

Sociology 3140, Sociological Theory
Fall 2013
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 - 10:15am
Dixie State University

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Office
Hours: Monday-Friday 11:00am - 12:00pm
Or by appointment

The Course:

This course examines both the theoretical perspectives that have come to shape Sociology and the historical situations in which these theories arose. We will look at both classical and contemporary theories and Sociologists. By the end of the course you will have an understanding of the core theories that sociologists have used for a couple centuries now as well as more recent theories that are taking the discipline in new directions today.

Course Objectives:

Students completing Sociological Theory should:

- demonstrate an understanding of the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by theoretical sociologists;
- demonstrate an understanding of the sociology not only as a scientific discipline but as a theoretical one as well;
- demonstrate an understanding of the various theoretical perspectives sociologists use to understand the human condition.

Text:

Scott A. Appelrouth and Laura Desfor Eldes. *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Sage.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- Three Journal Article Review Essays, each worth 15% of your final grade (45% total);
- two In-Class Essays, each worth 15% of your final grade (30% total);
- one In-Class Presentation worth 15% of your final grade;
- attendance, worth 10% of your final grade.

Journal Article Review Essays:

You will write three Journal Article Review Essays in which you will review actual sociological articles based upon theories we've learned

in class. I will make the Journal Article Review Essay assignment available as well as hand-out copies of the *American Journal of Sociology* (which you will use for the assignment) on August 22. Your reviews will be 2-3 pages long and are due September 19, October 29, and December 5.

In-Class Essays:

You will take In-Class Essays on October 8 and December 12. These will be based upon the readings in our textbook. I will make essay questions available to you on October 1 and December 3.

In-Class Presentation:

You will make a 15-20 minute presentation to the class in which you summarize the outlook of one of the theorists presented in Chapters 15, 16, or 17. Your presentation will take place sometime between November 21 and December 3. I'll make a Presentation Assignment available on September 19.

Attendance:

An essential element of this course is the discussions we'll have during class time. Therefore, 10% of your grade will be based on attendance. Attendance grades will be determined as follows:

- 90% attendance or better = A
- 80% attendance or better = B
- 70% attendance or better = C
- 60% attendance or better = D
- Less than 60% attendance = F

Official school related and health absences, with documentation, will be honored.

NOTE: Your final grade is based on your letter grades, not on your accumulation of points.

ANOTHER NOTE: You must complete all exams and assignments to pass this class.

FINAL NOTE: I reserve the right to (a) adjust individual grades based on my evaluation of your participation and enthusiasm in the course and (b) make changes to the syllabus during the course if I feel it will benefit the class.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE POLICY: Academic dishonesty in any form, including, but not limited to, plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person's work as one's own, and cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated at Dixie State College of Utah.

Teachers at Dixie State College have the right to manage their classroom environments to ensure a good learning climate.

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course you are strongly encouraged to contact the

Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone 435-652-7516.

Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a dmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select "dmail" for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your dmail email, so please check it often.

Course Schedule

<u>Week & Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
<u>Week #1</u> August 20 & 22 Introduction to Theory	Chapter 1
Make Journal Article Review Essay available, Thursday, August 22	
<u>Week #2</u> August 27 & 29 Karl Marx	Chapter 2
<u>Week #3</u> September 3 & 5 Emile Durkheim	Chapter 3
<u>Week #4</u> September 10 & 12 Max Weber	Chapter 4
<u>Week #5</u> September 17 & 19 Charlotte Perkins Gilman	Chapter 5
Journal Article Review Essay #1 Due, Thursday, September 19 Make In-Class Presentation Assignment available, Thursday, September 19	
<u>Week #6</u> September 24 & 26 Georg Simmel	Chapter 6
Hand out Term Paper Assignment, Tuesday, September 24	
<u>Week #7</u> October 1 & 3 W.E.B. Du Bois	Chapter 7
Make In-Class Essay Questions available, Tuesday, October 1	
<u>Week #8</u> October 8 & 10 George Herbert Mead	Chapter 8
In-Class Essay #1, Tuesday, October 8 No Class, Thursday, October 10	

Week #9

October 15 & 17

Structural Functionalism

Chapter 9

Week #10

October 22 & 24

Critical Theory

Chapter 10

Week #11

October 29 & 31

Exchange and Rational Choice Theories Chapter 11

Journal Article Review Essay #2 Due, Tuesday, October 29

Week #12

November 5 & 7

Symbolic Interactionism and Dramaturgy

Chapter 12

Week #13

November 12 & 14

Phenomenology

Chapter 13

No Class, Tuesday, November 12

Week #14

November 19 & 21

Feminist and Gender Theories

Chapter 14

Poststructural and Postmodern Theories

Chapter 15

In-Class Presentations, Thursday, November 21

Week #15

November 26 & 28

Contemporary Theoretical Syntheses

Chapter 16

In-Class Presentations, Tuesday, November 26

No Class, Thursday, November 28

Week #16

December 3 & 5

The Global Society

Chapter 17

In Class Presentations, Tuesday, December 3

Make In-Class Essay #2 questions available, Tuesday, December 3

Journal Article Review Essay #3 due, Thursday, December 5

Last Class, Thursday, December 5

In-Class Essay #2

Thursday, December 12, 8:00 - 10:00am