S0565 // Sociological Theory
Spring 2016 // Dr. E. Camara

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Wed-Fri 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
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COURSE OBJECTIVES – This course is a survey of the development of Sociology, starting with its early history in the 19th century, and following with its contemporary developments in the 20th century and beyond. The main focus will be on the work of the social thinkers who pioneered the principal movements in sociological theory, i.e., Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber, and that of the sociologists in the 20th century - the contemporary period -- who further developed and expanded on these early explanations of society, leading to the emergence of the main contemporary sociological perspectives, i.e., Structural Functionalism, Conflict Theory, and Symbolic Interactionism.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES – Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

1. understand the nature of theory as such - that is, to have a precise idea of what it is – and its relevance for the development of critical thinking, hence, of the ability to function more effectively in social life.
2. see the value of sociological theory in helping us understand the operation of society – i.e., how social institutions work, and our lives are affected by them; how the patterns of social behavior are shaped by collective ways of thinking, social values, etc.
3. understand the operation and consequences of social power, and power inequality, for the lives of individuals.
4. see how each major sociological theorist covered provides a particular perspective on society, contributing to our understanding of social life from a particular angle.
COURSE OUTLINE AND GRADING ---- In order to assess your comprehension of the material, the following requirements must be met:

1. three or four multiple-choice tests during the semester, including the final. Each test has 30 questions, 2 points per question, for a perfect score of 60 points. The final test is not comprehensive, but based on the material covered after the previous test.

2. A number of quizzes, as well as some short written assignments, will be given on a regular basis, and will account for 20% of the course points.
   If a written assignment is given, you will be handed a sheet with specific instructions, and allowed 2 weeks to prepare and turn in the assignment.
   If a written assignment is given, it must be turned in on the date specified.
   Otherwise, a grace period of ONE WEEK may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

IMPORTANT: These quizzes and written assignments cannot be made up later! Also, there will be no extra-credit work!

The tests will be based primarily on the lecture material and assigned readings. Students will be responsible for everything discussed in class. It is, therefore, critical that you maintain regular attendance, try to follow the class discussions, ask questions when necessary, and take good notes.

GRADING SCALE

1. Regular Tests - Each test has 30 questions, worth 2 pts. each, therefore a perfect score for each regular test is 60 points. Test scores account for 80% of the overall course grade. The remaining 20% of course points comes from the quizzes and written reports.

   \[
   \begin{align*}
   90\% \text{ (of the 60 pts)} & = 54 \text{ pts.} / \text{A} \\
   80\% \quad " & = 48 \quad " / \text{B} \\
   70\% \quad " & = 42 \quad " / \text{C} \\
   60\% \quad " & = 36 \quad " / \text{D}
   \end{align*}
   \]
2. Quizzes and Reports -- The total number of possible points for the course comes from the tests, together with the quizzes & written assignments.

If we have/our tests, the test scores add up to 240 points (60 points each test). The points from the quizzes and reports will account an additional 60 pts., for a total of 300 points.

If we have three tests, the test scores add up to 180 points (60 points each test). The points from the quizzes & reports will account for an additional 45 points, for a total of 225 points.

The grade given on the quizzes & reports is the percentage obtained from the 60 points (if we have four tests) -- or 45 points (if we have three tests). At the end of the semester, these percentages are added up and divided by the number of quizzes given during the semester. The result is the average percentage of the possible quiz points (i.e., of the 60 -- or 45 pts.).

The points obtained on the quizzes are then added to the points obtained on the tests. The corresponding grading scale for the course overall will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points (4 Tests)</th>
<th>Points (3 Tests)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>279 points</td>
<td>209 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>270 points</td>
<td>202 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>261 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>249 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>240 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>231 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>210 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>180 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-If We Have Four Tests:

A = 93% of 300 points = 279 points
A- = 90% " = 270 "
B+ = 87% " = 261 "
B = 83% " = 249 "
B- = 80% " = 240 "
C+ = 77% " = 231 "
C = 70% " = 210 "
D = 60% " = 180

-If We Have Three Tests:

A = 93% of 225 points = 209 pts.
A- = 90 % " = 202 "
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attendance** -- Regular attendance is a critical factor for successful performance in this class. Therefore, an attendance policy will be enforced. Students will be allowed to miss the equivalent of two weeks (6 class periods for a M-W-F class; 4 class periods for a T-R class), for any reason, without penalty.

Additional absences will result in the reduction of points from the final grade. Specifically, each additional three absences reduces your grade by 5 percentage points - e.g., from a B+ to a B-. An additional six absences is sufficient to lower the final course score by one full letter grade.

If a class must be missed, there is no need to call to notify me, but make sure you are within the limit of absences allowed. You can always check your attendance standing with me.

Students are also required to be on time. The basic guideline is this: If the student comes in after his/her name has been called, it is his/her responsibility to let me know this after class in order to avoid an unnecessary absence.

Also: Those who leave early without my being informed beforehand of a the reason for this, will be counted as absent.

**Important** -- Absences for medical or legal reasons do not constitute a special situation. This attendance policy is set up this way precisely to accommodate these kinds of absences.

**ALSO:** Since we have an attendance policy, make sure there is no conflict between class time and other commitments. Excessive absences may lead to official withdrawal from the class. (The UDiversity policy regarding this matter is attached).

No electronic devices of any kind are to be used during class. Cell phones and beepers, in particular, can be very disruptive of class proceedings, and should remain off while in the classroom.

**Make-up Exams** -- You will be allowed to make up one missed test. The make-up
test will be essay, and will be given on the last day of classes (Friday afternoon). The quizzes & short written reports cannot be made up, as stated before.

Consultation - This course will be demanding, but manageable, if you devote sufficient effort and commitment to it. Regular consultation with me to clarify the issues discussed in class should improve your chances of doing well. Therefore, I encourage you to get assistance with the coursework as soon as you think you need it.

I will be available for assistance with the coursework during the office hours listed above, or by appointment.

Effective Fall 2001, core courses in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology must be passed with a "C" or above for all majors and minors.

- There will be no early taking of Final Tests at the end of the semester, as consistent with the University position on this issue. Therefore, plan accordingly (i.e., re travel arrangements, etc.)