

**Sociology 3140, Sociological Theory**  
**Spring 2015**  
**Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-1:50pm**  
**Dixie State University**

**Matthew Smith-Lahrman, Instructor**  
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**Office:** MCD 230  
**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 Group 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 on January 21. Your reviews will be 2-3 pages long and are due February 13, March 27, and April 29.

**In-Class Essays:**

You will take In-Class Essays on March 6 and May 1. These will be based upon the readings in our textbook. I will make essay questions available to you on February 27 and April 24.

**In-Class Group Presentation:**

You, as part of a group of 3-4 students, 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 April 22 and April 27. I'll make a Presentation Assignment available on February 18.

**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](http://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

#### Week & Topics

#### Readings

##### Week #1

January 12 - 16

Introduction to Theory

Chapter 1

##### Week #2

January 19 - 23

Karl Marx

Chapter 2

**No Class, Monday, January 19**

**Make Journal Article Review Essay available, Wednesday, January 21**

##### Week #3

January 26 - 30

Emile Durkheim

Chapter 3

**Linda Jones, Librarian, electronic journal search presentation, Monday, January 26**

##### Week #4

February 2 - 6

Max Weber

Chapter 4

##### Week #5

February 9 - 13

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Chapter 5

**Journal Article Review Essay #1 Due, Friday, February 13**

##### Week #6

February 16 - 20

Georg Simmel

Chapter 6

**No Class, Monday, February 16**

**Make In-Class Group Presentation Assignment available, Wednesday, February 18**

##### Week #7

February 23 - 27

W.E.B. Du Bois

Chapter 7

**Make In-Class Essay #1 Questions Available, Wednesday, February 25**

Week #8

March 2 - 6

George Herbert Mead

Chapter 8

**In-Class Essay #1, Wednesday, March 4**

Week X

March 9 - 13

**No School**

Week #9

March 16 - 20

Structural Functionalism

Chapter 9

Week #10

March 23 - 27

Critical Theory

Chapter 10

**Journal Article Review Essay #2 Due, Friday, March 27**

Week #11

March 30 - April 3

Exchange and Rational Choice Theories

Chapter 11

Week #12

April 6 - 8

Symbolic Interactionism and Dramaturgy

Chapter 12

Week #13

April 13 - 17

Phenomenology

Chapter 13

Feminist and Gender Theories

Chapter 14

Week #14

April 20 - 24

Poststructural and Postmodern Theories

Chapter 15

**In-Class Group Presentations, Wednesday & Friday, April 22 & 24**

**Make In-Class Essay #2 Questions Available, Friday, April 24**

Week #15

April 27 & 29

Contemporary Theoretical Syntheses

Chapter 16

The Global Society

Chapter 17

**In-Class Group Presentations, Monday, April 27**

**Journal Article Review Essay #3 due, Wednesday, April 29**

**Last Class, Wednesday, April 29**

**In-Class Essay #2**

**Friday, May 1, 12:00 - 2:00pm**