

COURSE: BASIC SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**Professor Sarah Swider****Class location:** 105 Old Main**Hours/Days:** Tuesdays 5:30-9:10pm**Office hours:**

- 1) via Skype, Wimba, or Facebook
- 2) In person –Tuesdays 2-4pm in my office or by appointment

Phone: 313-577-3282**Email:** sswider@wayne.edu**Mailbox:** In Room 2228 F/AB**Office location:** 2247 Faculty and Administration Building**Course Number:** SOC-4050**Skype:** ushpa2008**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to introduce you to some of the major theoretical traditions within sociology. We will read selections from the theoretical writings of influential individuals who are representative of each tradition. There are four major goals for this course:

- Provide students with an understanding of some of the most important theorists and theoretical traditions in sociology.
- Help students learn how to compare and contrast the ways different theories provide different answers to questions.
- Help students develop an understanding of how social theory helps us make sense of our world.
- Strengthen students reading and critical thinking skills.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The course starts with a discussion about theory, what it is, and why it is important in sociology. The rest of the course deals with the development of sociological theory and is divided into two sections. The first section deals with some of the major classical theorists and theories which played an important role in founding and shaping sociology. The second half of the class is dedicated to contemporary sociological theory. As we move through the development of sociological theory, the theorists and their work will be placed in historical context. We will see how theory evolves through examining the ways in which theorists critique and build off earlier work. Finally, we will also explore how these theories inform our world today.

COURSE TEXT

The main text for the class is available in the bookstore. It is your responsibility to make sure you get a copy of this text.

James Farganis (editor). 2004. *Readings in Social Theory: The Classic Tradition to Post-Modernism. 5th edition*. New York: McGraw Hill.

In addition to the main text listed above, we will also be reading selected chapters, chapter excerpts, and/or articles listed below. I will have these materials available on the Blackboard or you may go to the library and make copies from the original texts. Please pay attention to assigned page numbers and note that in many cases a full chapter may be posted but you are only required to read designated pages (the remaining sections are recommended but not required reading). There will also be additional recommended readings posted on Blackboard- but clearly marked as optional/recommended.

Course Readings (Selections from the following)

JA	Addams, Jane and Charlene Haddock Seigfried. 2002. Democracy and social ethics. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
GB	Becker, Gary and Posner, Richard. 2009, "The Becker-Posner Blog", Retrieved September 2009, (http://www.becker-posner-blog.com/archives/2009/06/).
IC	Craib, Ian. 1992. Modern social theory: from Parsons to Habermas. London: Harvester Wheatsheaf.
CC	Calhoun, C. J. (2007). Contemporary sociological theory. Malden, MA, Blackwell Pub.
DM	Domhoff, G. William. 2005, "The Four Networks Theory of Power: A theoretical Home for Power Structure Research", Retrieved September 3, 2009, 2009 (http://sociology.ucsc.edu/whorulesamerica/theory/four_networks.html).
WD	Du Bois, W. E. B. and Eric J. Sundquist. 1996. The Oxford W.E.B. Du Bois reader. New York: Oxford University Press.
ED	Durkheim, Emile and George Simpson. 1933. Émile Durkheim on The division of labor in society. New York: Macmillan.
JF	Farganis, James. 2008. Readings in social theor : the classic tradition to post-modernism. Boston: McGraw-Hill.
DF	Fasensfest, David. 2006. "Critical Sociology." Pp. 17-24 in <u>Handbook of 21st Century Sociology</u> , edited by C. Bryant and D. Peck. California: Sage Publications .
AG	Giddens, Anthony and Jonathan H. Turner. 1987. Social theory today. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.
PL	Lengermann, Patricia and Madoo Niebrugge, Gillian. 2007. "Contemporary Feminist Theories." Pp. xvii, 315 p. in <u>Contemporary sociological theory and its classical roots: the basics</u> edited by G. Ritzer. Boston: McGraw-Hill.
IM	McIntosh, Ian. 1997. Classical sociological theory: a reader. Washington Square, N.Y.: New York University Press.
GS	Simmel, Georg. 1971. On individuality and social forms : selected writings. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
LW	Warshay, L. H. 1975. The current state of sociological theory: a critical interpretation. New York, D. Mckay Co.
* Below there is a reading schedule using the abbreviations and listing page numbers	

IMPORTANT DATES

****Students must complete late registration and adds by the end of the first week of classes (Late Adds Wed Aug 27 - Wed Sep 3)

****Course withdrawal Deadline is Sunday, November 9th.

COURSE POLICIES

Class Attendance and Participation: You are expected to come to class and participate which make up an important portion of your grade. Please attempt to show up on time, entering the class after the discussion and lecture has begun is disruptive to your peers. Also, please deal with all personal needs before or after class or during the break. If you miss class you are responsible for all materials, announcements, and assignments covered in class. Most of this information will be posted on Blackboard (lectures are NOT posted). You should speak with classmates about what you missed in class and get lecture notes.

A special note on H1N1, the Dean has suggested that, “Students with flu symptoms will be expected to balance their academic responsibilities with the social responsibility to self-isolate and not attend class or other public gatherings if they are sick”. If at any point this situation applies to you, please send an email to me or call my office to make me aware of the situation.

Email and Blackboard: All important information can be found on Blackboard. It will be used for making important announcements, transmitting assignments, communicating any changes and posting class materials. I will send emails using your campus email. You are responsible for setting up your campus email, checking it and Blackboard regularly. Campus email is also a convenient way for you to communicate with me.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is considered egregious behavior with severe consequences. You are expected to know what constitutes plagiarism (ignorance is not innocence). Please take a moment to review Wayne State University’s academic honor code. Also, listed below are two websites which explain how to properly cite and use material without plagiarizing. You should review this information PRIOR to doing any written assignments.

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>

If there are any violations of the academic honor code (including plagiarism) there are severe penalties including: a zero on the assignment, an “F” in the class, and potential additional repercussions in terms of your standing with the University. Please review the academic integrity policies at Wayne State University: <http://www.doso.wayne.edu/judicial/academic-integrity.htm>.

Assignments and late work: Assignments need to be printed out and brought to class (on time) on the day they are due. Late assignments are not accepted. Only in the case of a documented emergency (death, accident, hospitalization, etc) will an exception to this policy be made. The same policies apply to all assignments and tests. All written assignments, unless otherwise specified, must be typed (using 12 point Times Roman font, double spaced, with one inch margins) and printed in black ink.

Cell Phone Policy: CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PROHIBITED IN CLASS. Cell phones must be shut off or on vibrate and placed out of sight for the duration of the class. If you have a true emergency and you must answer your phone, please leave the classroom. If students don't refrain from using the phone during our class time and they become distracting, I will institute a policy of requiring that all students place their phones in a box in the front of the classroom and retrieve them after class.

Laptop Policy: If you choose to use a laptop to take notes you must sit in the front row of the class. Laptops can only be used to take notes. If students end up using laptops for purposes other than taking notes, or if the laptops become distracting, you will be asked not to use them in class.

Grading Policy: If you believe that you have been graded unfairly on an assignment you must either come to my office hours or set up an alternative meeting time to discuss the issue. When you come to discuss grading issues, you should have a prepared written statement clarifying what you think was graded unfairly, why, and what you think the grade should have been. In this statement you should clearly identify the section of the assignment which you feel was graded unfairly, you should provide evidence and material (from the course) supporting your argument and reasoning for wanting a grade review. I will review your written statement along with the graded assignment and make a determination on the grade. The possible outcomes include increasing the grade, decreasing the grade, or keeping the original grade. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you have a right to contact the Chair of Sociology (Room 2233 in the Faculty Administration Building, 313-577-8131). The final level of appeal is the Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, 2nd floor of "Old Main" Room 2155.

Syllabus: This syllabus is an outline of the course for this semester. However, readings and deadlines may change. Any changes will be announced in the class and posted on Blackboard, so please check Blackboard often! If you have any questions on the assignments, due dates, or class activities, please check Blackboard and the syllabus to find the answers. If you cannot find the answer then email me, ask in class, or stop by my office.

Reasonable Accommodation: If you have a disability that makes it difficult/impossible for you to complete this course in the manner specified in the syllabus, please feel free to contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and/or contact the Office of Educational Accessibility Services (EAS) which is responsible for coordinating reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The Office is located in 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library, phone: 313-577-1851 (Voice) / 577-3365 (TTD).

Advising and Assistance: I am always willing to talk to students about any difficulties they are having in my class or in general. I have office hours and I am willing to meet with students by

appointment. If I cancel my office hours, I will announce alternative hours for that week in class and post it on Blackboard. In addition, WSU also provides a number of services to help students succeed. Some potential resources include: *The Academic Success Center* (David Adamany Undergraduate Library Suite 1600, (313) 577-3165) the *Writing Center* (2nd Floor Undergraduate Library, (313) 577-2544) or Counseling and Psychological Services (Student Center, Room 552).

Assignments:

Readings: One of the major goals in this class is to teach students how to read and analyze theoretical writing. The reading assignments are central to the course. Students should expect to spend around six (6) hours outside of class reading, preparing for class and doing assignments. All discussions, assignments and tests are centered on the readings. We will be referring to the reading materials in class so you will be expected to bring your book or a print out of the readings due each week. All students are expected to complete all assigned readings for the week.

Conceptual Maps: This is an assignment designed to help students develop their reading and comprehension skills. It requires you to identify the major idea and related concepts and themes in a reading and to map it visually. There is a Conceptual Map Assignment Sheet on blackboard which clearly delineates a set of tasks and associated points for each section. Each student will be responsible for completing 5 conceptual maps over the semester. Each student has been assigned a letter (A-F) and must complete a Conceptual Map of the readings assigned to their designated letter (see reading schedule). You should email (or use blackboard) to hand in the assignment on Sunday (the day before we meet) and then print and hand in a copy at the beginning of class on Mondays. The assignment should include your name, group letter, date, reading text information (title, pages).

Participation and Attendance: Attendance and participation are an important part of this class. You are expected to attend class and to actively participate in discussions. Also, there may be opportunities to participate in on-line discussion on Blackboard. We have twelve class meetings that will be lectures/discussions (the others are held for tests). Each student can earn up to 15 point for participation for each class. I will take the top 10 grades for participation for each student to calculate this portion of your grade (10 days*15 pts=150 pts).

Tests: There will be two tests in this class (and a final). Tests will be mainly essay and short answer. I will provide a general review sheet in advance of the test to help you prepare. PLEASE MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO SHOW UP FOR THE TESTS. Make-up exams will only be allowed for students who can produce documentation of a major emergency (I will determine what fits into this category- car accident, etc). In all other cases, students will receive a zero.

Grading:

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Conceptual Map Assignments (5x 60pt)	300	30

Participation and Attendance	150	15
Test 1	200	20
Test 2	200	20
Final	150	15
Total	1000	100

Determining Final Grade

Points	Percentage	Final Grade
1000-900	100-90	A
899-850	89-85	A-
849-800	84-80	B+
799-750	79-75	B
749-700	74-70	B-
699-650	69-65	C+
649-600	64-60	C
599-550	59-55	C-
549-500	54-50	D+
499-450	49-45	D
449-400	44-40	D-
399 or less	BELOW 40	F

Class Schedule, Readings, and Assignments

Date	Topics/Reading Assignment
09/02/2014	Class 1 Introduction and Historical Context 1) READINGS: (all readings are online this week): a) Invitation to Sociology (Berger) b) What's Wrong with Theory c) Marx, Weber, and Durkheim– OPTIONAL
09/09/2014	2) Marx (Early Conflict) –Capitalism- READING: Historical Materialism Theory of Capitalism Fetishism and Commodities
09/16/2014	3) Durkheim (Anomie and Social Integration) 1) Suicide 2) Division of Labor 3) Social Solidarity
09/23/2014	4) Weber (From Religion to Rationalization) 1) Protestant Ethic and Capitalism 2) Bureaucracy and Rationalization 3) Class, Status Party

09/30/2014	5) Addams and Dubois- Critical Voices (Early Standpoint theory) 1) The Concept of Race 2) Charitable Effort/Poverty
10/07/2014	6) Test
10/14/2014	7) Simmel and Mead- Individual in Society 1) Mind Self and Society 2) The Stranger 3) Groups
10/21/2014	8) Functionalism 1) Talcot Parsons 2) Merton
10/28/2014	9) Conflict Theories 1) Dahrendorf – Social Structure, Groups, Conflict 2) C. Wright Mills- (structure of power) 3) Domhoff (theory of power)
11/04/2014	10) Symbolic Interactionism and Ethomethodology 1) Ethnomethodology- Berger and Garfinkel 1) Symbolic Interactionist- Goffman and Hochschild
11/11/2014	11) Test
11/18/2014	12) Exchange theory and Rational Choice 1) Homans 2) Coleman 3) Becker
11/25/2014	HOLIDAY
12/02/2014	13) Structuration/Constructivist Structuralism 1) Giddens 2) Bourdieu
12/08/2014 (last Class)	14) Critical, Postmodernism and Feminist Theory 1) Critical Theory 2) Postmodernism- Foucault 3) Feminist Theory
FINALS	FINAL EXAM