

Basic Sociological Theory
Soc 4050 (22519)
Winter 2013

Time and Place: Tuesdays 5:30 to 8:30, Room 0105 Old Main

Instructor: Warshay. Office: 2251 FAB.

Phones: My Home: 313-861-1051; Soc Dept at 2228 FAB, 313-577-2930

My E Mail: leewarshay@comcast.net;

Office Hours: TW 4:00 to 5:00, Th 1:00 to 3:00 (and by appointment).

Recommended (in University Bookstore):

- Ri11 Ritzer, *Modern Sociological Theory*, 7th Ed., 2008(HM435 R56). McGraw-Hill, paper. Theorists and schools of theory, including Functionalist, Neo-Marxist, Interactionist, Exchange, Feminist, and Postmodern. Analytic last section (e.g., integrative developments, macro-micro, globalization).
- Wa13 Warshay, *Perspectives in Sociological Theory*. 2013. Landon: Elsemere Press (Sault. Ste. Marie, Michigan and Ontario). Main schools and systems.(Interactionist, Functionalist, Marxist, Social Exchange, and Feminist [See Wallace and Wolf below]). Some Classical theorists (Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, Toennies Marx, MacIver, Cooley, Mead), Chicago School (Thomas, Park, Burgess). Some Issues: Ethical and Political, Methodological, Neglected Theorists).

Other Worthy Texts

- K Kivisto, ed., *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*, 4th ed., 2011 (HM585 K58 2011.). Oxford Univ. Press, paper. Fine collection of readings from leading theorists. Covers every part of the course.
- WW Wallace and Wolf, *Contemporary Sociological Theory: Expanding the Classical Tradition*, 6th ed., 2005 (HM585 W35 2005). Prentice-Hall. (paper). Feminist orientation, organized around six major schools plus alternate perspectives, including evolution and modernity and sociology of the body and sociobiology. Covers both history and current work. Concise.
- Ma Martindale, *The Nature and Types of Sociological Theory*, 2nd ed. 1981 (HM19 M36 1981) (reissued in 1988 by Waveland Press in paperback, when available). General text, combines theoretical schools, theorists, history, and philosophy. Left-Liberal perspective. (when available). May be the best theory text.

Possible Supplements (Purdy Library Reserve) (Out of print, may be available in used bookstores)

- CR Coser and Rosenberg, eds., *Sociological Theory: A Book of Readings*, 5th ed., 1982 (HM51 C645 1982) (Reissued in 1989 by Waveland Press in paperback). Excellent collection of readings, organized via concepts. Both earlier and later theorists.
- Mu Munch, Richard, *Sociological Theory, Vol. I: From the 1850s to the 1920s*, 1994 (HM24 M838 1993). A Thorough treatment of some concepts and theorists covered in this course by A German Parsonian.
- Pe Perdue, *Sociological Theory*, 1986 (HM 24 P445 1986). Organized philosophically around questions of order (conservative ideology), pluralism (liberal), and conflict (radical). Neo-Marxist perspective. Concise discussion of large number of theorists, past and present, in terms of personal history, assumptions, theoretical content, and critique.

Other (Purdue Library Reserve)

- Bo Bottomore, *Sociology*, 2nd ed., 1971 (HM51 B75 1971). High level introductory text by neo-Marxist British sociologist. Also treats issues such as sociology as a discipline, theory, method, applied sociology.
- Tr Truzzi, ed., *Sociology: The Classic Statements*, 1971 (HM51 T76). Features readings from pre-1950 European and American theorists.
- TT Thompson and Tunstall, eds., *Sociological Perspectives*, 1971 (HM51 T76). Decent collection of earlier and recent theorists. Original readings from a "perspective" standpoint.
- Wa75 Warshay, *The Current State of Sociological Theory*, 1975 (HM24 W3). Theoretical issues and schools, theory-method debates, ideological controversies.

III. Theory as School or System

Wa75: 14-21; Bo 34-36, 41-47, 57-62

E. Small (Specific or Topical) Theories (largely in urban sociology and on selected major institutions, such as family, religion, the economy, and the polity: Jo 438; Wa75: 4-9.

F. Middle Range and Micro Theories or Schools

1. Interactionism: Ri08, Ch. 6 and/or Ri11, Chap. X; Wa13: Chapter 6; Ma 318-22; Mu 209-12, 221-24; Pe 164-67, 227-28; J VIII; Wa 29-34.

a. Cooley: Ri08, 62-64 and/or Ri11, 201-12; Ma 322-25; Pe 164-65, 243-46; Jo 312-17

b. Mead: Ri08, 65-6 and/or Ri11, 202-04; Ma 329-34; Mu 212-23
K #29; CR 93-97.
Pe 237-39; Jo 297-311; Tr 265-73.

c. Blumer: Ri08, 216-17 and 245-46 and/or Ri11 354-55; Ma 353-55
K #39

(When Mead, professor at the U Chicago Philosophy Dept, died, in the late Spring Quarter, April 1931, Blumer was called in for a few weeks from the U C sociology department to complete Mead's course, Blumer then returning to sociology. Blumer eventually came to be seen by many sociologists as the legitimate interpreter of Mead, but eventually began to be criticized by some for "distorting" Mead.)

2. Social Exchange theory: Ri08 280-301 and/or Ri11 416-37 Wa13: Chapter 7; Ma 312-14
Jo IX; Wa75: 38-43.

a. Homans: Ri08, 282-83, 56-57 and/or Ri11, 418-27; Ma 310-14
K #46; CR 72-76
Pe 135-39; Jo 351-58

b. Blau: Ri08, 291-95 and/or Ri11, 426-31; Ma 314-15
K #51; CR 76-79
Pe 142-46; Jo 362-79; TT 220-33

----- Second Exam: On Section III, parts E and F-----

G. Macro and General Theories or Schools (Complex and Varied)

1. Functionalism: Ri08 98-127 and/or Ri11 Chap. VII, 97-101; Wa13: Chapter 8; Ma XIX; Pe 39-43; Jo X; Wa75: 21-26

a. Parsons: Ri08 101-13 and/or Ri11 240-52; Ma 473-77; Pe 115-19; Jo 391-92, 408-18; TT 265-75.
K #31; CR 414-18

b. Merton: Ri08 114-19 and/or Ri11 252-58; Ma 463-67;
K #30; CR (1976ed.) 527-33

Optional

e. Neo-Functionalism—Jeffrey Alexander: Ri08 122-27 and/or Ri11 260-65)

Gender:: Ri08, Ch. IX and/or Ri11, Ch. XII (Dorothy E. Smith, Ed),
K #21 (Harriet Martineau), #23 (Charlotte Perkins Gilman), and #24 (Jane Addams), #25 (Elsie
Clews Parsons)

Race:

WEB DuBois: Ri08, 67-69 and/or Ri11, 208-10

Booker T. Washington: Ri08:61 and/or Ri11:201, 209)

K #22 (DuBois)

Gender and Race: Ri08 356-57 (Patricia Hill Collins)

V. Summary and Conclusion

Ma XXV; Wa IX

A course summary will be handed out on the last day.

--- Final Exam: On Part III, section G, and Part IV: at least section H, perhaps also sections I and J, ---

NOTE: The final grade will be based on the three essay exams, two exams during the semester and a third exam during final exam week. The first exam covers sections I and II of the course outline, the second exam covers parts E and F of section III, and the final exam will cover parts G, of section III, and H (at least) of section IV. Therefore, the final exam is not comprehensive. However, students can make the final exam comprehensive since that exam will also contain optional questions based on the first two portions (exam periods) of the course.

Class performance can help, it can raise, but not lower, a student's final grade; therefore, ask questions, present ideas. Class attendance is also emphasized; this assumes that, in attending class, students gain knowledge that is not always picked up in the exams.