

DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIOLOGICAL THOUGHT

Spring 2025 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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Email: rfernandezromero@ufl.edu

Zoom office hours: [Thursdays 8:30 – 10:30 AM](#)

Lectures by Heidi Steinour, PhD

This is an asynchronous course. The class will be entirely online, and all work will be completed using Canvas.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

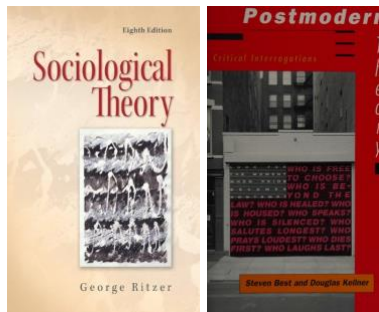
I acknowledge that the University of Florida rests on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the Potano (Timucua) and the Seminole people. I extend my respect and acknowledge the historical and ongoing impact of colonization on Indigenous communities. I also recognize the enslaved peoples, primarily of African descent, whose labor was used to build much of this university.

PREFERRED COMMUNICATION METHOD

I ask that you communicate with me through the Canvas messaging feature. I will only address emails Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. I make every effort to reply to emails within 24-48 hours (except on weekends and during holidays).

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL

There are two required textbooks for this class. Additional readings can be found on Canvas.



Ritzer, George. *Sociological Theory* (8th or 9th edition). McGraw Hill.

Best, Steven and Douglas Kellner. 1991. *Postmodern Theory: Critical Interrogations*. Cambridge University Press.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course offers an in-depth exploration of both classic and contemporary social theorists and their contributions to the field of sociology. Throughout the semester, we will explore the historical contexts that shaped each theorist's thinking, particularly how these conditions informed their understanding of the social world. The course further emphasizes the relevance of these theories in interpreting current social issues and their ongoing influence on the development of contemporary sociological thought.

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

- Identify key contributions made by social theorists
- Explain the relevance of classical and contemporary theories and how they inform our social world
- Effectively apply social theories to current social issues
- Analyze and critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of each social theory

COURSE COMPONENTS

Your grade will be based on a single introduction discussion post, theory applications, an object of study, quizzes, and a final exam. Please note that I will not round up grades. If you would like to discuss your grade at any point during the semester, please see me during office hours. You must do this within a week of your grade being posted.

Introduction Discussion: 2% of final grade

We will have a discussion board where students will introduce themselves. The discussion will be available on Monday, January 13, through Friday, January 17. While it is not required, you are encouraged to respond to classmates.

Theory Applications: 29% of final grade

Each week, beginning with Module 2, you will have a chance to submit a theory application assignment. You have 12 opportunities, and only 7 will count towards your grade. This assignment will allow you to think about the social theories discussed in each module and apply them to current phenomena and events. The theory you apply to each theory application assignment must correspond to the theory and concepts in that module. Theory applications are due on Fridays at 11:59 PM.

Object of study: 19% of final grade

I will be randomly assigning students to different modules/chapters. Based on the week you're assigned, you will create or find an item that reflects the material for that given week. To receive full credit, you will submit a picture or a digital copy of the chosen item and a three-paragraph discussion/reflection.

Quizzes: 20% of final grade

Each module will include a quiz. There are 13 quizzes, and I will drop your lowest 3 quiz grades, meaning only 10 quizzes will count towards your grade. Quizzes will be available every Monday at midnight and remain open until 11:59 PM on Friday. Each quiz is composed of 5 multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions, and you will have 20 minutes to complete it.

Final Exam: 30% of final grade

The final will cover material from Modules TBD. The exam will consist of 30 questions, including multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. This exam is proctored online through Honorlock.

Grades will be calculated on the following components:

Introduction Discussion	2%
Theory applications	29%
Object of study	19%
Quizzes	20%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

Accordingly, final course grades will be based on the following grading scale:

A	90 – 100%
B+	84 – 89%
B	83 – 80%
C+	74 – 79%
C	73 – 70%
D	69 – 60%
E	59 – 0%

THE USE OF AI

The use of AI, such as ChatGPT, is permitted as long as your use of AI follows UF's Student Honor Code (see UF's Honor Code) and you cite it in your work. If you are using AI, you must acknowledge the use through in-text citations. Additionally, at the end of your paper, you **must** include a note answering the following: (1) how you used AI (including but not limited to word choice, grammar, sentence or paragraph structure, brainstorming, etc.), (2) why it was necessary for you to use AI for that specific assignment, and (3) a link to you chat log. **Note:** do not delete the chat you link until the assignment is graded. Students who use AI without acknowledging its use may receive a 0 on the assignment. [Info on how to share a chat log.](#)

[AI and its impact on the environment.](#)

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS

I understand you have other obligations outside of my class. If you know you will need an extension, reach out to me at least 12 hours before an assignment is due.

It is up to my discretion if I allow you to make up a missed assignment. If you miss an assignment and email me to make it up, you must email me within 12 hours of the missed deadline. If you miss an assignment that requires you to upload a document, it is a good idea to include the completed assignment in your email.

In certain situations, students with legitimate excuses (court-imposed legal obligations, university-sponsored activities, religious holidays, etc.) or accommodations through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) may be allowed to take an exam early at my discretion. For these reasons, students who will miss an assignment or exam must notify me at least one week in advance, and appropriate documentation must be provided. Regardless of the reason for missing an exam, all students who take a make-up will have an all-written test (no true/false or multiple-choice questions).

DRC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the “[Get Started With the DRC](#)” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. 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.

GATOR EVALS

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 [here](#).

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 [here](#).

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Florida holds its students to the highest standards, and we encourage students to read the University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040) so they are aware of our standards. Any violation of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral to the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution and may result in academic sanctions and further student conduct action. The two greatest threats to the academic integrity of the University of Florida are cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware of their faculty’s policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium.

All UF students are bound by the UF honor code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Health and Wellness

The Alan and Cathy Hitchcock Field & Fork Food Pantry: Members of the UF community may visit the food [pantry](#) to receive pantry staples.

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please get in touch with umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit the [U Matter, We Care](#) website to refer or report a concern, and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

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.

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](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal well-being, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-2734450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-3921601. Career assistance and counseling services. Visit the [Career Connections Center website](#).

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309, email ask@ufl.libanswers.com, or [visit their website](#) for more information.

Writing Studio: Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. More info can be found on their [website](#).

TENTATIVE FALL 2024 CLASS SCHEDULE

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice.
Changes will be announced on Canvas.
All assignments are due by 11:59 PM unless otherwise stated.*

Week	Due Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments
1	MODULE 0 – INTRODUCTORY MODULE	
		Review the syllabus
	Friday, January 17	Introduction Discussion
	MODULE 1 – INTRO TO SOCIAL THEORY	
		Read: Ritzer – Chapter 1 <i>Optional: Blumer – what’s wrong with social theory</i> Watch: Video lecture
	Friday, January 17	Quiz 1
3	MODULE 2 – KARL MARX	
		Read: Ritzer – Chapter 2 Read: Preface and “Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook” Watch: Video lecture
	Friday, January 24	Quiz 2 Theory Application 1
4	MODULE 3 – CONFLICT THEORY	
		Read: Connell – Chapter 1: “Empire and the creation of a social science” Read: Mills – “The Promise” Read: Mills – “On Politics” Watch: Video lecture
	Friday, January 31	Quiz 3

		Theory Application 2
5	MODULE 4 – DURKHEIM & STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONALISM	
		Read: Ritzer – Chapters 3 & 7 Read: Durkheim – Preface I and II Watch: Video lecture
	Friday, February 7	Quiz 4 Theory Application 3
6	MODULE 5 – MAX WEBER	
		Read: Ritzer – Chapter 4 Watch: Video lecture
	Friday, February 14	Quiz 5 Theory Application 4
7	MODULE 6 – SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONSISM	
		Read: Ritzer – Chapter 10 Read: Blumer – “Society as Symbolic Interaction” Watch: Video lecture
	Friday, February 21	Quiz 6 Theory Application 5
8	MODULE 7- AGENCY-STRUCTURE DEBATE	
		Read: Ritzer – Chapter 15 Read: Collins “On the Microfoundations of Macrosociology” Read: Connell – Chapter 2 “Modern general theory and its hidden assumption” Watch: Video lecture
	Friday, February 28	Quiz 7 Theory Application 6
9	MODULE 8 – SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONISM	
		Read: Berger & Luckman – <i>The Social Construction of Reality</i> pgs. 63-110 Watch: Video lecture
	Friday, March 7	Quiz 8 Theory Application 7
10	MODULE 9 – FEMINISM	
		Read: Ritzer – Chapter 13 Read: Smith – “Sociological Theory: Methods of Writing Patriarchy” Read: hooks – “Black Women Shaping Feminism” Watch: Video lecture
	Friday, March 14	Quiz 9 Theory Application 8
NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK 3/15-3/22		
11	MODULE 10 – POSTSTRUCTURALISM & FOUCAULT	

		<p>Read: Best & Kellner – Chapter 1 “In Search of the Postmodern”</p> <p>Read: Best & Kellner – Chapter 2 “Foucault and the Critique of Modernity”</p> <p>Read: Foucault – “Panopticism”</p> <p>Watch: Video lecture</p>
	Friday, March 28	<p>Quiz 10</p> <p>Theory Application 9</p>
	MODULE 11 – POSTMODERN THOUGHT	
12		<p>Read: Best & Kellner – Chapter 4 “Baudrillard en route to Postmodernity”</p> <p>Read: Best & Kellner – Chapter 5 “Lyotard and Postmodern Gaming”</p> <p>Read: Best & Kellner – Chapter 6 “Marxism, Feminism, and Political Postmodernism”</p> <p>Watch: Video lecture</p>
	Friday, April 4	<p>Quiz 11</p> <p>Theory Application 10</p>
	MODULE 12 – CRITICAL THEORY	
13		<p>Read: Best & Kellner – Chapter 7 “Critical Theory and Post Modern Theory”</p> <p>Read: Best & Kellner – Chapter 8 “Towards The Reconstruction Of Critical Social Theory”</p> <p>Watch: Video lecture</p>
	Friday, April 11	<p>Quiz 12</p> <p>Theory Application 11</p>
	MODULE 13 – QUEER THEORY	
14		<p>Read: Ritzer – Chapter 18 – Queer theory sections pgs. 645-652</p> <p>Read: Seidman – “Deconstructing Queer Theory”</p> <p>Watch: Video lecture</p>
	Friday, April 18	<p>Quiz 13</p> <p>Theory Application 12</p>
	MODULE 14 – FINAL EXAM	
16	Wednesday, April 30	Final Exam