

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Department of Sociology
SOC 3200: Sociological Theory
Section 001, SAGE #354 (12:30-1:50)
Section 004, PEB #220 (9:30-10:50)
Spring, 2014

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I. Learning Objectives:

To gain knowledge of classical and contemporary social theorists and their explanations for social behavior at the macro and micro levels.

II. Learning components

A. Readings: To help meet the objectives, the following book is required reading:

REQUIRED:

1. Collins, Randall and Makowsky, Michael (2010). The Discovery of Society. Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.
2. A variety of readings/handouts will be provided. You will be responsible for reading these.

Class time: We will not be using class time to review specific facts provided in the reading materials. You are responsible for reading and learning the facts. Class time will be used to think about and discuss the reading material.

III. Course Policies

- A. **Class Attendance:** regular and punctual class attendance is expected. It will be difficult to master all the material if class is missed. If you need to come late or leave early, please let Dr. Yeatts know beforehand. Frequently coming into class late or leaving class early disrupts class and will reduce your final grade as will making a lot of disturbing noise during or at the end of a class. However, students will not be penalized for missing class. Students who miss a lot of class will be given no leeway in grading while students who miss no or only a few classes will be given much leeway in grading (e.g., an 88 might be moved up to a 90).
- B. **Academic integrity:** as the student guidebook points out, academic integrity is required. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failure and a report to the Dean.
- C. **Special Needs:** UNT's counseling center provides free career and personal counseling to UNT students (up to 8 sessions per year). Appointments can be made by calling 940-565-2741. For our class, appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. See Dr. Yeatts and/or call 817-565-2456 (TDD access 1-800-735-2989).
- D. **Cell Phones:** please turn off phones prior to the start of class (It is offensive to a professor to have a student "texting" while the professor is holding a discussion/lecturing). During tests, no cell phones may be used and must be turned off and put away during tests. A student will receive an "F" if found with a cell phone during a test.
- E. **Laptops:** Laptops may not be used during class unless sitting in the front row, middle of the classroom. Unfortunately, past experience has found that some students use the laptop for non-class activities that distract the student and others around the student from the class.
- F. **Acceptable Student Behavior:** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to

learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior (including continued texting during class) will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

G. Grading: final grades will be based on the following:

1. 2 one-page discussion papers 20%
First Paper Due: February 5th
Second Paper Due: March 5th
Requirements for the papers are provided below. Each paper has a specific question(s) to address and length. These are provided below.
2. Four tests (multiple choice) 80%
(study guides can be found on Yeatts' website)
Test 1: February 11
Test 2: March 18
Test 3: April 15
Test 4: Exam day/time (not cumulative):
 If your class meets at 9:30 (section 002):
 your exam is May 8th at 8:00am - 10:00am
 If your class meets at 12:30 (section 001):
 your exam is May 8th at 10:30am - 12:30am
3. Class Participation: Those who contribute meaningful, thoughtful, and knowledgeable comments/ideas will receive extra points added to their final grade if their final grade is close to the next higher grade. For example, an 88 could be raised to a 90. As noted above, perfect or near perfect attendance will also possibly result in extra points on your final grade.
4. Make-up Tests: may be allowed if the student notifies the professor before or soon after the test is given. However, the test score will be reduced by at least one letter grade unless there is documentation verifying an illness or other serious situation.

- H. **Test Policies:** You are responsible for using the restroom prior to the beginning of the test so **do not ask to use the restroom** in the middle of a test (unfortunately there are some students who would use this as an opportunity to review notes in the middle of taking the test). All cell phones must be turned off and be put away (they can be used for cheating). If a cell phone is observed, the student will receive a zero. No hats may be worn (they have also been used to cheat).
- I. **Extra Credit Opportunities:** There are two ways to obtain extra credit. Please see syllabus below for details.
- J. **Course Continuity:** If continued face-to-face classes become unwise or impossible (such as due to flu epidemic), and if the university desires to proceed with course offerings for the remainder of the semester, the professor will continue to provide instruction through his website. The professor may also relay course lecture material and assignments via eagleconnect or other e-mail services if required. (In these cases, students will be notified on how to access this service through the professor's webpage). It would be wise to have your UNT email address linked to an email address that you check regularly.

IV. Topics to be Covered

(all Chapter assignments refer to the Collins book)

Week 1 (January 14th): Overview of class, read: Preface and Introduction of Collins book

Possible Movie: Overview of Sociological Theory (MV9397)

Week 2 (January 21st): Chapters 1 and 2 (Saint-Simon, Comte, Marx)

In-class project: applied vs theoretical sociology

Possible Movie: A Bientot (MV9384, interviews workers in France in 70s about working conditions, unionization, strikes)

Week 3 (January 28): Chapters 2 and 3 (Marx and Tocqueville)

Read Handout: Marx and Engels: Manifesto of the Communist Party

First Paper Due: February 4th

Possible Movie: Karl Marx and Marxism MV2935

Week 4 (February 4): Chapters 4 and 5 (Nietzsche, Do-Gooders, Evolutionists, Racists)

First paper due

In-class: Nietzsche

Possible Movie: Profit (MV 8102, show first 41 minutes)

Test 1 on introduction, chapters 1-5, and class materials
(Tuesday, February 11)

Week 5 (February 13, second half of week): Chapter 6 (Durkheim)

Read Handout: Durkheim

In-class: Durkheim

Week 6 (February 18): Chapters 6 and 7 (Durkheim, Weber)

In-class: Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Week 7 (February 25): Chapters 7 and 8 (Weber, Freud)

Possible Movie: Formal Organizations and Bureaucracy MV9215

Read Handout: Freud:

Second Paper Due: March 4th

Week 8 (March 4): Chapter 8 (Freud)

Possible Movie: Biography of Freud, MV 9132

SPRING BREAK (March 9 - 16)

Test 2 on chapters 6-8 and class materials (Tuesday, March 18)

Week 9 (March 20, second half of week):

Chapter 9 (Simmel, Cooley, Mead)

Read Handout: Mead: Read Handout: Cooley:

In-class: Simmel, Cooley, Mead

Week 10 (March 25): Chapter 9 (continued) Chapter 10 Thomas, Park

Week 11 (April 1): Chapters 10 and 11 (Thomas, Park, Chicago School, DuBois, Frazier, Drake, and Cayton)

Possible Movie: W.E.B. DuBois BMV 7620, show first 30 minutes

Week 12 (April 8): Chapters 12 and 13 (Pareton, Parsons, Michels, Mannheim, Mills)

Possible Movie: Free Speech for Sale BMV 6515

In-Class: Michels and Mannheim

Test 3 on chapters 9-13 and class materials

(Tuesday, April 15)

Week 13 (April 17, second half of week): Chapter 14 (Goffman)

Read Handout: Goffman:

In-class: Goffman

Week 14 (April 22): Chapter 15 (Bourdieu, Skocpol, Wallerstein)

Possible Movie: Global Trade Debate (MV 8560)

Week 15 (April 29): Handout on Anderson and Black

(chapter 16 of older edition of Collins' book)

Movie: Office Space

Test 4 on chapters 14-16 and class materials

If your class meets at 9:30 (section 004):

your test is May 8th at 8:00am - 10:00am

If your class meets at 12:30 (section 001):

your test is May 8th at 10:30am - 12:30am

Paper Assignments

Two paper assignments will be given throughout the semester. These will be worth 10% each of your final grade. Therefore, the paper assignments will total 20% of your final grade with the 4 tests making up the remaining 80%. Save your papers to be sure that no mistakes are made in recording and averaging your grade.

Your goal for each paper assignment is to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the assigned materials. The keys to a good grade are to make it clear that you understand the theorist's (or theorists') point of view(s) and you provide a thoughtful opinion on the topic.

There are strict instructions that you must follow (the grade will be reduced one letter grade if these instructions are not followed):

1. The paper cannot be longer than one page (if it is longer than one page then only the first page will be read).
2. The paper must be single spaced, and must use Comic Sans MS font, size 12 (I strain my eyes less with this font), and have 1 inch margins.
3. The paper topic should be typed at the top of the page along with your name.
4. The paper must use good grammar, complete sentences, and avoid vulgar language.

Paper Topics:

Paper 1

What does Marx believe is the most basic determinant of one's behavior? Saint-Simon? Comte? Provide support for your answers. Finally, what do you believe is the most basic determinant of one's behavior?

Paper 2

From Durkheim's perspective what is the relationship between deviance, social solidarity, and collective conscience? What are the similarities and differences between Durkheim's "collective conscience" and Weber's "stratification"? What do YOU believe is the basis of social order?

Opportunities for Extra Credit

1. Students will be given the opportunity to obtain extra credit points during class. For example, students may be asked to work in groups during class to solve one or more problems and then each student will turn in their own answer(s) before the end of class and one or more extra points will be added to the student's next test grade. Students who are absent, or come to class late, or leave class early will not be eligible for these extra points. A student who does not miss class will typically accumulate 5 - 6 points to be added to her/his next test grade.
2. Students can write a "library research" paper that must be turned in no later than April 29th. The paper is worth up to three or four points added to your final grade, depending on the quality of the paper and whether you present it in class (you can get up to three points if it is not presented in class). You must use peer-reviewed research articles/books (say, at least 10) on your topic which must address some issue covered in class (you can use web-based journals and popular magazines such as Time but these should be no more than 10% of your citations/references). The paper should be 5 to 10 pages, double spaced, use comic sans font, and have one inch margins (the same requirements as provided above for the one-page papers). If you want to present your paper in class, you must turn in the paper and any powerpoint slides (or other means of presentation) you plan to use by April 22nd. The paper and slides must be well done in order to be presented in class.