

SYA 4110 – Development of Sociological Thought
Fall 2022 Syllabus

Lecture: MWF | Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM)
Location: Little Hall, Room 101

Section 351R, 25292
Discussion Section: M | Period 3
9:35 AM - 10:25 AM
Matherly Hall, Room 6

Section 5332, 18635
Discussion Section: M | Period 5
11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Weimer Hall, Room 1094

Instructor Information

Dr. Corey McZeal (he/him/his)
Office Location: Turlington 3361A

Office Hours: Mon. 12:15-1:15; Zoom by appt
coreymczeal@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistants

Hannah Jacobs

Office Hours: TBA
jacobs.hannah@ufl.edu

Course Description

Hello, I'm Prof. McZeal. This course will explore major theoretical perspectives that sociologists use to explain trends and patterns in society. The emergence of certain frameworks is connected to events in the social world and often built on the ideas of previous thinkers. We will examine both classical and contemporary theories, and investigate how these ideas have evolved over time.

The development of sociological thought is an important part of synthesizing all of the knowledge you gain from your other sociology courses at UF. The ability to analyze the world through these frameworks will help you cultivate a greater understanding of social processes and make predictions about future trends.

Course Format

This course is completely in-person; there will be no recordings of lecture unless explicitly specified. All assessments will be online or have an online option, and there will be an online option for office hours if you ever have questions.

Below is a rundown of our typical weekly procedure to help you stay on track:

Monday morning	Discussion sections; you should complete the readings for this week's topic <i>before</i> attending your discussion section on Monday. In the discussion section you will take a reading quiz, then review that week's study guide and work through any specific questions you have with the TA.
MWF afternoons	Lecture with Prof. McZeal; in lectures, we will elaborate more on theories, explore them with greater depth, and apply them. I will regularly give in-class assignments during lecture.
Wednesday afternoon	The prompt for this week's reflection will become available on Canvas. In general, you will have one reflection per week.
Sunday at 11:59 PM	Reflections are due on Canvas.

Student Responsibilities

Attendance: Attendance is not specifically required to pass this course. I will not take formal attendance and you will not be directly penalized for missing classes. However, I strongly recommend that you attend as many classes as possible. One reason, as discussed below, is that the cumulative score on in-class assignments will be included in your final grade, and you cannot complete these assignments if you are not in class. Additionally, participation during lecture and discussion sections will also be a factor in your final grade.

Preparation: Students are expected to complete all necessary readings prior to discussion sections on Mondays. Knowledge of the material covered in these readings is essential for productive class discussion and will provide important background information for lecture. Additionally, various assignments will require knowledge of the readings assigned for that week.

Visuals utilized during lecture (PPTs, videos, etc.) will be posted to Canvas upon the completion of that day's lecture.

Required Readings

George Ritzer, *Sociological Theory* (eighth edition) McGraw-Hill. (ISBN: 0078111676)
All additional required readings will be available on Canvas.

Grading

Your grade will be based on your scores in five assessment categories: Reflections, Quizzes, Final Essay, In-Class Assignments, and Participation.

Reflections: Throughout the course, I will assign writing prompts and your responses will be submitted on Canvas. The average score of these assignments will be worth 50% of your final grade. These assignments will be based on topics discussed in lecture or in the readings. With a few exceptions, you will have one reflection per week and they are due on Sundays; there will be 12 reflections total.

Very important: it is your responsibility to make sure all reflections are uploaded properly. Please verify that everything required of you is online and visible so you will be properly assessed. Any missing content will be considered incomplete, and your score will reflect this. Reflections must be completed and uploaded prior to the due time/date.

Important dates for reflections (all are due before 11:59 PM on the specified due date):

Week	Topic	Due Date
2	Origins of Sociological Theory	September 4
3	Emergence of Conflict Theory, part 1	September 11
4	Emergence of Conflict Theory, part 2	September 18
5	Development of Sociology as a Discipline	September 25
6	Social Structure and Human Interaction	October 2
7	Structural Functionalism	October 9
8	Conflict Theory	October 16
9	Symbolic Interactionism	October 23
10	Postmodernism / Poststructuralism	October 30
11	Gender Theory	November 6
12	Theories of Race and Ethnicity	November 13
13	Critical Theory	November 20

Quizzes: Everyone is required to do the readings for this class in advance of each meeting, and you will be quizzed at the beginning of each new topic; your average score on quizzes will constitute 15% of your final grade. 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.

All quizzes are conducted during discussion sections.

Final Essay: The final essay is an opportunity for you to apply theoretical frameworks in a more in-depth way, while also using multiple theories to explain a certain phenomenon. The final essay will be due at the end of the semester, and will constitute 15% of your final grade. Specific guidelines for the final essay will be posted on Canvas.

In-Class Assignments (ICAs): Throughout the semester you will have in-class assignments, and students must be present to receive credit for the assignment; no make-ups will be given. The average score on these assignments will constitute 10% of your final grade. These may be given at any point during the class period.

These will always be written assignments, but will feature various prompts, such as (but not limited to) reflections on that day's lecture or writing your own prediction about how certain family trends will play out in the future.

As with quizzes, one in-class assignment will be dropped during the course; this means that students are only allowed to miss **one** assignment without penalty. There are no exceptions to this rule beyond the reasons listed in the excused absence policy below; therefore, if you cannot attend lecture regularly, making a high grade on assignment may be difficult for you.

Participation: In a class of this nature, it is crucial for students to speak out to develop their own ideas and/or critiques of the material. Because of this, it's imperative that everyone participate in the lecture discussions as well as those in discussion sections. You don't have to be extremely vocal all the time, but regular attendance and input in class is necessary for making a high score in this category. Participation will constitute 10% of your final grade.

Assessment Breakdown

Assessment	Percentage of Final Grade
Reflections	50
Quizzes	15
Final Essay	15
In-Class Assignments	10
Participation	10
Total	100

Late Submissions, Excused Assignments & Make-Up Assignments/Exams

For reflections, students can turn in a late submission for partial credit. There will be a 50% reduction in their grade **from the total points possible** in these situations. For example, if you submit a late reflection and your score is a 92/100, it will be listed as a 42 on Canvas. To receive partial credit, the submission must be within 24 hours of the original due date (so something due at 11:59 PM on Sunday must be submitted before 11:59 PM on Monday to receive partial credit). After this 24-hour window, students will receive a zero on the assignment.

Partial credit for late submissions only applies to reflections and quizzes, not exams.

Very important: When you view an assignment on Canvas it will show when the assignment is *due*, and also show when it is *available*. Make sure you submit your assignment by the due date for full credit. The portal will be open for 24 hours after the due date; this is only so you can submit a late assignment for partial credit.

Students who miss an assignment without an excuse may or may not be allowed to complete a make-up assignment at my discretion. Students who miss an assignment must contact me within 24 hours of the original due date if they are to be allowed the opportunity for a make-up assignment; I will not seek out students to make sure they reschedule.

In certain situations, students with legitimate excuses (university-sponsored activities, religious holidays, etc.) may be allowed to complete assignments early at my discretion. These situations may also excuse students from in-class assignments/quizzes they miss on those days. Students who will miss an assignment for these reasons must notify me at least one week in advance, and appropriate documentation must be provided.

Outside of the scenarios listed above, no early assignments will be administered.

Only one in-class assignment and one quiz will be automatically excused, regardless of the reason for additional missed assignments. This means you can only miss **one** in-class assignment and **one** quiz without penalty. If there is a legitimate reason why you miss an additional assignment you must receive documentation from the university (legitimate reasons include illness, family emergencies, or university-sponsored activities). The easiest way for you to do this is to reach out to the university Care Team (umatter@ufl.edu or by phone at 352-294-2273) and explain your situation. They will gather appropriate documentation and let me know which, if any, days you need to be excused.

Grading Scale

A	94.0–100	C	74.0–76.9
A-	90.0–93.9	C-	70.0–73.9
B+	87.0–89.9	D+	67.0–69.9
B	84.0–86.9	D	64.0–66.9
B-	80.0–83.9	D-	61.0–63.9
C+	77.0–79.9	E	≤ 59.9

Please be aware of your grade trajectory throughout the semester, and if you are concerned about your grade at any point you should speak to me about it in office hours as soon as possible. **I will not round up final grades.** Also, be aware that Canvas is only a medium for me to display your individual assignment and exam scores. Even though Canvas calculates your overall grade for you, you should always calculate your grade yourself to verify that it is correct.

Academic Misconduct

Nobody likes cheaters, so don't do it. Cheating on exams or plagiarizing of any kind is not tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly. On exams or assignments, each student must produce their own original work. All students must adhere to the UF Honor Code and standards of academic integrity found at the following link:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Class Policies

Accommodations: If you have a disability requiring accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. To receive accommodations, official documentation from the Disability Resource Center (<https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>) is required.

Office Hours and email: If you need clarification or do not understand what we discussed in class I am available to review anything with you in office hours. While I am happy to explain anything you do not understand or are having trouble with, I will not redo my entire lecture if you have missed a class; come prepared with specific questions.

If you would like to review any of your assessments, you have three days from the day the grades are posted to discuss them. Once this period has passed those grades are nonreviewable. This policy is to ensure that students are swift with their grade related questions so the professor and TA can move on to more current obligations.

Students can contact me via email on my university account (coreymczeal@ufl.edu) or through Canvas. I will do my best to reply to emails in a timely fashion. Be aware that I stop checking emails on Friday afternoon and do not resume until Monday morning; I also do not check emails on other non-business days or if the university is closed. When emailing me please put 'SYG 2000' or 'Principles of Sociology' somewhere in the subject line so I can easily identify you. Also, if contacting me through my ufl account please give your name in the email so I can identify you quickly.

I receive approximately 100,000 emails every day, so I prioritize. Although I understand that your inquiry is personally important, I will first handle emergencies and questions that require immediate responses. I will get to you eventually; if you reach out to me and enough time passes where there is reason to believe I missed your email, speak to me about it in class.

Below is a helpful table for guidance on which method of communication to utilize (also remember that you can ask quick questions in-person after lecture).

Which method should you use to communicate with Professor McZeal?	
Email	Office Hours
You have a 'yes or no' question, or a question that I can answer in one sentence	You have a question that would require more than one sentence to answer in an email
There is some issue with Canvas (e.g. readings not uploaded, assignment not visible)	You need to clarify or ask questions about concepts from lecture/readings
You would like to schedule Zoom office hours	You have questions about preparing for an upcoming assessment
You are ill (or have some other health related issue) and need to attend lecture remotely	You would like to discuss strategies for improving your performance in class
You have a grade-related question about a specific assignment (<i>in this case, email me to set up an office hours meeting since I only discuss grades in-person; let me know what aspect of the assignment you want to discuss, and I will look over it in preparation of our meeting</i>)	You would like to have a conversation about something that is not class-related

Other Suggestions

1. Take good notes (this seems obvious but it's surprising how many students do not take very good notes). Having the lecture PowerPoints may not be enough on its own to effectively study for the tests. If you need advice on how to take better notes, I am happy to assist you.
2. Building on the previous point, remember that I will provide the PowerPoints to you after we've finished a lecture. Therefore, you will have access to all of them prior to your exam. Don't waste time copying anything that I will provide later anyway.
3. There are no stupid questions, so if you do not understand a concept ask for clarification.
4. I will not lend out lecture notes to people who miss class, but if you miss class I am happy to go over anything from the PowerPoint that you need more clarification on during office hours.
5. **This is very important:** If there is a circumstance that affects your ability to fulfill your class duties, discuss this with me as early as possible. Similarly, if you are concerned about your grade at any point, discuss it with me immediately. Every year I encounter students who contact me during the last week of school inquiring about how they can improve their grades. Our options are very limited at this point, so please take care of these issues early on.
6. Utilize UF's academic resources such as tutoring and other services through the Teaching Center (<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>). You can use them for this class and any others in which you need assistance. Many of these services are free and can be very helpful.

Helpful Links

- Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call (352) 392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Call (352) 392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).

- Visit the [UF Police Department website](#) or call (352) 392-1111 (or 911 for emergencies).
- For immediate medical care call (352) 733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#) for more information.
- Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at (352) 392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu for E-learning technical support.
- For career assistance and counseling services visit the [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, (352) 392-1601.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with using the libraries or finding resources.
- For general study skills and tutoring visit the [Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, (352) 392-2010 or (352) 392-6420 to make an appointment.
- For help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers visit the [Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138.
- On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I refer to you by your first name?

A: No.

Q: Are we going to have an ICA on [insert date here]?

A: I don't know. I typically decide whether or not there will be an in-class assignment a few minutes before class starts, so I can't tell you ahead of time whether there will be one or not.

Q: Can I be excused from the ICA we completed during the last class? I missed it because of [insert excuse here].

A: The only excused absences are those outlined in the make-up policy above. Unless your absence is covered by the description above, you will receive a zero for missing in-class assignments.

Q: Can I be excused from the ICA we completed during the last class? I had an exam for another class at that time.

A: No, please do not schedule exams for other courses during this class.

Q: Why don't you post the PowerPoints before class? I want to have them prior to the lecture because [insert reason here].

A: I simply prefer to wait until the lecture is over before posting the PowerPoint. Once class is over you will have access to all information covered in the lecture.

Q: When should I attend office hours?

A: Any conceptual/lecture related questions, questions about assignments, or general inquiries are for office hours. You also don't have to have a specific reason to come to office hours, sometimes people show up to talk about things that are not related to class.

Q: Oh no! My reflection didn't upload properly/the power went out in my apartment when I was uploading/I completely forgot about the assignment/I had 15 exams this week and didn't prioritize your class/I had more important things to do! And now I have a zero on Canvas for that reflection! Can I turn it in late?

A: No, I do not accept late assignments (after the 24-hour window for late credit specified above). Even if it's one minute late. I do this so everyone is treated the same way without exception. I understand you are busy, but almost everyone else in this class is busy too. Please be proactive and submit your assignments early enough to avoid this situation; if you encounter technical issues, there will be time for you to email me and let me know before the deadline. It is much easier to deal with problems before the deadline than it is to retroactively fix them.

Q: I promise I posted my reflection on Canvas, but now it's not there anymore and it says my assignment is missing? Can you accept it late?

A: No, we grade assignments that are on Canvas by the deadline. It's your responsibility to make sure your assignment is online and visible.

Q: You're so mean for not allowing me to turn in late assignments!

A: Yes.

Q: Can I attend office hours to discuss that assignment that was graded two days ago?

A: Yes, students are encouraged to come to office hours with any questions that they have about grades on assignments or exams as long as it is within the three-day window (see next question).

Q: Can I attend office hours to take a look at that assignment that was graded four weeks ago?

A: No. You are welcome to attend office hours with any questions you have about a grade, but you must do this within three days of the grade being posted. Once this deadline has passed, these grades are nonreviewable.

Q: Is there anything I can do for extra points?

A: There are no extra points in this class. Please be aware of your grade throughout the semester and speak to me if you are not on your desired trajectory instead of asking for extra points at the end of the semester. The earlier you identify an issue, the easier it is for us to work on it.

Q: Can you round up my grade? I'm so close to an A!

A: No, I will not round up grades. Everyone receives the letter grade equivalent to the final numeric score you have at the end of the semester. Please do not ask this question, I hate when people ask this question.

Q: Can you write a letter of recommendation for me?

A: That's conditional. I have written recommendations for former students who are going to graduate school, applying for scholarships/internships, etc. However, if I'm going to write a letter for you I need to be sure of two things: 1) I actually know who you are and some things about you, and 2) you performed well in my class. I want to be able to write something that is both personal and complimentary. If I have never spoken to you it's tough for me to tell someone else how great you are. And if you never showed up to class or blew off all of my assignments, I won't have very good things to say about you.

Without establishing some sort of boundaries I would receive far too many rec letter requests to manage. So, if you'd like me to write you a letter I am happy to, but you must establish some sort of contact with me *while you're in my class* so we can build rapport. There are no exceptions to this; if I receive an email from a student requesting a letter and they do not fit these criteria, I will politely decline. The reason is because writing a personalized letter of recommendation is a time-consuming and I want to reserve that time for students who I actually know.

Course Schedule

(R) refers to required readings

Week	Class Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Aug. 24-26	Introduction to the Course – Defining Sociological Theory	(R) Robert Jackall and Arthur Vidich – Series Preface – <i>Main Trends of the Modern World</i> (PDF)
2	Aug. 29-Sep. 2	The Origins of Sociology	(R) Auguste Comte – Excerpt from <i>The Positive Philosophy</i> (PDF) Herbert Spencer – "The Scope of Sociology", <i>The Principles of Sociology</i> (PDF)
3	Sep. 5-9	<i>(Sep. 5 is a university holiday; no class)</i> The Emergence of the Conflict Perspective	(R) Ritzer – Chapter 2 – "Karl Marx" in <i>Sociological Theory</i>
4	Sep. 12-16	The Emergence of the Conflict Perspective	(R) Karl Marx – Preface and "Opposition of The Materialist and Idealist Outlook" <i>The German Ideology</i> (PDF)
5	Sep.19-23	The Development of Sociology as a Discipline	(R) Ritzer - Chapter 3 – "Emile Durkheim" in <i>Sociological Theory</i> Emile Durkheim – Preface I and II – <i>The Rules of Sociological Method</i> (pp. 31-47) (PDF) Charlotte Perkins Gilman – Preface and Chapter I, <i>Women and Economics</i> (PDF)
6	Sep. 26-30	Social Structure and Human Interaction	(R) Ritzer – Chapter 4 – "Max Weber" in <i>Sociological Theory</i> Max Weber – "Science as a Vocation" in <i>From Max Weber</i> (PDF) Jane Addams – "Charitable Effort", <i>Democracy and Social Ethics</i> (PDF)
7	Oct. 3-7	Structural Functionalism <i>(Oct. 7 is a university holiday; no class)</i>	(R) Ritzer – Chapter 7 - "Structural Functionalism" – in <i>Sociological Theory</i> Talcott Parsons - "The Place of Sociological Theory" in <i>The Social System</i> (PDF) (R) Robert Merton - "Manifest and Latent Functions" in <i>Social Theory and Social Structure</i> (pp. 73-91) (PDF)

8	Oct. 10-14	Conflict Theory	(R) C. Wright Mills - "The Promise," "On Politics," <i>The Sociological Imagination</i> (PDF)
9	Oct. 17-21	Symbolic Interactionism	(R) Ritzer - Chapter 10 - "Symbolic Interaction" in <i>Sociological Theory</i> Herbert Blumer - "Society as Symbolic Interaction" and "Sociological Analysis and the Variable" in <i>Symbolic Interactionism</i> (PDF) Erving Goffman - Introduction to <i>Frame Analysis</i> (pp. 1-20) (PDF)
10	Oct. 24-28	Postmodernism / Poststructuralism	(R) E.C. Cuff – pp. 233-241 on poststructuralism in <i>Perspectives in Sociology</i> (PDF) (R) E.C. Cuff – pp. 286 – 289 – on Lyotard in <i>Perspectives in Sociology</i> (PDF) (R) Ritzer – pp. 611 – 621 Foucault and postmodernism in <i>Sociological Theory</i> Michel Foucault – "What is Enlightenment" <i>Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth</i> (PDF)
11	Oct. 31-Nov. 4	Gender Theory	(R) Ritzer – Chapter 13 – "Contemporary Feminist Theory" in <i>Sociological Theory</i> (R) Dorothy Smith – "Sociological Theory: Methods of Writing Patriarchy" in <i>Feminism and Sociological Theory</i> (Ruth Wallace editor, pp. 34-64) (PDF) (R) bell hooks - "Black Women Shaping Feminist Theory" in <i>Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center</i> (PDF)
12	Nov. 7-11	Theories of Race and Ethnicity	(R) Ashley Crossman – "The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity" (with Dubois Section) (PDF) (R) Sandra Soo-Jin Lee – "Race and the Science of Difference in the Age of Genomics" in <i>Theories of Race and Ethnicity</i> (PDF) (R) Stephen Steinberg - "Dilemmas and Contradictions of Ethnic Pluralism in America", in <i>The Ethnic Myth: Race, Ethnicity and Class in America</i> (PDF)

13	Nov. 14-18	Critical Theory	<p>(R) Ritzer – pp. 282-293 and pp. 537-542 – in <i>Sociological Theory</i></p> <p>(R) Douglas Kellner -"Critical Theory Today: Revisiting the Classics" in <i>Theory, Culture, and Society</i>, Vol. 10: pp. 43-60. (PDF)</p> <p>Jürgen Habermas - "The Tasks of a Critical Theory of Society" in <i>The Theory of Communicative Action II</i> (pp. 374-403) (PDF)</p>
14	Nov. 21-25	<i>No class this week</i>	
15	Nov. 28-Dec. 2	Agency Structure Integration	<p>(R) Anthony Giddens – in Ritzer – <i>Sociological Theory</i>, pp. 520-525</p> <p>(R) Pierre Bourdieu – in Ritzer – <i>Sociological Theory</i>, pp. 526-537</p>
16	Dec. 5-end of semester	<i>No class this week</i>	

Misc.

Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Recording Lectures: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include: student presentations, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.