A. Similarities (5 Points) B. Contrasts (5 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 from Morrison and Dillon in the Reference page. (5 Points)Papers are to be typed double-spaced, 8-10 pages in length plus cover, table of content and reference page. Corresponding readings on theorists that will be used to assess citations in the report 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 STUDENTS’ AUTHENTIC WORK SUPPORTED BY RELEVANT CITATIONS – Author and page(s) – of The assigned readings. REPORTS ARE TO BE DELIVERED IN CLASS ON THE DUE DATE: November 12 |
| **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 November 30 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 August 31 – October 12.Exam Date: Exam 1 Date: October 19Assigned readings and lectures from October 19 - December 7. Exam 2 Date: December 14**\*THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMINATIONS.****\*THE USE OF CELL PHONE IN CLASS IS NOT ALLOWED** |
| **GRADING:** | Exam 1 October 19 30%Exam 2 December 14 30%Report November 12 35%Group Project 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**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **TOPIC** | **READING** |
|  August 31 | INTRODUCTION1. Course Overview
 | Lecture |
| September 7 | 1. Sociological Perspectives: Overview
 | Lecture |
|  14 | Sociological Perspectives: Classical to Post-Modernism | Dillon Pages 1-30Morrison Chpt. 1 |
|  21 | INEQUALITYOverview: Race, Gender, Reproduction and Price of InequalityGlobal and Theoretical Implications | LectureDillon Chpt. 13 |
|  28 | CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORYStructural Functionalism  | Dillon Chpt. 4 |
| October 5 | Conflict Theory | Dillon Chpt. 6 |
|  12 | Exchange and Rational Choice Theories | Dillon Chpt. 7 |
|  19 | Symbolic InteractionCritical Theory | Dillon Chpt. 8and Chpt. 5 |
|  26 | Critical Race Theory Sociology | Dillon Chpts. 11 and 12 |
| November 2 | Feminist Theories | Dillon Chpt. 10 |
|  9 | GLOBALIZATION AND WORLD SYSTEMSOrigins, Structure, Early and ContemporaryDynamics  | Dillon Chpts. 14-15Shannon |
|  12  | Criticism, New Directions and Assessment |  |
|  23 | THANKSGIVING BREAK |  |
|  30  | Group Presentations |  |
|  December 7  | Summary and Review | Lecture |
|  14 | EXAM 2 (December 14, 2016) |  |
|  |  |  |