

DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT

Spring 2017

SYA 4110, Sections 3222 and 4255

Lectures: Tuesday period 7 (1:55-2:45pm), Thursday period 7-8 (1:55-3:50pm) – Fine Arts C 0127

Discussion Sections: Wednesday period 3 (9:35-10:24am) for 3222 in Weil 0408E

Wednesday period 4 (10:40-11:30am) for 4255 in Weil 0408E

Canvas Website: <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30am-1:30pm

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Discussion Instructor: Kim Wingard, M.A.

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00pm- 5:00pm

Office: Turlington Hall 3333

Course Description

In this course, we will critically examine some of the major theoretical orientations through which sociologists have understood the nature and composition of society, from the 19th century to the present. In so doing, we will explore various ingredients in the fabric of social life, including individual rights and social order, crime and self-control, political and economic systems, and action and motivation. We will also discuss how these theoretical perspectives emerged from specific historical periods in the course of Western civilization, and how changes in society have generated new sociological perspectives on social behavior. As we proceed through the course, we will analyze our own ideas of how the world works, and what insights these theoretical perspectives may offer to ongoing social debates. Class meetings will combine lecture, review, and discussion of the reading material with small-group activities. Course assignments include: critiques, reading guides, exams, and participation in class and group discussions.



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Course Objectives

- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical perspectives in classical and contemporary social theory.
- Identify the influences of personal experience and worldview on developing understandings of the relationship of individuals and society.
- Provide the sociological tools, terminology, and principles to understand the building blocks of social structure, process, and institutions.
- Build capacity to employ sociological reasoning, and the design and marshalling of evidence, in a critical examination of different theoretical positions.
- Effectively communicate in speech and writing through group activities, discussion, and critiques.

I reserve the right for us to make changes to this syllabus, so long as they are announced in advance in class or by email. Any change to the syllabus assignments must be approved by every student prior.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Required Readings

George Ritzer, *Sociological Theory* (any addition from the sixth to the present is OK.) Publisher: McGraw-Hill. One copy is on Course Reserves in Library West. Copies can be purchased in the bookstore/online.

Other readings are available on the Canvas site. You are encouraged to print other readings, because [studies have shown](#) that students who mark-up hard copies of readings absorb more material than those who read electronic versions only. You are required to bring copies of any electronic readings to class in print or electronic form; failure to do so results in an absence for that class period. All readings will be covered on the study guides and exams, unless followed by a “Recommended” designation.

Supplemental Readings

If you have questions about terms in the readings, I advise you to consult the resources below available online or on Course Reserves in Library West:

- Roberta Garner & Black Hawk Hancock (2014) *Social Theory: A Reader Continuity and Confrontation (3rd Ed)*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- George Ritzer (2005) *Encyclopedia of Social Theory*. [Ebook] Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- Braulio Muñoz (1993) *Tensions in Social Theory: Groundwork for a Future Moral Sociology*. Chicago: Loyola University Press. *This book has a useful glossary of theoretical terms.
- Randall Collins (1988) *Theoretical Sociology*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>
- Social Theory Applied: <http://socialtheoryapplied.com/>

Course Schedule

This course is divided into weeks’ on particular themes.

- Tuesdays’ lecture will give an introduction to the week’s material. You are expected to complete the textbook reading prior and turn in completed, typed Study Guide assignments in class.
- Wednesdays are mandatory discussion sections, where you will dive more deeply into the readings with accompanying activities that relate the theories to present day issues.
- Thursdays will feature lecture, critique group presentations, graded group discussion questions, and introduction to the next week’s readings.

Introduction to Sociological Theory	
Jan. 4	Introduction (no study guide or reflection memo this week)
Jan. 5	Robert Jackall and Arthur Vidich - Series Preface, <i>Main Trends of the Modern World</i> Herbert Spencer – "The Scope of Sociology", <i>The Principles of Sociology</i>
I. Classical Social Theory	
Karl Marx: The Emergence of the Conflict Perspective	
Jan. 10	Ritzer – Chapter 2 – "Karl Marx" in <i>Sociological Theory</i>
Jan. 11	Marx – Preface and "Opposition of The Materialist and Idealist Outlook" <i>The German Ideology</i>
Jan. 12	*Personal Information Cards due in class on Jan. 11

Émile Durkheim: Sociology as a Discipline	
Jan. 17	Ritzer - Chapter 3 – "Emile Durkheim" in <i>Sociological Theory</i>
Jan. 18	Emile Durkheim – Preface I and II – <i>The Rules of Sociological Method</i> (pp. 31-47)
Jan. 19	Charlotte Perkins Gilman – Preface, Chapter I, <i>Women and Economics</i>
Max Weber – Social Structure and Human Interaction	
Jan. 24	Ritzer – Chapter 4 – "Max Weber" in <i>Sociological Theory</i>
Jan. 25	Max Weber – "Science as a Vocation" in <i>From Max Weber</i>
Jan. 26	Jane Addams - "Charitable Effort", <i>Democracy & Social Ethics</i>
Sigmund Freud – The Human Perspective	
Jan. 31	Kanakis Leledakis – "Sigmund Freud" in <i>The Encyclopedia of Social Theory</i> and excerpts from
Feb. 1	Freud – <i>Beyond the Pleasure Principal</i>
Feb. 2	Freud – excerpts from "Le Bon's Description of the Group Mind" in <i>Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego</i>
	Freud – excerpts from Chapter III in <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i>
Exam #1	
Feb. 7	Review for Exam #1
Feb. 8	Review for Exam #1
Feb. 9	Exam #1 in class on Feb. 9
II. American and Modern Social Theory	
Structural Functionalism	
Feb. 14	Ritzer – Chapter 7 - "Structural Functionalism" – in <i>Sociological Theory</i>
Feb. 15	Robert Merton - "Manifest and Latent Functions" in <i>Social Theory and Social Structure</i>
Feb. 16	Talcott Parsons - "The Place of Sociological Theory" in <i>The Social System</i>
Conflict Theory	
Feb. 21	C. Wright Mills - "The Promise", <i>The Sociological Imagination</i> (pp. 3-24)
Feb. 22	C. Wright Mills - "On Politics" <i>The Sociological Imagination</i> (pp. 177-194)
Feb. 23	Read in Ritzer on "Radical Sociology in America: C Wright Mills" (pp. 213-216 in 7 th edition)
Symbolic Interactionism	
Feb. 28	Ritzer - Chapter 10 - "Symbolic Interaction" in <i>Sociological Theory</i>
March 1	Herbert Blumer - "Society as Symbolic Interaction" and "Sociological Analysis and the Variable" in <i>Symbolic Interactionism</i>
March 2	Erving Goffman - Introduction to <i>Frame Analysis</i>

Agency-Structure Integration + Exam 2	
March 14	Ritzer – Chapter 14 – Micro-Macro and Agency-Structure Integration in <i>Contemporary Sociology</i> .
March 15	Anthony Giddens, "Introduction", in <i>The Constitution of Society: Outline of a Theory of Structuration</i> (1984): xiv-xxxvi.
March 16	Pierre Bourdieu - "Vive la Crise!", in <i>Theory and Society</i> (17, 1988, pp.773-787).
	Optional Exam Review Session March 17th TBA
	Exam #2 due by midnight on March 18 via Canvas
III. Contemporary Social Theory	
Postmodernism/Poststructuralism	
March 21	E.C. Cuff – pp. 233-241 on poststructuralism + pp. 286-289 on Lyotard in <i>Perspectives in Sociology</i>
March 22	Ritzer – pp. 606-620 Foucault and postmodernism in <i>Sociological Theory</i> (7 th) (6 th edition users please read pp: 583-594; 598-602; 609-616.)
March 23	Michel Foucault – "What is Enlightenment" – pp. 303-319 in <i>Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth</i> (1997)
Feminist Theory	
March 28	Ritzer – Chapter 13 – "Contemporary Feminist Theory" in <i>Sociological Theory</i>
March 29	Dorothy Smith - "Sociological Theory: Methods of Writing Patriarchy" in <i>Feminism and Sociological Theory</i>
March 30	bell hooks - "Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory" in <i>Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center</i>
Theories of Race and Ethnicity	
April 4	William J. Wilson - "The Declining Significance of Race" in <i>The Declining Significance of Race</i>
April 5	Charles Willie - "The Inclining Significance of Race" in <i>The Caste and Class Controversy</i>
April 6	Stephen Steinberg - "Dilemmas and Contradictions of Ethnic Pluralism in America", in <i>The Ethnic Myth: Race, Ethnicity and Class in America</i> .
Theories of Mediation: Critical Theory and Actor-Network Theory	
April 11	Ritzer – pp. 281-294 and 644-649 – in <i>Sociological Theory</i>
April 12	Jürgen Habermas - "The Tasks of a Critical Theory of Society" in <i>The Theory of Communicative Action II</i> (pp. 374-403)
April 13	Bruno Latour – Excerpts from Chapters 1-2 in <i>Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network Theory</i> (focus on pp. 37-50)
Exam #3	
April 18	Review for Exam #3
April 19	Exam #3 in discussion sections on April 19 – Essay portion due by midnight via Canvas

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Personal Information Card (5%)

Please fill out and return the personal information card at the end of this syllabus by **Wednesday, January 11th**. This card helps the instructors to get to know your learning needs and assign groups.

Study Guides (12.5%)

Prior to the Tuesday lectures, students should read the material for that week and complete the responses to the reading questions. A **typed hard copy** of these responses must be brought to class on Tuesdays. (Late responses will not be accepted.) These written responses will be collected at the beginning of class and graded indicating completion and comprehension of the reading material.

Reflection Memos (12.5%)

In order to facilitate Wednesday discussion, each student is required to type a 200-word memo that briefly describes one theoretical concept from each week's readings/lectures and applies it to a current event, media example, or personal experience. Please indicate in your memo how your theoretical concept helps you analyze or understand the example you provide. Include links to articles, newspapers, or videos when applicable. A **typed hard copy** of this assignment is due in class on Wednesdays.

Group Discussion Questions + Individual Participation (12.5%)

You are expected to participate fully in class discussion and group activities every day and refrain from using mobile devices and engaging from non-curricular activities during class time. This includes graded group discussion questions on Thursdays. At the end of the semester, students will evaluate their fellow group members' participation, and grades in this category may be raised or lowered at the discretion of the instructors based on peer and instructor evaluations of participation all semester.

Group Critique and Presentation (12.5%)

Each student is expected to present to the class a critique of one week of the readings together with other group members on Thursdays throughout the semester. This involves developing your responses to these readings in written and oral form, and forming a study guide and questions for class discussion. Preparing for this requires that the group meet outside of class to arrange the substance of the critique and put together a brief written version of it (three pages) due on the presentation day.

Exams (3 x 15% = 45%)

There will be three in-class exams on topics from the lectures, class discussion, and required readings. Each exam will include a mix of multiple-choice questions, short answers, and essay questions.

1. Exam 1 will cover Part I: Classical Social Theory. The exam is in class on Feb. 9.
2. Exam 2 will cover Part II: American/Modern Social Theory. The exam is online on March 17-18.
3. Exam 3 will be cumulative, but focus on Part III: Contemporary Social Theory. The exam is in-class/online on April 19.

Final grades will be available via ISIS on May 3rd. You can check the status of your grade anytime on Canvas. The final grade scale may be adjusted at the discretion of the instructors.

Grades:	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E,I,NG,WF
grade scale:	94-100	90-93	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	59-0
grade points:	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0

* A passing grade for the purpose of fulfilling major requirements is defined as a "C" or better. See the Undergraduate Catalog for more info.: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/liberalarts/majors/Sociology.aspx>

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

ACADEMIC ETIQUETTE: This course is designed to pair lecture and group activities with instructor- and group-led discussion. In a class of this nature, it is crucial for students to speak out in order to develop their own ideas and criticisms about the material. It is for this reason that everyone must participate in the classroom discussions as well as those in the discussion sections. We expect students to work together as colleagues to engage theoretical and empirical ideas, share and discuss these ideas, and provide each other with respectful and constructive feedback.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: As your instructors, we resolve to abide by my faculty responsibilities outlined in the [UF Academic Honesty Guidelines](#), namely, to promote honest behavior and encourage students to bring negative conditions to our attention. If you have any concerns whatsoever, you may email or come to see either of us in confidence. In turn, we expect members of this course to comply with the Student Honor Code of the University of Florida (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>). Cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability with the Disability Resources Office, located at 0001 Building 0020, Reid Hall (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>, accessuf@dso.ufl.edu, 352-392-8565). Students requesting classroom accommodation should bring this paperwork to one of our regularly scheduled office hours within the first two weeks of class so that we may discuss the accommodations.

ATTENDANCE: Students are required to be present and on time for each class meeting. Attendance will be recorded regularly, and those who miss more than three class meetings will have their final grade reduced by one full letter. Missing more than five meetings will result in an additional grade reduction, and those missing more than seven meetings will not pass the course. Absences will only be excused if you notify Dr. Acord or Ms. Wingard by email *before* the class *and* if they approve the request.

BREAK: We will take a ten-minute break in the middle of Thursday's class. The exact time will vary.

EXTENSIONS: Late assignments will not be accepted. All students are required without exception to take the exams during the scheduled times in the syllabus. Make-up exams will not be offered except under very limited circumstances. Extensions may be requested by email in the case of personal emergencies.

EXTRA CREDIT: We will occasionally give extra credit for attending guest lectures at UF, and writing a 2-page reflection essay on how the lecture illustrates/questions social theories we have been discussing. If you know of a relevant lecture, please let us know so that we may make this opportunity available.

FEEDBACK: We always appreciate feedback about the course in person or by email. Thank you, in advance, for your constructive thoughts and comments.

QUESTIONS/PROBLEMS: If you are having trouble with the class concepts, readings, or assignments, please go to your instructor or teaching assistant's office hours. Dr. Acord also has an open-door policy for students when she is in her office.

READING AND WRITING CENTER: If you have trouble with the writing in this course, you are encouraged to visit the RWC, which offers mentorship and editing services: <http://www.at.ufl.edu/rwcenter/>.

CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE: We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to engage, get involved, and put your learning to work in our community. For more information, visit: <http://www.leadershipandservice.ufl.edu>.

Colleague Contact Info

Please write down the contact information for three colleagues in the course, so that you can get help outside of class.

Name	Email	Phone #

(Detach on dotted line)

Personal Information Card

Name: _____

Year: _____

Major: _____

SYA 4110 Section Number (circle one): **3222** **4255**

Photo:

A photo is required for credit.

Is there anyone in your discussion section you'd like to work with on group projects?

What do you know about social theory? _____

What are you hoping to learn in this course? _____

How do you learn best? _____

What qualities do you find helpful in an instructor? _____

Would you like to tell us an interesting fact about yourself? _____
