DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT  
SYA4110  SPRING 2016

This course offers the opportunity to critically examine some of the major theoretical orientations in classical and contemporary sociological thought. We will explore the ways these ideas have changed in relation to the transformations taking place in the western world throughout the course of modernity. The focus will be on the connections between the underlying assumptions of key theorists and their conclusions about the nature of social life. The major questions to be addressed as a part of the course are: To what extent do these perspectives offer insight into ongoing social issues? How have the foundations of each of these views changed over time? What are some of the strengths and weaknesses in each of these positions? How do these theories inform and related to our understanding of contemporary society?

The course will be organized to allow time for lecture, review of the reading material, and class discussion. Course requirements include: participation in class and discussion sections, quizzes, exams, essays, critiques, and small group responses.

Professor Gattone's office hours are by appointment only (3352 Turlington Hall). Phone: 294-7171; email: cgattone@ufl.edu

Required Readings
There is also a series of required readings available on Canvas.

Discussion Sections
Every student is required to attend and participate in the discussion section. Prior to the class meeting on Tuesdays, students are required to read the material for that week and attend the discussion section in preparation for the quiz. There are study guides on Canvas for each area of study and these identify the main points in the reading. Students are strongly advised to develop their own written responses to the study guide questions before coming to class on Tuesday to prepare for the quiz.

Reading Quizzes
On Tuesdays at the start of class (or at the start of each new section), there will be a brief quiz on the readings for that section. Each quiz consists of four questions. The quizzes will focus on reading material marked as required (R) in the schedule below.

Critique
Every student is required to present to the class one critique of the readings together with the selected members of a small group. This involves developing your own responses to these readings and forming questions for class discussion. Preparing for this requires that the group
meet in advance outside of class to arrange the substance of the critique and to put together a brief written version of it (approximately five pages) due the class period of the presentation.

Exam #1
This exam will cover the main points of the readings as well as those presented and discussed in class. It will focus on classical sociological theory and will include material from the first week of class through the section entitled “Social Structure and Human Interaction.”

In Class Essay Exam
The goal of this exam is to give students the opportunity to critically evaluate some of the authors and theoretical positions we will be discussing throughout the semester. It will involve selecting one theme in an author's work and assessing it in a critical manner. A list of themes will be provided on Canvas. The structure of the essay is up to you, but you may wish to devote a portion of the essay to outlining or restating the author's position on this theme, and another significant portion to presenting your own critique of this view.

Small Group Sessions
Small group sessions will be held several times throughout the semester to offer you the opportunity to discuss and evaluate the works of these theorists. Normally, we will do this during the second half of the Thursday class. A few questions will be handed out at the beginning of each session to bring a focus to these discussions and provide a means through which to develop your responses. Grades of these responses will be included in the evaluation of your class participation, which will then be factored into the final grade for the class.

Final Exam
The final exam will be on the material covered from our discussion of Structural Functionalism, (Parsons and Merton) through the end of class.

COURSE OUTLINE

8/23 – 8/25  Introduction to the Course, Definition and Origins of Sociological Theory
(R) Robert Jackall and Arthur Vidich - Series Preface
   Main Trends of the Modern World
(R) Auguste Comte – Excerpt from The Positive Philosophy

8/30 – 9/1  The Emergence of the Conflict Perspective
(R) Ritzer – Chapter 2 – "Karl Marx" in Sociological Theory
(R) Karl Marx – Preface and "Opposition of The Materialist and Idealist Outlook" The German Ideology

9/6 – 9/8  The Development of Sociology as a Discipline
(R) Ritzer - Chapter 3 – "Emile Durkheim" in Sociological Theory
(R) Emile Durkheim – Preface I and II – The Rules of Sociological Method (pp. 31-47)
Charlotte Perkins Gilman – Preface and Chapter I, Women and Economics
9/13 – 9/15 Social Structure and Human Interaction
(R) Ritzer – Chapter 4 – "Max Weber" in Sociological Theory
(R) Max Weber – "Science as a Vocation" in From Max Weber
Jane Addams – "Charitable Effort", Democracy and Social Ethics

9/20 Review for Exam #1

(Exam #1 - Thursday 9/22)

9/27 – 9/29 Structural Functionalism
(R) Ritzer – Chapter 7 - "Structural Functionalism" – in Sociological Theory
Talcott Parsons - "The Place of Sociological Theory" in The Social System
(R) Robert Merton - "Manifest and Latent Functions"
in Social Theory and Social Structure (pp. 73-91)

10/4 – 10/6 Conflict Theory
(R) C. Wright Mills - "The Promise", "On Politics"
The Sociological Imagination

10/11 – 10/13 Symbolic Interactionism
(R) Ritzer - Chapter 10 - "Symbolic Interaction" in Sociological Theory
Herbert Blumer - "Society as Symbolic Interaction" and “Sociological Analysis and the Variable” in Symbolic Interactionism
Erving Goffman - Introduction to Frame Analysis (pp. 1-20)

10/18 – 10/20 Postmodernism / Poststructuralism
(R) E.C. Cuff – pp. 233-241 on poststructuralism in Perspectives in Sociology
(R) E.C. Cuff – pp. 286 – 289 – on Lyotard in Perspectives in Sociology
(R) Ritzer – pp. 611 – 621 Foucault and postmodernism in Sociological Theory
Michel Foucault – “What is Enlightenment” Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth

10/25 Review and Preparation for Essay Exam

(Essay Exam – Thursday 10/27)
11/1 – 11/3 Feminist Theory
   (R) Ritzer – Chapter 13 – “Contemporary Feminist Theory” in Sociological Theory
   (R) Dorothy Smith - "Sociological Theory: Methods of Writing Patriarchy" in Feminism and Sociological Theory (Ruth Wallace editor, pp. 34-64)
   (R) bell hooks - "Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory" in Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center

11/8 – 11/10 Theories of Race and Ethnicity
   (R) Karim Murji and John Solomos – “Introduction: situating the present” in Theories of Race and Ethnicity
   (R) Sandra Soo-Jin Lee – “Race and the science of difference in the age of genomics” in Theories of Race and Ethnicity
   (R) Stephen Steinberg - "Dilemmas and Contradictions of Ethnic Pluralism in America", in The Ethnic Myth: Race, Ethnicity and Class in America

11/15 – 11/17 Critical Theory
   (R) Ritzer – pp. 282-293 – in Sociological Theory
   Jürgen Habermas - "The Tasks of a Critical Theory of Society" in The Theory of Communicative Action II (pp. 374-403)

(Thanksgiving Break)

11/29 – 12/1 Agency-Structure Integration
   (R) Ritzer – Chapter 14 – “Micro-Macro and Agency-Structure Integration” in Contemporary Sociology

12/6 Review for Final Exam

(Final Exam – Date and Time to Be Announced)
Grading Information

Exams – All students are required without exception to take the exams during the scheduled times listed in the syllabus. Make-up exams will not be offered for this course except under very limited circumstances.

Critique – This is a group project, so it must be done collectively. Students should contact the other members of their group as soon as possible to arrange meeting times well in advance and to avoid scheduling conflicts. Your task in this project is not to summarize the main points of the readings for your assigned week, but to think critically about them and present your collective critique to the class and in writing. Please see the more extensive description of the project on Canvas.

Reading Quizzes – Students are required to do the readings for this class in advance of each meeting and will be quizzed at the start of each new section. The quizzes will focus on the main points of each reading rather than minor details. Make-up quizzes will not be given, however the lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Attendance – Students are required to be present and on time for each class session. Absences will only be considered excused if the teaching assistant is notified prior to the class session involved and he or she approves the request. Arriving late to class two times will be recorded as one absence. The attendance grade will be calculated on the basis of the total number of unexcused absences and factored into the overall grade at the end of the semester.

Class Participation – In a class of this nature, it is crucial for students to speak out in order to develop their own ideas and criticisms about the material. It is for this reason that everyone must participate in the classroom discussions as well as those of the discussion section. This includes participation in the small group sessions each week. These responses and class participation grades will be factored into the final grade as listed below.

Discussion Section – The discussion section is an integral component of the course in that it provides students with the opportunity to discuss and debate the concepts of sociological theory. There is no way to develop a working knowledge of theory without voicing one’s views and hearing alternative positions expressed in response. For this reason, the discussion section grade constitutes the most significant percentage of the overall grade for the course.

Grade Breakdown
Reading Quizzes – 12%, Group Critique – 12%, Exam #1 – 12%, Essay Exam – 12%, Attendance – 12%, Class Participation – 12%, Discussion Section Grade – 16%, Final Exam – 12%
University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines

All students are required to abide by the Academic Honesty Guidelines, which have been established by the University.

(1) Each student is required to subscribe to the Guidelines upon registration each semester by signing the following pledge contained on the "Course Request Registration Form":

I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the University.

A copy of this form can be obtained at the Office of the Registrar.

(2) The conduct set forth hereinafter constitutes a violation of the Academic Honesty Guidelines. Those adjudged to have committed such conduct shall be subject to the sanctions provided in 6C1-4.016.

(a) Cheating -- the improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes, but is not limited to, copying graded homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual(s) on a take-home test or homework when not specifically permitted by the teacher; looking or attempting to look at another student's paper during an examination; looking or attempting to look at text or notes during an examination when not permitted. Tendering of information includes, but is not limited to, giving your work to another student to be used or copied; giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after having taken an exam; giving or selling a term paper or other written materials to another student; sharing information on a graded assignment.

(b) Plagiarism -- The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written materials or oral presentations for an academic requirement; submitting a paper which was purchased from a term paper service as your own work; submitting anyone else's paper as your own work.

University of Florida Policy Regarding Students With Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Office coordinates the accessibility of all areas of campus to persons with disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will then provide documentation to the student who must provide this documentation to the professor when requesting accommodation.