

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Department of Sociology
SOC 3200: Sociological Theory
Spring, 2015
T/TR: 12:30 - 1:50

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Professor
Chilton Hall, 390 Suite
Office Hours: T/TR: 2:00-3:15
and by appointment

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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 of the class. 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 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: 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 3rd
Second Paper Due: March 3rd
Requirements for the papers are provided below. Each paper has specific questions to address. Correct format must be followed.
2. Four tests (multiple choice, some true/false) 80%
(study guides can be found on Yeatts' website)
Test 1: February 12
Test 2: March 12
Test 3: April 23
Test 4: Exam day/time (not cumulative): May 14 from 10:30 - 12:30
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.

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 a 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 20th): Overview of class, read: Preface and Introduction of Collins book

Week 1 (January 22nd): Chapter 1 (Saint-Simon, Comte)

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 27): Chapters 2 and 3 (Marx and Tocqueville)

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

First Paper Due: next week

Possible Movie: Karl Marx and Marxism MV2935

Week 3 (February 3): Chapters 4 and 5 (Nietzsche, Do-Gooders, Evolutionists, Racists)

First paper due

In-class: Nietzsche

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

Week 4 (February 10): Chapter 5 continued.

Test 1 on introduction, chapters 1-5, and class materials (Marx and Engels)
(Thursday, February 12)

Week 5 (February 17): Chapters 6 (Durkheim)

In-class: Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Read Handout: Durkheim

Read Handout: Weber

Week 6 (February 24): Chapters 7 (Weber)

Possible Movie: Formal Organizations and Bureaucracy MV9215

Second Paper Due: March 3rd

Week 7 (March 3): Chapter 8 (Freud)

Possible Movie: Biography of Freud, MV 9132

Week 8 (March 10, Tuesday): Chapter 8 Continued (Freud)

Possible Movie: Biography of Freud, MV 9132

Test 2 on chapters 6-8 and class materials (Thursday, March 12)

Spring Break: March 16 - 20

Week 9 (March 24): Chapter 9 (Simmel, Cooley, Mead)

Read Handout: Mead:

Read Handout: Cooley:

In-class: Simmel, Cooley, Mead

Week 10 (March 31): Chapter 9 (continued)

Week 11 (April 7): Chapters 10 (Thomas, Park, Chicago School)

Week 12 (April 14): Chapters 11 and 12 (DuBois, Frazer, Drake, Cayton)

Possible Movie: Free Speech for Sale, BMV 6515

Read Handout: DuBois

Week 13 (April 21, Tuesday) Chapter 12 continued (Pareto and Parsons)

Test 3 on chapters 9-12 and class materials
(Thursday, April 23)

Week 14: (April 28) Chapters 13 and 14 (Michels, Mannheim, Mills, Goffman)

Read Handout: Goffman

Read Handout: Mills

Week 15 (May 5): Chapter 14 (continued) Chapter 15
(Bourdieu, Skocpol, Wallerstein)
Movie: Office

Test 4 on chapters 13-15 will be given during exam week: Thursday, May 14, 10:30 - 12:30

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 your own personal, thoughtful opinion on the topic.

There are strict format 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. A paper title 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.

Topics for Paper Assignments:

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 answers 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 30th. 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 (at least 10). 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 must address some issue covered in class and must be approved by the professor. The paper should be 5 to 10 pages, double spaced, use comic sans font, and have one inch margins.