

## Sociology 3140

# Social Theory

Spring 2013

Section 001: MWF, 10:45am-11.35am, 114 BEHS

Instructor: Todd L. Goodsell

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**Course Description:** "This course provides students with a specific background to a wide variety of perspectives and theories inherent to sociology as a discipline, and identifies different points of view that provides [sic] multiple interpretations of major global and national social changes and their impact on social structure, cultures, and social institutions."

([https://pia.acs.utah.edu/psc/coursepr/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/SA\\_LEARNER\\_SERVICES.UU\\_CTLG\\_SEARCH.GBL?&subject=SOC&catalognbr=3140&term=1138](https://pia.acs.utah.edu/psc/coursepr/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/SA_LEARNER_SERVICES.UU_CTLG_SEARCH.GBL?&subject=SOC&catalognbr=3140&term=1138))

**Prerequisite:** Sociology 1010

**Text:** *Understanding Society: A Survey of Modern Social Theory*, Second edition, 2011, Douglass Mann, ISBN: 9780195432503

### Learning Outcomes

- **Sociological Theory:** Students will be able to explain a range of concepts related to sociological theory, apply them to real-world examples, and place them within the broader context of sociological theory.
- **Educational and Career Planning:** Students will be able to connect what they are learning with educational and career options.
- **Writing Skills:** Students will be able to write a brief theory section, as for a qualitative research article. (This requires several other skills, such as conducting a library search, identifying a theoretical discussion, articulating the core elements of that discussion that are relevant for a research project, articulating one's own thesis and coherent line of argument, relating the theoretical framework to an empirical study, and using a proper citation system.)

### Schedule

Monday, 6 January	Overview	
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Wednesday, 8 January		
Friday, 10 January	Functionalism and its Critics	Homework Report #1
Monday, 13 January		
Wednesday, 15 January		
Friday, 17 January		
Wednesday, 22 January	The Debate over Materialism	Homework Report #2
Friday, 24 January		
Monday, 27 January		
Wednesday, 29 January		
Friday, 31 January		
Monday, 3 February		
Wednesday, 5 February		
Friday, 7 February	Slamming Society: Critical Theory [Frankfurt School]	Homework Report #3 Optional: Watch "Merchants of Cool" (60 minute PBS Frontline documentary; available online on <a href="http://www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a> ). However, do the homework report based on the chapter, not on the documentary.
Monday, 10 February		
Wednesday, 12 February		
Friday, 14 February	Test Review	
Wednesday, 19 February	Midterm #1	
Friday, 21 February	Meaning in Society: Human Agency and Social Explanation	Homework Report #4
Monday, 24 February		
Wednesday, 26 February		
Friday, 28 February	Society as Symbols or Constructs: Symbolic Interactionism and Phenomenology	Homework Report #5
Monday, 3 March		
Wednesday, 5 March		
Friday, 7 March		
Monday, 17 March		
Wednesday, 19 March	Structuralism, Semiotics, and Poststructuralism	Homework Report #6
Friday, 21 March		
Monday, 24 March		
Wednesday, 26 March		

Friday, 28 March		
Monday, 31 March	Test review	
Wednesday, 2 April	Midterm #2	
Friday, 4 April	Postmodernism: Time, Space, and Culture	Homework Report # 7
Monday, 7 April		
Wednesday, 9 April		
Friday, 11 April		
Monday, 14 April	Feminism	Homework Report #8
Wednesday, 16 April		
Friday, 18 April		
Monday, 21 April		
Wednesday, 23 April	Test review	Theory Paper
TBA		Final Exam

### Assignments

- Homework Reports
- Midterm #1
- Midterm #2
- Final Exam
- Theory Paper
- Participation

### Policies

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and participation are required. The instructor may take attendance. Attendance and participation may be used as a factor in determining final grades.

Be ready to learn. Show up on time and do not leave until the class is over. Turn off your cell phone or pager before class starts, or put them on "vibrate." When it is class time and when you are in class, you should be part of the class. Do not do things that distract other students (e.g., study for other classes, read the newspaper, eat, take phone calls, surf the Internet, text message, or chat with your neighbor [unless instructed to do so]). These are standards you are expected to follow in many workplaces.

Have study buddies in class, in case you are sick and need someone to give you notes or turn in your work. You should also have study buddies with whom you can study for exams.

All work must be done by you, for this class. You may not, for example, double-count work you did for another class as also work for this class.

The academic and moral standards of this class stipulate that you actually do the assigned work. For example, while you may discuss homework assignments with other class members, what you write should be based on your own reading, study, and thought. (I do not want

another class in which several students turn in virtually the same essay. Rather than trying to figure out who wrote the original essay, I am likely to assume that everyone just copied or paraphrased off of everyone else—and that's going to be bad for everyone's grades.)

### **Turning in Assignments:**

Turn in assignments through CANVAS. If CANVAS is not working or if you have to turn something in late, print it out looking professional, and submit it in hard copy. Turn in assignments by handing them to Dr. Goodsell directly, or by giving them to the Sociology Department secretaries (301 BEHS), or by sliding them under the door of Dr. Goodsell's office (303 BEHS). Do not leave anything in the hallway outside Dr. Goodsell's office. It is not secure.

Assignments are due as indicated in syllabus. Assignments turned in after the due date/time will be penalized. If you are turning something in late, please write on the assignment the day and time you turned it in so I know how much the assignment will be penalized. (Otherwise, I guess when you turned it in.)

Each class member is granted **one** opportunity during the semester to turn one written assignment in late for full credit. To take advantage of this, you must email Dr. Goodsell *before the assignment is due* and provide the following information:

- State that you will be turning the assignment in late.
- State when (day & time) you will turn it in (must be within 48 hours of when it is due).

Notwithstanding this policy, no assignments will be accepted after the last class period of the semester.

You may always turn in assignments early (e.g., if you have to be out of town), and if you do, the late policy will not apply.

Portions of assignments that are only in-class cannot be made up.

Under exceptional circumstances (e.g., flu pandemic), typical protocols may be waived. Please do not come to class or visit the professor if you are sick and contagious. (Consider using the telephone or email.)

### **Records:**

Save your work.

If you find a problem with the evaluation of an assignment or test, do not wait until the end of the semester to bring it up with Dr. Goodsell; please discuss it with Dr. Goodsell as soon as possible. Dr. Goodsell will return assignments and/or post scores online. Dr. Goodsell will also post final grades prior to the grade submission deadline. Because of this, Dr. Goodsell is less likely to accommodate grade change requests after the grade submission deadline.

### **Communication:**

You are responsible to attend class, keep your contact information (including email address) up to date with the university, and check your registered email account regularly and frequently. If you don't do this, you may miss important class announcements and instructions.

### **Help with Writing**

University Writing Center  
University of Utah Marriott Library  
Second Floor  
295 S 1500 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112  
<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>

Writing tutors can help you with any written assignment for this class. Take drafts of papers in as early as possible so you have time to revise them.

To prepare for a visit with a writing tutor, take

- A hard copy of the assignment
- A hard copy of your draft
- A list of questions or concerns you have about your draft

You may also meet with Dr. Goodsell to discuss your ideas about course material and assignments. If you want Dr. Goodsell to give you feedback on a draft of your work, you must also provide him with a "stamp" from the University Writing Center showing that you have gone through a draft with a writing tutor at least once since Dr. Goodsell has last seen a draft of this assignment, along with a draft that has been revised since the one you showed at the University Writing Center, and which new draft you want Dr. Goodsell to review. Also, the deadline for giving Dr. Goodsell a draft of an assignment is two class periods before the assignment is due. This gives him at least a couple of days to provide written feedback to you and it gives you at least a couple of days to revise.

Use ASA style unless the particular assignment requires otherwise. A brief guide to ASA style is found at: <http://www.calstatela.edu/library/bi/rsalina/asa.styleguide09262007.html> I am informed that the full ASA Style Guide will be available at the University Writing Center.

### **Careers**

If you have goals for graduate school and/or a career, you'll enjoy your classes more because you will see how they are relevant. We will discuss educational and career possibilities related to this class. We'll give you some suggestions about what you can do right now so you can be better prepared for graduate school and/or a career.

Think about your undergraduate education as a "package" that includes the following:

- University core / General education
- A major
- A minor or a double-major

- Internships
- Teaching and/or research assistantships
- Pre-professional and academic clubs
- Classes specifically related to your educational and career goals
- Other experiences (e.g., the Honors Program, service projects, international programs)
- Preparation for graduate school

You may receive specific, individualized help regarding career preparation through Career Services (<http://careers.utah.edu/>)

### **Flexibility**

Changes may be made to the course (including to the syllabus) to account for emergent needs or for clarification. Requirements may change in the event of a policy statement from administrators.

### **Inappropriate Use of Course Materials**

All course materials (e.g., outlines, handouts, syllabi, exams, quizzes, PowerPoint presentations, lectures, audio and video recordings, etc.) are proprietary. Students are prohibited from posting or selling any such course materials without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course.

### **Deliberation Guidelines**

To facilitate productive and open discussions about sensitive topics about which there are differing opinions, members of the university community should: (1) Remember that we are each responsible for enabling a productive, respectful dialogue. (2) To enable time for everyone to speak, strive to be concise with your thoughts. (3) Respect all speakers by listening actively. (4) Treat others with the respect that you would like them to treat you with, regardless of your differences. (5) Do not interrupt others. (6) Always try to understand what is being said before you respond. (7) Ask for clarification instead of making assumptions. (8) When countering an idea, or making one initially, demonstrate that you are listening to what is being said by others. Try to validate other positions as you assert your own, which aids in dialogue, versus attack. (9) Under no circumstances should an argument continue out of the classroom when someone does not want it to. Extending these conversations beyond class can be productive, but we must agree to do so respectfully, ethically, and with attention to individuals' requests for confidentiality and discretion. (10) Remember that exposing yourself to different perspectives helps you to evaluate your own beliefs more clearly and learn new information. (11) Remember that just because you do not agree with a person's statements, it does not mean that you cannot get along with that person. (12) Speak with your professor privately if you feel that the classroom environment has become hostile, biased, or intimidating. Adapted from the Deliberation Guidelines published by The Center for Democratic Deliberation. (<http://cdd.la.psu.edu/education/The%20CDD%20Deliberation%20Guidelines.pdf/view?searchterm=deliberation%20guidelines>)

### **Student Code**

Students are to follow the "Student Code" (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>), including the standards of professional behavior and academic conduct. Please do not cheat, misrepresent, plagiarize, or fabricate/falsify. The instructor may impose consequences for instances of academic misconduct or other violations of university policies, in conformity to university policies.

### **Academic Misconduct**

"Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400). "A student who engages in academic misconduct," as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, "may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing." Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>)."

### **University Statements**

"The University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. Instructors must communicate any particular attendance requirements of the course to students in writing on or before the first class meeting. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with and satisfying the entire range of academic objectives and requirements as defined by the instructor." PPM, Policy 6-100III-O)

### **Students with Disabilities**

"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 the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

"All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services." (<http://disability.utah.edu/FacultyStaff.html>)

### **Modifications**

If you need a modification to any course requirement (including test dates, due dates, assignment specifications, etc.), please provide a letter from the appropriate university office. For example, students with disabilities who need accommodations can receive a letter from the Center for Disability Services, and student athletes who need accommodations can receive a letter from the Academic Services Office of the Athletics Department.

The letter from the appropriate university office does not need to state the reason for the modification. It only needs to (1) inform me that the reason is university-approved, (2) state what the requested modification is, and (3) give me contact information for the officer at the appropriate university office, to whom I can direct any questions.

**Revision**

This syllabus is subject to revision.