

Sociological Theory

Sociology 3140-090 / Online
Spring 2013



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Course Goals

The goal of this course is to introduce undergraduate students to sociological theory in a way that is understandable and relevant to issues and developments in the world. This course will emphasize a basic sociological model of society, core sociological concepts, the theorists and theories that developed them, and the application of these theories and concepts to the real world. This knowledge should allow students to see how society influences individual well-being and the way in which individuals may influence society. This information should be a means of empowerment for students that will help them to make enlightened decisions regarding a variety of personal and public issues and problems.

Online Course Requirements

While this is an online class, I want it to resemble a typical class as much as possible. With that goal in mind, I will have weekly video taped lectures and lecture notes and outlines posted on Canvas. Students can watch the lectures and download the appropriate lecture notes and refer to them and write on them while watching or listening to the lectures. These lectures will address the core material presented in the class and will complement the text and assigned readings that can be found on [E-Reserve](#) (from the Marriott Library website, login with your UNID and password then search for the appropriate article). Each lecture will be broken into two twenty-minute segments. If students have any questions regarding the lectures, they can email me and I will be glad to respond in a timely fashion as often as is necessary. I will also be in my office during office hours and will answer any phone calls or emails directly at that time. Please email me through Canvas. There is also an online chat room where students can post questions regarding the materials and compare their grasp and interpretation of the ideas put forth in the class with other students. I encourage students to take advantage of the chat room, and get to know other students in the class and if you so desire also set up study groups. Students can also earn 5 extra credit points, as explained below, by participating on the online discussion groups. There will be an online midterm and an online final exam. There is also a paper due at the end of the semester that will be submitted by email. I urge the students to try to stay a week ahead in the readings and not get behind. If you get behind and try to do everything all in one week before an exam, you will not do well. So, stay up with the readings and the class will be more fun and less stressful.

Paper

Each student must write one five to seven page double spaced paper. There are four options for this paper. The first option (A) entails writing a paper about one of the theoretical schools addressed in the class. In this paper the student will summarize a particular school of thought within the field of sociology. This option requires the student to summarize the major assumptions, concepts and theorists associated with the school of thought that they have chosen. The second option (B) calls upon the student to write a paper about a particular theorist and theory. In this paper the student should summarize the theorist's basic conceptual model and highlight its strengths and weaknesses. The third option, (C) entails writing a paper about a particular theoretical book chosen from the suggested readings list. The fourth option (D) entails writing about the basic sociological model put forth in this class. In this paper the student should address the relationship between individual well-being and the nature of society and illuminate the major social forces that influence human behavior and well-being. All of these papers should conclude by addressing the contributions that different theories, paradigms, authors, or books make to sociology and their moral and political significance. They will be due at the end of the semester. The grade a student receives on the papers will reflect the degree to which the student can effectively define, and explain sociological concepts and assumptions and evaluate their relevance to sociological theory and important moral and political issues. Plagiarism will result an in E for the assignment, so be sure to do your own work, and make proper citations following either ASA or APA guidelines.

Exams and Grading

There will be a midterm and a final. The exams will be multiple choice, fill in the blank, true-false. Each exam will cover lectures and assigned readings, and will be worth 75 points. Before each exam there will be an online review and time for the instructor to respond to any emailed questions concerning the exam. The paper is worth 60 points. Students can also receive 5 extra credit points given for participation in discussion groups. To receive these extra-credit participation points, simply log on to the discussion section 5 times during the semester and either post a question or respond to a question, issue, or concern put forth by another student. Students can also watch any of the suggested videos and submit a two-page summary and receive an additional 5 extra credit points. There are 210 possible total points plus 10 possible extra credit points. Final grades will reflect the following scale: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, 59% & below = E. In the event that not many students get 100%, I will add points to all the scores until a reasonable number of students get 100%, and thus adjust the curve. Feel free to call the instructor regarding any questions or problems. The text for this course is straightforward and readable, and the e-reserve readings are short, usually less than five to six pages, and to the point. Students are advised to stay a week ahead on the readings and be prepared to take the exams when they are assigned. There are no readings for the last two weeks of class. During this time students should be completing their papers and preparing for the final.

Required Reading

The required reading for this class consists of your text and assigned readings on E-Reserve at Marriott Library. The E-Reserve readings are meant to give the student some first hand experience reading the actual theorists. They can be accessed through Canvas or through your student portal. Typically you read a chapter or two a week or just some readings from E-Reserve. The readings are short, varying from two or three pages to ten pages in length. Don't get behind in the reading, and stay up with the lectures, and this should be a fun class.

Text: Sociological Theory: Classical Statements, Sixth Edition, by David Ashley and David Michael Orenstein.

Assigned Readings on E. Reserve: These can be accessed through the Marriott Library. To do this, you should go on line to the University of Utah, and under libraries, click on J. Willard Marriott. Then click on Student Course Reserves and a Search Box will appear. Type Frank Page 3140 in the Search Box. Then click the Go button and the list of reserve readings should appear. You can then click on the appropriate reading and read it online or print it out.

University of Utah Disability Policy

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. All printed information for this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Course Outline

Week One (January 7): Introduction / Society / Sociology / The Sociological Imagination

- Week One Online Lectures and Lecture Notes
- Sociological Theory: Chapter One: Ideology, History, and Classical Sociological Theory.
- E-Reserve: The Classic Tradition, C. Wright Mills from Images of Man.
- E-Reserve: The Cultural Apparatus, C. Wright Mills, from Power, Politics and People.

Week Two (January 14): Epistemology / Scientific Method / Causality / Correlation / Theory Construction

- Week Two Online Lectures and Lecture Notes
- Sociological Theory: Chapter Two: The Nature and Types of Sociological Theory.
- E-Reserve: Language in Thought and Action. S. I. Hayakawa.
- E-Reserve: The Power Elite, C. Wright Mills.

Week Three (January 21): Theoretical Schools / Functionalism / Conflict Theory / Symbolic Interactionism / Exchange Theory - Rational Choice Theory / Phenomenology / Feminist Theory / Sociobiology / Dramaturgical Theory, World Systems Theory

- Week Three Online Lectures and Lecture Notes
- E-Reserve: Sex and Super Sex,, by Desmond Morris from The Human Zoo.
- E-Reserve: The Bottleneck, Edward O. Wilson, from The Future of Life.
- E-Reserve: Varieties of Feminist Theory, Rosemarie Tong, from Feminist Thought.
- E-Reserve: Political Parties. A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy, Robert Michels.
- E-Reserve: Imperialism, and the Myth of Underdevelopment, Michael J. Parenti, from The Sword and the Dollar.

Week Four (January 28): The Basic Sociological Model and Concepts / Culture / Socialization / Social Control / Norms / Deviance, The Social Order / Institutions / Roles / Power / Authority / Stratification / Class

- Week Four Online Lectures and Lecture Notes
- E-Reserve: Mountain People, Colin M. Turnbull
- E-Reserve: Jonestown as Perverse Utopia
- E-Reserve: The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, by Erving Goffman.

- E-Reserve: Some Principles of Stratification, Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E. Moore.

Week Five (February 4): Metaphysical, Religious, Biological, Psychological, Sociological Theories of Deviance, (Nietzsche, Beccia, Lombroso, Sheldon, Freud)

- Week Five Online Lectures and Lecture Notes
- Sociological Theory: Chapter Fourteen, Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche.
- Sociological Theory: Chapter Ten, Sigmund Freud

Week Six (February 11): Sociological Theories of Deviance / Labeling Theory, (Merton, Sutherland, Becker) / Midterm Review

- Week Six Online Lectures and Lecture Notes
- E-Reserve: The Madman, Friedrich Nietzsche.
- E-Reserve: Social Structure and Anomie, Robert K. Merton.
- E-Reserve: Principles of Criminology, Edwin Sutherland and Donald R. Cressey.
- E-Reserve: The Other Side: Introduction by Howard S. Becker.

Week Seven (February 18): Lecture on Rise of Science, Aristotle / Plato / Thomas Hobbes / Locke / Rousseau / Midterm Review / Midterm on Weeks One through Six.

- Week Seven Online Lectures and Lecture Notes
- Online Midterm: February 20

Week Eight (February 25): Rational Utilitarians & Exchange Theorists (David Hartley, Adam Smith, Jeremy Bentham, John Stewart Mill, Willard Waller, A. G. Homans, Peter Blau, James Coleman) (fall break)

- Week Eight Lectures and Lecture Notes.
- E-Reserve: Bounded Rationality and Satisficing, James G. March and Herbert A. Simon,
- E-Reserve: Public Goods and the Free Rider Problem, Mancur Olson.

Week Nine (March 4): Nascent Functionalism / August Comte, Herbert Spencer

- Sociological Theory: Chapter Five, Herbert Spencer.
- Sociological Theory: Chapter Four, Emile Durkheim.
- E-Reserve: The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life, Emile Durkheim.
- Week Nine Lectures and lecture Notes.
- Sociological Theory: Chapter Three, Auguste Marie Francois-Xavier Comte.

Week Ten (March 11): (Spring Break) Functionalism / Durkheim on the Social Order, Social Integration, Anomie, and Social Change

- Week Ten Lectures and Lecture Notes

Week Eleven (March 18): American Pragmatism, Charles S. Peirce and William James.

- Week Eleven Lectures and Lecture Notes
- Sociological Theory: Chapter Thirteen, George Herbert Mead.
- E-Reserve: Chapter XII, Freedom, Charles Cooley, Human Nature and the Social Order.
- E-Reserve: The Self, George Herbert Mead.

Week Twelve (March 25): American Pragmatism: Charles Cooley, George Herbert Mead, John Dewey, C. Wright Mills)

- Week Twelve Lecture Notes.
- Sociological Theory: Chapter Nine, George Simmel.
- E-Reserve: Symbolic Interactionism, Herbert Blumer.
- E-Reserve: Metropolis and Mental Life, Georg Simmel from Images of Man.

Week Thirteen (April 1): Symbolic Interactionism / Sociology of Knowledge / Social Construction of Reality, (Max Weber, Karl Mannheim, Georg Simmel, Gerth and Mills, Berger and Luckmann, Herbert Blumer)

- Week Thirteen Lectures and Lecture Notes
- Sociological Theory: Chapter Eight, Max Weber.
- E-Reserve: Class, Status, and Party, Max Weber.
- E-Reserve: Ideology and Utopia, Karl Mannheim.
- E-Reserve: The Social Construction of Reality, Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann.

Week Fourteen (April 8): Sociology of Knowledge / Max Weber on Authority, Power, Science, Disenchantment and Morality

- Week Fourteen Lectures and Lecture Notes
- Sociological Theory: Chapter Seven, Karl Marx.
- E-Reserve: Alienated Labor, Karl Marx.

Week Fifteen (April 15): Karl Marx on Power, Class, Capitalism, Social Change, Alienation & Happiness / Erich Fromm & the Frankfurt School / Thorstein Veblen

- Week Fifteen Lectures and Lecture Notes
- E-Reserve: Moral Mazes: Bureaucracy and Managerial Work, Robert Jackall.
- E-Reserve: Man in Capitalist Society, Erich Fromm, from The Sane Society.

Week Sixteen (April 22): Globalization, Critical Theory / Postmodernism / New Directions in Theory / Final Review

- Week Sixteen Lectures and Lecture Notes
- Turn in Papers: April 22.
- Online Review for final and Posted Review Notes

Week Seventeen (April 26-29): Final Exam

- Online Final Exam: April 26-29.
- On weeks Seven to Sixteen, Lectures and Readings

Suggested Readings

- Dark Ages Ahead, Jane Jacobs (coming decline of western civilization)
- A Peoples History of the United States, Howard Zinn
- Deep Ecology: As if Nature Mattered. (ecology) Bill Devall & George Sessions
- Never Cry Wolf, Farley Mowat (naturalist, deep ecology)
- For Those I loved, Martin Grey (holocaust autobiography, alienation, survival)
- The Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad (imperialism, society, truth)
- The Sane Society, Erich Fromm (alienation, capitalism)
- Escape From Freedom, Erich Fromm (alienation, capitalism)
- Of Wolves and Men, Barry Lopez (speciesism, wolf society)
- Culture Against Man, Jules Henry (culture as vehicle and obstacle)
- One Dimensional Man Herbert Marcuse (alienation, technology)
- The Unsettling of America, Wendel Berry, (ecology, economics, business)
- What Are People For, W. Berry (culture, economy, ecology)
- Small is Beautiful, Economics as if People Mattered. Schumacher (ecology & survival)
- Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, Dee Brown (racism, imperialism)
- Gorillas in the Mist, Diane Fossey (specieism)
- The Culture of Narcissism, Christopher Lasch (anomie, alienation in America)
- The Minimal Self, Christopher Lasch (alienation and anomie in America)
- On Being Human, Ashley Montagu (social interdependence and meaning)
- Native Son, Richard Wright (racism)
- Black Boy, Richard Wright (racism)
- All Quiet on The Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque (the reality of War)
- There Are No Children Here, Alex Kotlowitz(documentary on life in the ghetto)
- The Jungle, Upton Sinclair (industrialization, exploitation, alienation)
- Johnny Get Your Gun, Dalton Trumbel (the reality of war)
- The Clansman, Dixon (turn of the century racist novel, telling artifact)
- Cry of the Calihari, (overpopulation, ecology, animal rights)
- Animal Rights, Peter Singer
- The Acorn People, Ron Jones, (Life with disabled and terminally ill kids, stigma)
- The Sword and the Dollar, M. J Paranti (imperialism)
- The Conditions of the Working Class. Frederick Engels
- The Other Side, Howard S. Becker (deviance)
- The Hidden Injuries of Class, Sennet & Cobb (real people talk on stratification)
- Body Politics, Nancy M. Henley (Social control under the skin)
- Asylums, Erving Goffman (total institutions)
- The Abyss, Jack London (powerful ethnography of poverty in England ,1900.)
- Democracy for the Few, Michael Parenti (radical view on elitism, class wars)

- The Revolution Within, Gloria Steinem (sexism)
- The Second Sex, Simone de Beauvoir (feminism, sexism)
- Savage Inequalities, Jonathan Kozol (school inequalities)
- Civilization and Its Discontents, Sigmund Freud (Society, control, human nature)
- The Future of an Illusion, Sigmund Freud (social function of religion)
- The McDonaldisation of Society, George F. Ritzer
- The Pursuit of Attention, Charles Derber (identity, recognition, status)
- Race Matters, Cornel West (racism)
- Man's Search For Meaning, Viktor E. Frankl (holocaust, racism)
- Black Elk Speaks, John G. Neihardt (American Indian biography, racism)
- The Lonely Crowd, David Riesman (modern alienation)
- The Devil, Peter Standford (social construction of God, the devil, and good and evil)
- The Axemaker's Gift, (evolution of consciousness) James Burke and Robert Orstein
- Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck (human nature, stratification, social order, poverty)
- East of Eden, John Steinbeck (human nature, family, child development)
- Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck (stratification, human nature, social criticism)
- The Sociological Imagination, C. Wright Mills (sociology, meaning, and morality)
- The Power Elite, C. Wright Mills, (Elites)
- White Collar, C. Wright Mills. (stratification, power, morality)
- Power, Politics, and People, C. Wright Mills (collected essays)
- The Causes of World War Three, C. Wright Mills, (social criticism)
- The Marxists, C. Wright Mills, (critical survey of Marxist thought)
- The Social Order, Charles Cooley, (Timeless classic on human nature)
- Human Nature and the Social Order, Charles Cooley.
- Theory of the Leisure Class, Thorstein Veblen
- Billy Budd, Herman Melville (authority)
- On Psychology, William James (foundations of western psychology, classic)
- Varieties of Religious Experience, William James (psychology of religion, classic) The Human Zoo, Desmond Morris (human nature, naturalistic)
- On the Division of Labor, Emile Durkheim (classic in sociology)
- Presentation of Self in Everyday Life, Erving Goffman (classic on social interaction)
- Mutant Message from Forever, Marlo Morgan (Aboriginal assimilation, persecution)
- Obedience, Stanley Milgram (authority)
- Flow, The Psychology of Optimal Experience, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi (happiness)
- Working, Studs Terkel (work in America)
- Walden and Civil Disobedience, Henry David Thoreau (classic on individual & society)
- Uncle Tom's Cabin, H. B. Stowe (racism)
- Geronimo, Penn Muller (imperialism, racism, war, exploitation)
- Crazy Horse, Larry McMurtry (imperialism, racism, war, exploitation)
- The Nature of Prejudice, Gordon Allport (prejudice)
- Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift (Early Social Criticism)
- On Civil Disobedience, Thoreau (dissent, morality and society)
- Tuesdays with Morrie, Mitch Albom (social commentary)
- Four Sociological Traditions, Randall Collins, (overview of classical theory)
- The Accidental Century, Michael Harrington (critical analysis of U.S. culture)
- The Social Construction of Reality, Peter & Luckmann (sociology of knowledge)

- On Death and Dying, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross (psychology of death)
- Technopoly, Neil Postman, (critical analysis of technology and progress)
- On Violence, Hannah Arendt (social psychology of violence)
- Who Rules America, G. William Domhoff (power elite)
- Life is A Miracle, Wendell Berry (science, art, knowledge, morality)
- In the Presence of Fear, Wendell Berry (globalization)
- Feminist Thought, A Comprehensive Introduction, Rosemarie Tong (feminism)
- On Human Nature, Edward O. Wilson (socio-biology)
- On the Future of the Planet, Edward O. Wilson (deep ecology)
- The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Max Weber
- The Organizational Man, William F. White (classic in sociology on conformity)
- Mountains and More Mountains, Tracy Kidder (radical Catholicism and epidemiology)
- The Great Unraveling, Paul Krugman (economics, elite deviance)
- Manufactured Consent, Noam Chomsky (media, communication, politics)
- Hegemony or Survival Noam Chomsky (media, left criticism)
- In Cold Blood, Truman Capote, (deviance, Murder)
- The Sea of Cortez, John Steinbeck, (science, art, evolution, human nature)
- The Lemming Condition, Alan Arkin (family, deviance, labeling)
- Under The Banner of Heaven: A story of Violent Faith, John Krakauer (faith based crime, deviance, authority)
- The Gift of Fear, Gavin De Becker, (crime prevention, detection, profiling)
- The European Dream, Jeremy Rifkin (comparative analysis of the U.S and Europe)
- Is Religion Killing Us, Jack Nelson Pallmeyer
- Genome, Matt Ridley, (Genetics, Deep Sociobiology)
- Mind Hunter, Paul Douglas (F.B. I. Profiler, crime and deviance)
- The True Believer, Eric Hoffer (Social psychology of reactionary movements)
- The Ultimate Punishment, Scott Turow (Capital Punishment)
- Ishmael, Daniel Quinn, (social change, deep ecology, morality)
- Life is a Miracle, Wendell Berry (modernity, globalization)
- Marx's Concept of Man, Eric Fromm
- Selected writings of George Herbert Mead, Edited by Andrew J. Reck
- On Suicide, Emile Durkheim
- Freedom and Culture, John Dewey
- The End of Faith, Sam Harris (critique of modern religion)
- Beyond the Chains of Illusion, Eric Fromm
- The Robbers Cave Experiment, Muzafer Sherif, Harvey, White, Hood, Sherif
- Collapse, Jerad Diamond, (ecological basis of society)
- Freakonomics. Steven D. Levitt. (creative data analysis of social problems)
- Overthrow; America's Century of Regime Change, Stephen Kinzer
- The Sacred Canopy, Peter Burger (sociology of religion)
- Souls of Black Folk, W.E. B. Du Bois
- Anatomy of Peace, Arbinger Institute
- Primates and Philosophers: How Morality Evolved, Frans De Waal
- The Politics of Truth, Selected Writings of C. Wright Mills, John H. Summers
- Gang Leader For a Day, Sudhir Venkatsh (ethnography of a gang)

- A Long Way Gone, Memoirs of a Boy Soldier, Ishmael Beah (biography on child's experience of war)
- In the Wake of 9/11 The Psychology of Terror, Tom Pyszczynski, Sheldon Solomon, and Jeff Greenberg, (Terror Management Theory)
- Terror in the Mind of God, the Global Rise
- The Social Animal, David Brooks
- The Happiness Hypothesis, Jonathan Haidt, (Social Psychological research on happiness)
- The Lucifer Effect: How Good People Become Evil. Philip C. Zimbardo.
- The Spirit Level. Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger, Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett
- The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religions, Jonathon Haidt
- The Death of the Liberal Class, Chris Hedges
- American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America, Chris Hedges
- War is the Force that Gives Us Meaning. Chris Hedges