

**SOCIOLOGY 4050
BASIC SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
WINTER 2015**

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, 2 nd Edition.
RECOMMENDED TEXT:	Thomas R. Shannon, AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD-SYSTEM PERSPECTIVE, 2 ND Edition. Copies of Text 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.
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 contrast 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.

	<p>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.</p>
<p>COURSE FORMAT:</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>COURSE EVALUATION:</p>	<p>Students will be evaluated on the basis of one report, two examinations and group project.</p>
<p>REPORTS:</p>	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 OTHER TWO THEORISTS . <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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) <p>Papers are to be typed double-spaced, 8-10 pages in length plus cover, table of content and reference pages. Corresponding readings on theorists that will be used to assess citations in the report are as follows:</p> <p><u>Karl Marx</u>: Morrison Chapter 2, Dillon Chapter 1. <u>Emile Durkheim</u>: Morrison Chapter 3, Dillon Chapter 2. <u>Max Weber</u>: Morrison Chapter 4, Dillon Chapter 3.</p> <p>*REPORTS ARE TO BE STUDENTS' AUTHENTIC WORK AND DELIVERED IN CLASS ON THE DUE DATE: April 14</p>

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 24 for review by instructor and distribution to the class.												
EXAMINATIONS:	<p>There will be two examinations. The scope and dates of the examinations are as follows: Assigned readings and lectures from January 13 – February 24. Exam 1 Date: March 10. Exam 2: Assigned readings and lectures from March 3 – April 21. Exam Date: April 28. *THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMINATIONS.</p>												
GRADING:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Exam 1</td> <td>March 10</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exam 2</td> <td>April 28</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Report</td> <td>April 14</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Project</td> <td></td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </table>	Exam 1	March 10	30%	Exam 2	April 28	30%	Report	April 14	35%	Group Project		10%
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ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:	<p>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.</p>												

READING ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	TOPIC	READING
January 13	INTRODUCTION Course Overview Overview of Sociological Perspectives	Lecture
20	Sociological Perspectives (Continued)	Lecture
27	Overview: Classical to Post-Modernism	Dillon Pages 1-30 Morrison Chpt. 1
February 3	INEQUALITY	Lecture
10	CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY Structural Functionalism	Dillon Chpt. 4
17	Conflict Theory	Dillon Chpt. 6
24	Exchange and Rational Choice Theories	Dillon Chpt. 7
March 3	Symbolic Interaction Sociobiology	Dillon Chpt. 8
10	Critical Race Theory Race and Racism	Dillon Chpts. 5 and 12
17	SPRING BREAK	
24	Feminist Theories	Dillon Chpts 10-11
31	WORLD SYSTEM Origins, Structure, Early and Contemporary Dynamics, Criticism, New Directions and Assessment	Dillon Chpts. 14-15 Shannon
April 7	Group Presentation	
14	Group Presentation	
21	Summary and Review	Lecture
28	EXAM 2 (April 28, 2015)	