

Janna Tamargo
Department of Sociology

University of Florida
Liberal Arts and Sciences

Development of Sociological Thought SYA4110, Spring 2022 – Online

Course Creator: Heidi Steinour, PhD

Instructor: Janna Tamargo 3219 Turlington Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611-7330, Phone: (352) 294-7193

Email: jannamtamargo@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Virtual Office address:
<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98293165641?pwd=cE13am1mc2dzUi9lVVFQTRRWmIzZz09>

Course Website: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Required Texts: Copies can be purchased at the campus bookstore or online.

George Ritzer, Sociological Theory (8th or 9th edition is fine.) McGraw--Hill.

Best, Steven, & Kellner, Douglas. (1991). Postmodern Theory: Critical interrogations. Cambridge University Press.

Connell, Raewyn. (2007). Southern Theory: Social Science And The Global Dynamics Of Knowledge. 1st Edition, Polity Publishing.

Course Description: A comparative, critical study of the principal contributors to the development of classical and contemporary sociological thought. This course emphasizes the relevance of these ideas in contemporary sociological thought and current social issues.

In this course we will critically examine and compare major theoretical orientations through which sociologists have understood the nature and composition of society. This course will focus on exploring what factors contribute to understanding the social world, including discussions on social order, self-control, political and economic systems, the role of science, power, action, behavior, and individual motivation. Our goal will be to examine how each theoretical perspective provides insight into ongoing social and political issues as well as discover how these theories help you make sense of the world around you. The fabric of this course will combine short video lectures, reading materials, group-based activities, and application assignments. Course assessments include: reading and applying information, critiques, exams, and participation in group discussions and questions.

This class will consist of several weekly assignments, readings, and lectures that students are required to engage in. Each week there is a video lecture by the course creator, Dr. Heidi Steinour, to complement your weekly readings. These lectures are designed to supplement and clarify key points from your readings. However, they are not meant to supplement your readings. Additionally, there may be a secondary video that further explores concepts needed for your assignments.

Once you have completed the readings and lectures you will be required to complete a weekly quiz, contribute to a weekly discussion board (and respond to another student), and submit a concept analysis paper. Instructions and rubrics for these assignments will be posted on the course website. You may also find the content for each week listed under the appropriate module, along with all due dates. If you have any questions or need clarification, please email me, or visit me during my office hours.

Course Goals and/or Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Articulate the underlying assumptions of key sociological theorists and their conclusions about the social world.
- Describe and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of sociological theories
- Illustrate how these theories inform our understanding of contemporary society.
- Effectively write and communicate theoretical ideas through group activities, critiques, and written assignments.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy: To succeed in this class, you must log into the course regularly since part of your grade will be assessed by your engagement in the online discussions and the extent to which your posts demonstrate your understanding of the course materials. We will be covering lots of information in a short period of time and materials on the tests will draw from online lectures, readings, videos, and examples. Therefore, it is in your best interest to log into class as much as possible. Absences will only be excused if instructor is notified before assignments are due and if the request is approved.

For more information about UF attendance policies, please visit:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Quiz/Exam Policy: All students are required without exception to take all quizzes and exams during the scheduled time listed in the syllabus. Make-up quizzes or exams will only be offered in very limited circumstances. Students must discuss these circumstances with the instructor prior to the exam being administered.

Make-up Policy: Make-up work will not be offered except under very limited circumstances. Student will need to inform instructor of any extenuating circumstances that will result in missed assignments or classwork. Contact with instructor is required prior to the deadline of the

assignment, if possible. Otherwise, student must reach out to instructor with requests and documentation within 48 hours. Extensions or make-up work may be requested via email in the case of personal emergencies or university excused documentation.

Assignment Policy: Late assignments will not be accepted. All students are required, without exception, to take the exams during the scheduled times in the syllabus. Make-up work and exams will not be offered except under very limited circumstances. Extensions may be requested by email in the case of personal emergencies.

Course Technology: This is an online course, and you will always need access to a working computer and internet connection. This course will take place using the University of Florida's Canvas Website.

Grading Policies

According to department policy, a "C" grade or better is required for this course to count toward your sociology major. Students who are unable to meet this requirement must take the course again. Please contact me if you have concerns about your grade.

For more information about UF grading policies please visit:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradingpolicies>

This is a reading intensive course. On average students are expected to read articles, book chapters, or a short book each week. Students are expected to discuss and identify key concepts from readings in weekly discussion sessions. Your success in this course will be dependent on your ability to comprehend theoretical ideas and be prepared to participate online as we work through each major framework.

Assignments

Personal Information Card: Students are required to create a personal information card detailing information about themselves and their interest in social theory. You may choose to share your background, your interests in social theory, your plans, or something unique about you. I will provide further information on the discussion board. This assignment allows me to get to know each of you and understand your background and interests in this course as well as introduce you to your classmates. These will be due the first week of class.

Concept Analysis: Each week students are responsible for responding to the prompt provided to analyze the themes and concepts from that week's materials. In this analysis students may be asked to identify key concepts, summarize concept relevance to social theory, analyze strength and weaknesses, or apply concepts to a current event or social issue. Concept analysis papers should demonstrate student's understanding of key concepts and the importance of these concepts to the broader field of social thought. Additionally, applying theoretical concepts to today's social issues ensures that students are able to use and evaluate concepts they have learned throughout the semester. Concept analysis papers should be typed, double-spaced, and

free from grammatical errors. More information is provided on the course website. **Concept papers are due Sunday by 11:59pm ET every week.**

Discussion Board: Students are required to participate in the Discussion Thread (which can be found under discussion). Instructions will be found at the top of the Discussion Thread, and this will take the place of the typical in-class discussions. Students will be divided into groups to participate in the discussion forum. **Original posts to discussion boards are due THURSDAY at 11:59pm ET each week and replies are due by Sunday at 11:59 pm ET.**

Students are expected to participate in the discussion threads for each chapter as we proceed through the class. Students are **required** to post one discussion comment per week (**for a total of 15 threads**). Students are also responsible for responding to at least one student post in Modules 2-14 (**for a total of 13 responses**). **It is important to note that you must respond once a week to the discussion prompt and reply to at least one thread from a fellow student throughout the course (in M2-14) to get full credit for discussion posts.**

I will post a discussion question(s) for each chapter/topic. Discussion questions may ask students to apply that week's theory to personal experience, a current event, or media content.

Posts should demonstrate your ability to evaluate theories, concepts, and ideas presented in class and integrate these concepts into your analysis of the experience or event you choose. This activity is meant to help advance your ability to analyze the world around you and ensure that you can bridge the gap between theory and your everyday life. The discussions will be multi-directional, and each post should be typed and double-spaced.

Discussion posts will be graded based on the following criteria:

Deadline: Did you meet the required deadlines, and did you post at least 15 original entries and respond to at least 13 of your fellow students? Students are welcome to post more if they wish.

Grammar: Are your posts free of grammatical errors? Do you use complete and correct sentences?

Content: Does your post dive deeply into the course materials and integrate key concepts effectively?

Outside Resources: Do you provide outside resources (media, news, literature, events) to illustrate the points you are making?

Evidence of Reading: Does your post demonstrate that you have completed the readings and have a strong understanding of the course materials?

More information will be available on the rubric posted online.

Weekly Assessment Quiz: Every week students will be required to complete a ten-question weekly assessment quiz consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate student's understanding of the key concepts and conclusions of each sociological perspective. Students are encouraged to read the assigned materials and watch the video lectures prior to taking the quiz. Engagement in the discussion board activity and group critique presentations will also enhance student's understanding of overall course materials.

Please refer to course policies for information about make-up assignments. **Quizzes are due Friday by 11:59pm ET each week.**

Exams: There will be two, timed exams on topics from the lectures, class discussion, group critique presentations, and required readings. Each exam will consist of 15 multiple-choice questions each worth 1 point and 5 short essay questions each worth 3 points for a total of 30 points.

Exam 1 will cover the first half of the course and will take place at the conclusion of module 7 and will be due by February 20 before 11:59pm.

Exam 2 will cover the second half of the course. This exam is not cumulative and will be due by April 20th before 11:59pm ET. More information will be available online.

Final grades will be available via one.ufl.edu after the completion of the semester. You can check the status of your grade anytime on Canvas. The final grade scale may be adjusted at the discretion of the instructors.

Grades: A (93-100) A- (90-92) B (84-86) B+ (87-89) B- (80-83) C (74-76) C+ (77-79) C- (70-73) D (64-66) D+ (67-69) D- (60-63) E, I, NG, WF (59-0)

| Assignment | Points or Percentage |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Concept Analysis | 20% |
| Discussion Board | 25% |
| Tests | 30% |
| Weekly Quizzes | 20% |
| Personal Information | 5% |

Course Schedule*

*This syllabus represents current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

| Week | Topic | Reading | Assignment |
|------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Introduction to Social Theory | Ritzer: Chapter 1 Blumer, H. (1954): "What is Wrong with Social Theory?" | Quiz 1 Personal Information Card |
| 2 | Karl Marx | Ritzer: Chapter 2 Karl Marx: Preface and "Opposition of the Material and Idealist Outlook" <i>The German Ideology</i> | Quiz 2 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 3 | Structural Functionalism | Ritzer: Chapters 3 & 7 (Section on Structural Functionalism only) | Quiz 3 |

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| | | Emile Durkheim – Preface I and II – <i>The Rules of Sociological Method</i> (pp. 31- 47) Talcott Parsons - "The Place of Sociological Theory" in <i>The Social System</i> | Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 4 | Conflict Theory | C. Wright Mills - "The Promise", <i>The Sociological Imagination</i> (pp. 3-24) C. Wright Mills - "On Politics" <i>The Sociological Imagination</i> (pp. 177-194) Connell, Raewyn. (2007). Southern Theory Chapter 1 | Quiz 4 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 5 | Max Weber | Ritzer: Chapter 4 Max Weber – “Science as a Vocation,” From <i>Max Weber: Essays In Sociology</i> | Quiz 5 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 6 | Symbolic Interactionism | Ritzer: Chapter 9 (in the 8th edition, Chapter 10 in the 6th & 7th edition) Blumer, Herbert. (1969). “Society as Symbolic Interaction.” in <i>Symbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method</i> . Berkeley: University of California Press. Selection: p. 78-89 Goffman, Erving. ”Introduction” in <i>Frame Analysis</i> (pp.1-20) | Quiz 6 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 7 | Agency Structure Integration | Ritzer: Chapter 14 (in the 7th & 8th edition, Chapter 15 in the 6th edition) Collins, Randal. (1981). On the Microfoundations of Macrosociology. <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> , 86, 984- 1014. Connell, Raewyn. (2007) Southern Theory. Chapter 2 | Quiz 7 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis EXAM 1 DUE BY MIDNIGHT (11:59 PM) FEBRUARY 20 |
| 8 | Social Constructionism | Berger, Peter and Thomas Luckmann. 1966. <i>The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge</i> . New York: Doubleday. Selection: Pages: 47-92. | Quiz 8 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 9 | Feminism | Ritzer: Chapter 12 (in the 8th edition & in the 6th edition, chapter 13 in the 7th edition) | Quiz 9 |

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--|--|
| | | Dorothy Smith - "Sociological Theory: Methods of Writing Patriarchy" in <i>Feminism and Sociological Theory</i> Hooks, Bell. "Black Women Shaping Feminism" FTR, pp. 50-56. | Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 10 | Poststructuralism/Foucault | Best, Steven, & Kellner, Douglas. (1997). <i>Postmodern Theory</i> . Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. Selection: Chapter 1 & 2 Foucault, Michel. [1975] 1995. <i>Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison</i> . New York: Vintage. Selections: "Panopticism" (195-228). | Quiz 10 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| | | *Suggested: Derrida, Jacques. (1997). <i>Deconstruction in a Nutshell</i> . Fordham University Press. Selection: Deconstruction in a Nutshell, The Very Idea! | |
| 11 | Postmodern Thought | Best, Steven, & Kellner, Douglas. (1997). <i>Postmodern Theory</i> . Cambridge, Cambridge University. Selection: Chapter 4 (pgs. 118-136) Chapter 5 (pgs. 162-178) Chapter 6 (pgs. 200-214) | Quiz 11 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 12 | Critical Theory | Best, Steven, & Kellner, Douglas. (1997). <i>Postmodern Theory</i> . Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. Selection: Chapter 7 & 8 | Quiz 12 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 13 | Actor-Network Theory | Bruno Latour. <i>Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network Theory</i> (pp. 37-50) | Quiz 13 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 14 | Queer Theory | Seidman, Steven. (1997). <i>Difference Troubles: Queering social theory and sexual politics</i> . Cambridge University Press. Selection: Chapter 7, Deconstructing Queer Theory | Quiz 14 Discussion Board & Concept Analysis |
| 15 | Southern Theory | Connell, Raewyn. <i>Southern Theory</i> (2007). | Quiz 15 and Discussion Board |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | | Required: Chapters 7 (pp. 146-155) and 10. Choice of Chapter 4, 5, or 6. Review Chapters 1 & 2 | EXAM 2 DUE AT MIDNIGHT (11:59PM) APRIL 20 |
|--|--|---|--|

University Policies

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here](#) to get started with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. UF guidelines can be found here: https://www.cise.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/CISE_Netiquette_Guide.pdf

Getting Help

Technical Difficulties

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at: <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress. <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services. <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

Other resources for help are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help>

Student 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/>.

COVID-19

This course will follow the guidelines provided by the university. UF policy COVID-19 updates can be found here: <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/university-updates/>