

Introduction to Sociological Theory

Class Location: Online Lectures

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Office Hours: Email

**Zoom: Mondays from 10-11:30am
and by appointment**

Course Description

This course defines and redefines the traditional sociological theoretical canon. Within this course students will understand the historical development of traditional sociological theory and think critically about the power relations that have made the canon the canon. This course also enforces a feminist and intersectional pedagogy that introduces key female sociological scholars from varying racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. Students will be tested on their understanding of the historical development of sociological theory in two examinations. Finally, this course also develops analytical writing skills with weekly assignments. In this way, students refine their technical writing skills, including grammar and syntax, as well as improve their substantive writing skills by writing in concise prose and constructing clear argumentation.

This is an online course that will be taught asynchronously, meaning this is no specified class meeting time. Lectures, readings and assignments will be posted on Blackboard on Mondays and Wednesdays between 1-3pm. Exams will also be administered online through Blackboard at specified dates and times (see class schedule)

Learning Objectives

- 1) Contextualize sociological canons both socially and historically.
- 2) Identify the strengths and weaknesses of traditional canonical theory.
- 3) Pluralize the canon with theorists from different socioeconomic, gender and racial backgrounds.
- 4) Apply traditional sociological theory to topical contemporary problems.
- 5) Write bi-weekly essays that display well-supported arguments that are clear, concise and analytical.

Required Text

- *Sociological Theory* by Ritzer and Stepinsky (10th edition).
- Additional readings will be posted on BlackBoard (BB)

Grading

Midterm Exam	30% (30 points)
Final Exam	40% (40 points)
Assignments	30% (6 points each, 30 points total)

Grade Scale

93-100 = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
92-90 = A-	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	61-66 = D
	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	0-60 = F

Exams

All exams are multiple choice and short answer. The Midterm exam will be 40 questions. The Final Exam will be 60 questions and is cumulative but lean more heavily on the most recent material not covered by the Midterm. All class materials including: lectures, multimedia, textbook readings and blackboard readings can be tested on exams. All exams will be administered online through blackboard at specified dates (see class schedule below) and you will have exactly 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete the Midterm and 2 hours to complete the Final, after which the exam will be closed and your answers will be final.

Assignments

Assignments will be due on Friday of every week by 11:59pm (EST). Please review all assignment instructions carefully (instructions will be posted in the Assignments section of BB). Please submit all assignments to blackboard in the correct format (i.e. .docx, .pdf). If the assignment is late or is not uploaded properly you will not receive credit. Each assignment is a short two page, double spaced, response that addresses the readings assigned for that week. You may submit an assignment an unlimited amount of times before the deadline. The most recent assignment that you submit will be graded. Finally, students will be given written feedback on every assignment.

All assignments will be put through Safe Assign on Black Board so if the assignment is plagiarized you will receive a zero and (as per school policy) the student will be reported to the academic judiciary. Students will be able to check their safe assign scores and identify any areas that seem to be plagiarized and address this issue and resubmit their assignment before the deadline.

Course Readings

Course readings each week include textbook chapters as well as additional readings that will be posted on Blackboard under the "documents" tab. These additional readings will also be included on exams. Be sure to complete all assigned reading before coming to class. Students may also be asked to watch videos as part of their assigned reading and these will also be provided on Blackboard.

Attendance and Participation

Since this is an online course students are not required to "attend" class. But in order to participate and do well in the class students are highly encouraged to stay on top of readings, submit all assignments in a timely manner and adhere to feedback on weekly writing assignments. Please do not hesitate to ask for help or ask for a virtual appointment.

Communication Policy

- *Email Subject line:* SOC 361- Reason (eg. question, absent, assignment clarification, appointment etc).
- *Email Greeting:* Hi/Hello or Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening Nitheesha,
- *Content:* Please state your concerns/ questions clearly and concisely
 - If you have a question about the homework or need to clarify a sociological concept be *specific* about what it is that is confusing you.
 - Eg. DON'T ask: Can you explain what Marx's theory is again?
- *End:* Thank you or Sincerely,
Name
- I typically respond within **24 hours** during **weekdays** and **48 hours** on **weekends**.
- **Double check the syllabus!** If the answer to your question is in the syllabus I will not respond to your email. If you need clarification on something that is already in the syllabus, then be clear about what you need clarification on.
- Inquiries that do not follow this email etiquette will not be answered.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

Student Accessibility Support Center Statement

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Student Accessibility Support Center, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631)632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities>.

Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most

academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

Course Outline

***The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule as necessary. All changes will be announced on Blackboard.**

Date	Reading Due	Assignment Due Fridays 11:59pm on BB
Week 1 Wed. May 27th	Intro: Syllabus Overview, Why study theory?, Historical Development Text: Ritzer and Stepinsky Chap 1 (Chapter will be posted on BB) Black Board: Curato "A Sociological Reading of Classical Social Theory" <i>Typically students should finish the readings by the dates listed in the first columns but since this is the first week please take the time over the weekend to catch up.</i>	Please read the text book chapter 1 and the Curato article and complete Assignment 1. <i>Only this Assignment 1 is going to be due Mon. June 1st at 11:59pm...the following assignments are all due Friday at 11:59pm</i>
Week 2 Mon. June 1st	Karl Marx Text: RS Chap 2 (Chapter will be posted on BB) BB: Late Stage Capitalism article	
Wed. June 3rd	Emile Durkheim Text: RS Chap 3 (Chapter will be posted on BB) BB: Mechanical → Organic Solidarity flow chart	Assignment 2
Week 3 Mon. June 8th	Max Weber Text: RS Chap 4 BB: Video Max Weber and Modernity	
Wed. June 10th	Geroqe Simmel Text: RS Chap 5	Assignment 3
Week 4 MONDAY June	Exam 1 1hr 30min	

15th		
Wed. June 17th	Modern Sociological Theory: The Major Schools Text: RS Chap 6 W. E. B Du Bois BB: Morris Chap 2- Scientific Method BB: Morris Chap 3- The Atlanta School of Sociology	Assignment 4
Week 5 Mon. June 22nd	Harriet Martineau BB: Women Founders Chap 2 Jane Addams BB: Women Founders Chap 6	
Wed. June 24th	Anna Julia Cooper and Standpoint Theory BB: WF Chap.5 BB: Black Feminist Critique exert Theories of Race and Colonialism Text: RS Chap 15	Assignment 5
Week 6 Mon. June 29th	Globalization Theory Text: RS Chap 16	
Wed. July 1st	Review Session	Study!!
FRIDAY July 3rd	Final Exam 2hr	Have A Great Summer!