

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
Department of Sociology  
SOC 3200: Sociological Theory  
Spring, 2016, Matt: Rm.114

Dale E. Yeatts, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Chilton Hall, 390 Suite  
Office Hours: M/W: 12:00-2:00  
and by appointment

Phone: 940-565-2238  
E-mail: yeatts@unt.edu  
Fax: 940-369-7035  
Web Page:  
[Http://www.yeatts.us](http://www.yeatts.us)

**I. Learning Objectives:**

- To gain knowledge of classical and contemporary social theorists and their explanations for social behavior at the macro and micro levels.
- To gain knowledge of the three theoretical paradigms: structure functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interaction
- To develop your own perspective on why people behavior as they do within society

**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 are provided on the Yeatts website (see "Handout of Readings"). The selected readings are original works of various theorists and in some cases are somewhat difficult to read due to the theorists writing style/century written. Therefore, you will only be responsible for obtaining a general understanding of each particular article, i.e., What is the focus of the article? What is the subject? What are the main ideas? (You can expect these to be questions on your tests.)

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: It is offensive to a professor to have a student continually "texting" while the professor is holding a discussion/lecturing. 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](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)

G. **Grading:** All paper and test scores will be posted on Professor Yeatts' web page. Final grades will be based on the following:

1. **2 one-page discussion papers** 20%

**First Paper Due: February 3** (10% of grade)

**Second Paper Due: April 6** (10% of grade)

Requirements for the papers are provided below. Each paper has a specific question(s) to address. Correct format must be followed.

2. **Four tests** (multiple choice) 80%

(study guides can be found on Yeatts' website)

**Test 1: February 15**

**Test 2: March 21**

**Test 3: April 25**

**Test 4: Exam day/time: May 7 (8:00am-10:00am)**

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, particularly if the student notifies the professor before the test is given. However, the test score will be reduced by 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 (otherwise, some would use them for cheating). If a cell phone is observed, the student will receive a zero.
- 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 eagle connect 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 20): Overview of class, read: Preface and Introduction of Collins book

Week 1 (January 22): Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1 (Saint-Simon)

In-class project: applied vs theoretical sociology

Possible Movie: Overview of Sociological Theory (MV9397)

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

Week 2 (January 25): Chapter 2 (Marx)

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

Possible movie: Karl Marx and Marxism, MV2935

Week 3 (February 1): Chapters 3 and 4 (Tocqueville, Nietzsche)

**First Paper Due: Wednesday, February 3**

In-class: Nietzsche

Week 4 (February 8): Chapters 5 (Do-Gooders, Evolutionists, Racists)

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

**Test 1 on Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1-5, and class materials  
(Monday, February 15)**

Week 5 (February 17 and 19): Chapter 6 (Durkheim)

Read Handout: Durkheim

In-class: Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Week 6 (February 22): Chapter 7 (Weber)

Read Handout: Weber

Possible Movie: Formal Organizations and Bureaucracy,  
MV9215

Week 7 (February 29): Chapter 8 (Freud)

**Spring Break: March 7 - 11**

Week 8 (March 14): Chapter 8 continued (Freud)

Possible Movie: Biography of Freud, MV9132

**Test 2 on chapters 6-8 and class materials (Monday, March 21)**

Week 9 (March 23 and 25): Chapter 9 (Simmel, Cooley, Mead)

Read Handout: Mead:

Read Handout: Cooley:

In-class: Simmel, Cooley, Mead

Week 10 (March 28): Chapters 9 (continued) and 10 (Thomas, Park, Chicago School)

Week 11 (April 4): Chapter 11 (DuBois, Frazier, Drake, and Cayton)  
Possible Movie: W.E.B. DuBois, MV 7620, show first 30 minutes  
Read Handout: DuBois  
**Second Paper Assignment: Wednesday, April 6**

Week 12 (April 11): Chapter 12 (Pareto and Parsons)

Week 13 (April 18): Chapter 12 continued (Pareto and Parsons)

**Test 3 on chapters 9-12 and class materials (Monday, April 25)**

Week 14 (April 27 and 29): Chapters 13 and 14 (Michels, Mannheim, Mills, Goffman)  
In-Class: Michels and Mannheim  
Read Handout: Mills  
Possible Movie: Free Speech for Sale, MV 6515  
Possible Movie: Global Trade Debate, MV 8560

Week 15 (May 2): Chapters 14 and 15 (Goffman, Bourdieu, Skocpol, Wallerstein)  
Read Handout: Goffman:  
In-class: Goffman  
Possible Movie: Office

**Test 4 on chapters 13-15 and class materials will be given during exam week:  
May 7, Saturday, 8:00am-10:00am**

### **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 apply the reading material to the question. 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 your own 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 should be single spaced, 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:**

#### **First Paper Topic**

Saint-Simon, Comte, and Nietzsche each had their own views on rational and irrational decision-making and whether/how these influence behavior. What are the similarities between their views? What are the differences? What is your view of rational and irrational decision-making? What part do you believe rationality and irrationality play, regarding how people act and the decisions they make?

#### **Second Paper Topic**

Simmel, Cooley and Mead each provided their ideas on what causes people to act the way they do. What are the similarities between their views? What are the differences? What do you believe are the primary factors causing people to act the way they do? Explain.

### **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 up to 8 points to be added to her/his next test grade. **It should also be noted that students who miss no classes (or very few) will likely receive a few extra points added to their final grade if it is needed to boost them up to the next higher grade.**

2. Students can write a "library research" paper that must be turned in no later than Tuesday, April 29. 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 except double spaced). If you want to present your paper in class, you must turn your paper in prior to presenting it, receive permission (the paper must be well done in order to be presented in class), use powerpoint or another presentation software, and look for interesting ways to present the information.



SOCI 3200: Sociological Theory:  
STUDENT INFORMATION

1. Section number of class or time class meets: \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
                    last name                                      first                                      middle
3. Provide a unique five digit number that can be used when posting your grades on Dr. Yeatts' website (not your social security number nor your student ID number)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Email, address and phone number where you can be reached:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What degree (and emphasis) are you seeking?
6. How many hours have you completed toward your degree?
7. Why did you decide to take this course?