

Survey of Sociological Theory

SOC 3005-001

2015 Fall Semester, MWF 1:25-2:20pm

Zimmer Hall, Room 414

Instructor: Sarah Mayorga-Gallo, Ph.D.

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Course Description

This course introduces the major classical and contemporary theories of sociology.

Learning Outcomes

The successful student will be able to:

1. Identify different schools of sociological theory
2. Explain the relationship between different schools of sociological theory
3. Apply sociological theory to contemporary events

Required Course Material

- Garner, Roberta and Black Hawk Hancock. 2014. *Social Theory: Continuity and Confrontation*. 3rd ed. University of Toronto Press.

Assignments

Your final grade will be calculated out of 550 total points. For example, if you earn 455 total points, your final grade will be a B- (83%). Class points are earned via three components:

I. *In-class assignments/quizzes – 5 points each, 100 points total (out of 115 possible)*

Completing reading assignments and classroom attendance are extremely important to the success of our class. Reading quizzes will be given to assess reading comprehension. No makeup quizzes will be given.

II. *Theory Journal – 10 points per entry, 5 entries per checkpoint (150 points total)*

You are expected to investigate your own everyday experiences that relate to theory and the material we cover in class. You must keep a journal and write entries that are both descriptive and reflective. The entries should emphasize your observations (what you observed) as well as your reactions to and perceptions of the event (how you felt). For example, you could explain and respond to a particular media event using a particular theory (e.g., what would Marx have to say about the VMAs?); describe a conversation with your friends that relates to a topic we covered in class; or reflect on what you like/dislike about a particular theory.

Periodically I will give you a set of prompts to address in your journals, but generally you will be free to discuss whatever topics you are interested in writing about. You will turn in your journal three times throughout the semester. Five new journal entries are due at every journal checkpoint, totaling fifteen journal entries for the semester.

Your final journal entry should be an analytical response to your journal entries from the semester. For example, how sociological theory relates to your everyday life; the impact the class has had on your understanding of your life and identity; and your overall response to your journal observations and the course.

III. Exams – 100 points each (300 points total)

Course Policies

University of Cincinnati Student Code of Conduct & Academic Integrity

The University Rules, including the Student Code of Conduct, and other documented policies of the department, college, and university related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violation of these regulations, including acts of plagiarism and cheating, will be dealt with on an individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct.

Special Needs Policy

If you have any special needs related to your participation in this course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the instructor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. At the discretion of the instructor, some accommodations may require prior approval by Disability Services (513-556-6823).

Attendance

You are expected to regularly attend and participate in class. To keep track of attendance and readings, I will give quizzes at the beginning of every discussion class.

If you miss a quiz due to absence or tardiness, you will not be able to make it up. I will, however, drop your two lowest quiz grades at the end of the semester.

Note: If you are absent on a lecture day, please make sure to get the lecture notes from a classmate. If you have any questions after acquiring the notes, please see me during office hours or set-up an appointment. Class notes will not be posted online.

Missed or late assignments

If you are absent you are still expected to complete your assignments on time. Only under extenuating circumstances will late assignments be accepted – subject to my discretion. You must have documentation from an appropriate official. You will receive a zero on your exams if your absence was due to non-extenuating circumstances.

If you miss class due to a school sponsored event (e.g., athletic competition), you must have a note from your coach or faculty sponsor. This note must include the specific dates you will miss class and you must notify me **before** your scheduled event.

Academic Writing Center

I encourage you to take advantage of the writing tutoring available at UC. The Academic Writing Center offers students free help with their papers – you can either schedule an appointment or use their “drop-in” center. See the center’s website for more information: <http://www.uc.edu/aess/lac/writingcenter.html>

Assistance with Course Material

If you need help with the course material, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with me or stop by my office hours. The material in this course is somewhat cumulative; the concepts from one week will help you discuss and better understand the following week’s topics. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss your performance in class.

Contacting Instructor

E-mail is the best way to contact me. Please make sure that you include the course number (Sociology 3005) and your full name in the email subject, so I recognize the message. Remember, our relationship in this class is a professional one and the way you address me should reflect that (e.g., “Dear Professor Mayorga-Gallo,” not “Hey”). Please use complete sentences and avoid text-message abbreviations.

I will try to respond to your e-mails within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours during the weekend.

Electronic Devices

Please make sure that all cell phones, iPods, and other non-essential electronic devices are turned off and stored during class. If you prefer to type your notes during class, laptops are allowed. If it is obvious, however, that you are not using your laptop for note-taking, you will be asked to put your laptop away.

Potential Changes to Syllabus

I maintain the right to make any changes to the syllabus throughout the semester to ensure all students are gaining the most they can from the course. I promise to inform all students of any changes to the schedule as soon as I make them.

Grading Scale

	A 100-94
A (Excellent)	A- 90-93 B+ 87-89
B (Good)	B 84-86 B- 80-83
C (Satisfactory)	C+ 77-79 C 74-76
D (Poor)	C- 70-73 D+ 67-69
F (Fail)	D 65-66 F 0-64

Policy on Grade Changes:

Requests for a grade change must be made in writing within one week of receiving the grade. I will reevaluate the assignment taking the reasons for the grade change request into consideration. Please note that any assignment reevaluation may also highlight flaws that I missed during the first reading and result in a lower grade.

Once final grades have been submitted, however, they are non-negotiable.

Course Schedule

	Lecture Topic and class activities	Due at the beginning of class
Mon. Aug 24	No Class: SMG at conference	
Wed. Aug 26	Introduction	
Fri. Aug 28	What is social theory?	
Mon. Aug 31	What is social theory?	Reading Theory (preface); Lemert
Wed. Sept 2	Karl Marx	
Fri. Sept 4	Karl Marx	Chapter 2 (p. 35-54)
Mon. Sept 7	No Class: Labor Day Holiday	
Wed. Sept 9	Karl Marx	Chapter 2 (p. 54-72)
Fri. Sept 11	Émile Durkheim	
Mon. Sept 14	Émile Durkheim; Fruitvale Station (film & discussion) – 7pm, Mainstreet Cinema	Chapter 3
Wed. Sept 16	Max Weber	
Fri. Sept 18	Max Weber	Chapter 4
Mon. Sept 21	American Emergence	
Wed. Sept 23	Charles Cooley & Herbert Mead	Chapter 5 (p. 175-188)
Fri. Sept 25	W.E.B. DuBois & Atlanta School Journal due	Chapter 5 (p. 189-196)
Mon. Sept 28	Exam I	
Wed. Sept 30	Antonio Gramsci	
Fri. Oct 2	Antonio Gramsci	Chapter 7 (p. 221-222; 248-277)
Mon. Oct 4	Erving Goffman	
Wed. Oct 7	Erving Goffman	Chapter 9 (p. 339-350)
Fri. Oct 9	Erving Goffman	Chapter 9 (p. 350-364)
Mon. Oct 12	Michel Foucault	
Wed. Oct 14	Michel Foucault	Chapter 10 (p. 365-376)
Fri. Oct 16	No Class: Reading Day	
Mon. Oct 19	Michel Foucault	Chapter 10 (p. 377-387)
Wed. Oct 21	Pierre Bourdieu	

Fri. Oct 23	Pierre Bourdieu	Chapter 11 (p. 389-405)
Mon. Oct 26	Pierre Bourdieu	Chapter 11 (p. 406-417)
Wed. Oct 28	Stuart Hall; Journal due	
Fri. Oct 30	Stuart Hall	Chapter 12 (p. 419-431)
Mon. Nov 2	Exam II	
Wed. Nov 4	Race & post-colonial theories	
Fri. Nov 6	Race & post-colonial theories	Chapter 13 (p. 455-468)
Mon. Nov 8	Race & post-colonial theories	Chapter 13 (p. 468-483)
Wed. Nov 11	No Class: Veteran's Day	
Fri. Nov 13	Gender & sexuality	
Mon. Nov 16	Gender & sexuality	Chapter 14 (p. 485-502)
Wed. Nov 18	No Class	
Fri. Nov 20	Gender & sexuality	Chapter 14 (p. 502-517)
Mon. Nov 23	Gender & sexuality/Queer theory	Chapter 14 (p. 517-527); Stein & Plummer
Wed. Nov 25	No Class: Thanksgiving Break	
Fri. Nov 27	No Class: Thanksgiving Break	
Mon. Nov 30	Global Views	
Wed. Dec 2	Global Views	Chapter 17 (p. 611-623)
Fri. Dec 4	Global views; Journal due	Chapter 17 (p. 624-643)
Wed. Dec 9, 1:30-3:30pm, Exam III		

Note: Reading assignments must be completed by the beginning of the class date they are listed under.