

**University of North Texas
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology**

**SOCI 3200.001 Sociological Theory
Fall 2017**

Instructor: Nikolitsa Grigoropoulou

Class time: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

Classroom: SAGE 354

Office: Chilton 121

Office hours: Wednesday and Thursday 1:00 – 2:30 pm or by appointment

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Course Description:

This course introduces basic concepts and theoretical frameworks constituting the backbone of sociological thought. Sociologists, social scientists of various disciplines, and social activists around the world heavily rely on classical and contemporary sociological traditions to better understand social phenomena, reveal how social actors are influenced by social structures, and advocate for social justice. By the end of this course, you should be able to

- ✓ familiarize yourself with basic sociological traditions;
- ✓ acquire a socio-historical perspective of how social thought has developed;
- ✓ identify key concepts in sociological theory and the thinkers that proposed them;
- ✓ discover how social structures influence individual experience, group behavior, and culture;
- ✓ apply and use sociological theories to analyze and interpret current events and enduring social problems;
- ✓ critically evaluate the applicability of theories, identify flaws, and propose revisions;
- ✓ develop your sociological imagination and general competence in the field of sociology;
- ✓ earn a good grade and enjoy learning.

Course Material:

Required Textbook: Dillon, M. (2014). *Introduction to sociological theory: theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century* (Second edition). Chichester, West Sussex, UK: John Wiley & Sons.
ISBN: 978-1118471920

Blackboard: If necessary, additional course readings will be made available on the UNT Blackboard at <https://learn.unt.edu/>

Reading Assignments & Participation:

Students are responsible for reading the assigned materials from the text before each class session. Since we will cover quite a bit of material, it is very important to keep up with the readings. The lecture presentations will be available online, but not the lecture notes, so it is to your best interest to attend every class. Most of your assignments and exam questions are heavily based on understanding and applying the concepts; attending and participating to the class will be integral to building this understanding.

Class attendance counts toward your final grade and will be taken in every class meeting. You can miss up to 3 class meetings without harming your grade. Absences due to illness, family or personal emergencies, and university-sponsored events can be excused with proper documentation.

Online Blog Posts

One of the greatest objectives of this class is to develop your ability to use the concepts and theories you learn in order to construct your own meanings about society and make sense of various social phenomena. You will have the chance to create **four (4) blog-like entries** throughout the semester. Think of them as online discussion posts where you can include images, videos, links to websites or articles. A different topic/question will be provided each time for you to organize your blog entry. The blogs will be available from **Friday at 8:00 am until Sunday at 10:00 pm** on the designated weeks. Because you will need some time to organize your thoughts and write your blog, there will be no class meeting on Fridays these weeks. Make sure to follow closely your class schedule in the end of the syllabus to avoid missing assignments or class meetings!!!

Exams: There will be 2 exams throughout the semester.

Location: Exams will be taken online on the designated dates.

Format: Exams will cover material from assigned readings, lectures, and in-class and blackboard discussions and will typically consist of **35 multiple choice** questions and **one short answer/essay** question. A (small) pool of possible short answer/essay questions will be given beforehand for you to prepare.

Because life happens, make-up exams can be given with documentation for a serious illness, death in the family, required university-sponsored event, or after prior arrangement with the instructor.

Class Paper

We develop sociological theories in order to explain various social phenomena. For the purposes of this class, you are required to write a class paper where you demonstrate your ability to apply theories and critically evaluate their usefulness and flaws in a topic or social problem of your interest.

Each of you will need to submit a **5-6 pages long paper**, 12-point Times New Roman

font, double-spaced, 1-inch margin. A detailed list of the elements you will be expected to include in the paper and a grading rubric will be provided after your midterm exam. The final paper will be due on **Tuesday, December 5 at 11:59 pm** on Blackboard.

Sociological Theory Journal:

A journal section will be available on Blackboard every Sunday for students who want to jot down their thoughts on the next week's readings. This is a free, **optional** activity that can help students express their views on the forthcoming theory and indicate possible challenges they face with the concepts. The instructor will subsequently attempt to clarify these concepts and resolve possible misunderstandings.

As already mentioned, this is not a required activity and participating students – apart from the opportunity to communicate their thoughts and correct misconception – can also earn up to **two (2) extra points** for each week they participate.

Late papers or assignments:

Students are responsible to submit their discussion posts on time. Late work will not be accepted without documentation for a serious illness, death in the family, or required university-sponsored event. If accepted (e.g. late submission of observation notes), it will be penalized.

Grading:

Midterm Exam	1 @ 100 points	100 points
Final Exam	1 @ 100 points	100 points
Blogs	4 @ 25 points each	100 points
Class Paper	1 @ 100 points	100 points
Attendance	32 @ 2 points	80 points
Total		480 points

Range of Points	Range of Percentages	Grade
432 - 480	90% - 100%	A
384 - 431	80% - 89%	B
336 - 383	70% - 79%	C
288 - 335	60% - 69%	D
0 - 287	0% - 59%	F

Classroom Etiquette:

Cell phones must be turned on SILENT and put away!

Arriving late in class and leaving early are very disruptive to the instructor and other students. Please let the instructor know prior to the beginning of class if you absolutely must leave early and make sure your exit distracts others as little as possible. Please make every effort to respect others.

Disagreements are allowed and expected, but the focus should be on ideas rather than on the individual who expresses them. Signs of disrespect that will not be tolerated include but are not limited to, having background conversations when others are talking, packing up early when others are still talking or asking questions, and working on material for other classes.

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 in any instructional forum at UNT. 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 UNT's Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. UNT's Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Academic dishonesty is defined as follows by the Office of Academic Integrity on the website: <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/development/dishonesty.html>

- **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- **Plagiarism:** The deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words or statements of another person as one's own without acknowledgement.
- **Fabrication:** Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- **Facilitating academic dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic integrity.

Violations of the policy of academic integrity are taken seriously at UNT and may include (1) failing grades on assignments and/or the course and (2) reports to the VPAA that become a part of the official student record. You should read the procedures and sanctions for academic dishonesty on the website of the Vice President

for academic Affairs at <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>. If you are in doubt about any of the issues related to academic integrity, it is your responsibility to consult with the course instructor regarding these requirements before your assignments are submitted.

Disability Statement:

Students requesting accommodations and services due to a disability are required to provide the authorization letter issued by the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) before their requests can be processed. Attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. For more information contact the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) at 940-565-4323.

Syllabus as a Contract:

The University attorney advises faculty members to notify students that the syllabus is not a contract and is therefore subject to change. I will try to adhere to the schedule provided, but I reserve the right to alter the syllabus to better suit the needs of the class.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading / Assignment
Week 1		
M 08/28	Introduction / Review Course Outline	
W 08/30	Introduction to Sociological Theory	Introduction: Welcome to Sociological Theory pp. 1-26
F 09/01		
Week 2		
M 09/04	Labor Day	No Class
W 09/06	Karl Marx	Chapter 1: Karl Marx pp. 31-70
F 09/08		
Week 3		
M 09/11	Emile Durkheim	Chapter 2: Emile Durkheim pp. 77-111
W 09/13		
F 09/15		
Week 4		
M 09/18	Max Weber	Chapter 3: Max Weber pp. 117-149
W 09/20		
F 09/22		Blog Entry #1
Week 5		
M 09/25	Functionalism and Modernization	Chapter 4: Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton: Functionalism and Modernization pp. 155-181
W 09/27		
F 09/29		
Week 6		
M 10/02	Critical Theory	Chapter 5: Critical Theory: Technology, Culture and Politics pp. 187-216
W 10/04		
F 10/06		
Week 7		
M 10/09	Conflict, Power, and Dependency	Chapter 6: Conflict, Power, and Dependency in Macro-Societal Processes pp. 221-240
W 10/11		
F 10/13		Blog Entry #2

Week 8		
M 10/16	Instructor will be in conference	No class
W 10/18	Midterm Review	The exam will be available <u>online</u> from Friday at 8:00 am until Sunday at 10:00 pm
F 10/20	Midterm Exam	
Week 9		
M 10/23	Exchange and Rational Choice Theories	Chapter 7: Exchange, Exchange Network, and Rational Choice Theories pp. 245-266
W 10/25		
F 10/27		
Week 10		
M 10/30	Symbolic Interactionism Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology	Chapter 8: Symbolic Interactionism pp. 273-295 Chapter 9: Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology pp. 301-321
W 11/01		
F 11/03		
Week 11		
M 11/06	Feminist Theories & Theory of Sexuality	Chapter 10: Feminist Theories pp. 327-362 Chapter 11: Michel Foucault: Theorizing Sexuality, the Body, and Power pp. 369-388
W 11/08		
F 11/10		
Week 12		
M 11/13	Race and Racism	Chapter 12: Race, Racism, and the Construction of Racial Otherness pp. 393-422
W 11/15		
F 11/17		Blog Entry #3
Week 13		
M 11/20	Pierre Bourdieu	Chapter 13: The Social Reproduction of Inequality: Pierre Bourdieu’s Theory of Class and Culture pp. 427-447
W 11/22		
F 11/24	Thanksgiving Break	No Class
Week 14		
M 11/27	Economic and Political Globalization	Chapter 14: Economic and Political Globalization pp. 451-485
W 11/29		
F 12/01		Blog Entry #4

Week 15		
M	12/04	Class wrap-up
W	12/06	Final Exam Review
F	12/08	Reading Day
Finals Week		
M	12/11	The final exam will be available <u>online</u> from Monday at 8:00 am until Wednesday at 10:00 pm
W	12/13	

Have a Great Semester!!!