

SEMINAR IN SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SOCI 5310

FALL 2017

Online Graduate Class

Instructor: Dr. Alessandro Bonanno
Office: CHSS 270p
Online Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am- 5:00 pm
Not available on week-end or official University Holidays
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Required Texts:

*George Ritzer and Jeffrey Stepnisky. *Classical Sociological Theory*, **Seventh Edition** Los Angeles: SAGE.

*George Ritzer and Jeffrey Stepnisky, *Modern Sociological Theory*, **Eighth Edition** Los Angeles: SAGE.

*Emile Durkheim. *The Division of Labor in Society*

*Max Weber. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

*Karl Marx *The Communist Manifesto*

Additional Optional Readings (it includes books to be reviewed [in bold])

*Ulrich Beck *The Risk Society*

*Emile Durkheim, *The Rules of Sociological Method*

Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics

Erwin Goffman, *Stigma

*Max Horkheimer, *Traditional and Critical Theory*.

*Herbert Marcuse, *One Dimensional-Man*

*Karl Marx, *Capital*, Vol. One.

*George Ritzer, *The MacDonaldization Thesis*

*Max Weber, *Methodology of the Social Sciences*.

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

The course is a historical survey of the most significant 19th, 20th and 21st, century developments in Sociological theory with emphasis placed on the relevance of classic sociological theory in the formation and development of contemporary sociological theory. The characteristics and origins of major sociological schools are explored including the study of the works and ideas of Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx and Max Weber. Additionally, illustrations of the basic assumptions of Neo-Marxism, Critical Theory, Interactionism, Functionalism and Postmodernism are provided. Accounts of these paradigms are presented together with their theoretical ramifications.

After completing this seminar, students should have a good knowledge of Sociological Theories. They should be able to use these theories in their sociological work and be able to understand scientific publications on pertinent issues.

Evaluation, Credit and Letter Grades

Students are required to take 10 tests over the course of the semester. However, **only 7** of these 10 tests will be employed to calculate the class grade. The lower three test scores will be excluded from the final grade calculation. **Students may take only 7 of the 10 tests. The tests that are not taken will be excluded from the class grade. Students are encouraged to take all the 10 tests. Again, the lowest three grades will be excluded from the calculation of the final grade.** The dates of each of the tests are indicated in the course calendar below. The exams consist of short essays. The title of each of the essays will be provided at test time. These essays will require students to elaborate on assigned class material and are designed to evaluate the student's knowledge of appropriate theories and his/her ability to scientifically employ them. Each essay should be at least 600 words or longer and will count for 10 possible points. Students have one (1) hour to complete the test. Those who will take more time will be assessed one-point penalty for every 3 extra minutes used. Essays that are shorter than 600 words will receive a maximum grade of 7. **Test grades will constitute 70 percent of the final grade (10 points are available for each test).** Tests will be offered from **12:00 am (midnight) to 11:59 pm** on exam days. Students need to be available to take the tests at these times. No additional test times will be available.

An additional 10 percent (10 points) will be assigned for the **submission of book reviews**. There will be **5 book reviews** assigned during the semester and students are required to submit their reviews by the assigned deadline. Late reviews will not be accepted. For each book review a maximum of 2 points is available. For book reviews deadlines see the class schedule. Samples of book reviews are posted on blackboard and students should follow the format of these sample book reviews. (Students are not required to buy the books to be reviewed). Each book review should be at least 1,000 words. Shorter book reviews will not be accepted.

The final 20 percent (20 points) will be awarded for substantive participation in class discussions. For each assigned topic a discussion topic will be introduced. Students are required to post comments that reflect their knowledge and understanding of the topic. They need to employ their sociological theory. Posts should be substantive and should advance discussion. Posts that simply agree with other posts and/or do not advance discussion should not be entered. A total of 10 discussion topics will be available. For each discussion topic a maximum of two points (2) is available.

The class letter grade will be assigned according to the following chart:

A = More than 90 percent of all available points

B = Between 89 and 80 percent all of available points

C = Between 70 and 79 percent all of available points

F = Below 70 percent of all available points

The grade of C is the lowest passing grade. To maintain good standing within the Sociology Graduate Program, students must maintain a grade average of B or better.

It is the student responsibility to be available for test days and times. It is also the student responsibility to have access to the internet and an appropriate device (computer tablet or cellphone) at test time.

Make up exams

There will be no make-up exams for this class.

Attendance

Students are expected to be online regularly during the course of the semester, with the exception of week-end and holidays. It is their responsibility to be informed on assignments and other items published on blackboard. Students should make sure that the course activities are compatible with their schedule. In the event that they cannot meet the requirements of this course, they should drop it and take it at a different time.

Dr. Bonanno's Availability

Dr. Bonanno will be available online during University business hours (8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Central Time) during the course of the semester. He will not be available after hours, week-end and holiday.

Religious Holy days

Students who wish to reschedule an assigned test in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to Dr. Bonanno a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first three days of the semester. Please check the following website: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty

SHSU expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of the academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Cheating on an exam and assignments is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the test or assignment in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213. **Plagiarism is an**

act of Academic Dishonesty. Please check the following web-site:
<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student feels he/she has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then he/she is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with Dr. Bonanno about how he/she can be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. No accommodation can be made until students register with the Counseling Center. Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations. Please check the attached web-site:
<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/9edd8433-cad5-40d1-b4bf-6a91b08f90e4.pdf>

Course Outline, Assignments and Calendar

Classical Sociological Theory

August 23-25	Become familiar with the course, study the syllabus, and post your introductory statement.
Aug. 28 – Sept. 5	Introduction. Historical Origins of Sociological Theory. (Classical Sociological Theory, Chapter 1). Discussion # 1. It opens at 12:00 am on August 28 and closes at 11:59 pm on September 5.
September 5	TEST Number 1 (Classical Sociological Theory: A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Early Years. Chapter 1)
September 6-12	Auguste Comte and Herbert Spencer (Classical Sociological Theory, Chapters 4 and 5). Discussion # 2. It opens at 12:00 am on September 6 and closes at 11:59 pm on September 12.
September 12	TEST Number 2 (Classical Sociological Theory: Comte and Spencer: Chapters 4 and 5)

September 13-26	<p>Karl Marx. Required Readings: Classical Sociological Theory, Chapter 6; “The Communist Manifesto.”</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Karl Marx, Capital, Volume One.</p> <p>Discussion # 3. It opens at 12:00 am on September 13 and closes at 11:59 pm on September 26.</p> <p>Book reviews of Karl Marx’s <i>Communist Manifesto</i> are due at 11:59 pm on September 26</p>
September 26	TEST Number 3 (Classical Sociological Theory: Karl Marx: Chapter 6)
Sept. 27- Oct. 10	<p>Emile Durkheim</p> <p>Required Readings: Classical Sociological Theory, Chapter7; “The Division of Labor in Society.”</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Emile Durkheim, “The Rules of Sociological Method.”</p> <p>Discussion # 4. It opens at 12:00 am on Sept. 27 and closes at 11:59 pm on October 10.</p> <p>Book reviews of Emile Durkheim’s <i>The Division of Labor in Society</i> are due at 11:59 pm on October 10.</p>
October 10	TEST Number 4 (Classical Sociological Theory: Emile Durkheim: Chapter 7)
October 11-24	<p>Max Weber</p> <p>Required Readings: Classical Sociological Theory, Chapter 8; The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. Recommended Reading: Max Weber, Methodology of the Social Sciences.</p> <p>Discussion # 5. It opens at 12:00 am on October 11 and closes at 11:59 pm on October 24.</p> <p>Book reviews of Max Weber’s <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of</i></p>

Capitalism are due at 11:59 pm on October 24.

October 24 **TEST Number 5 (Classical Sociological Theory: Max Weber: Chapter 8)**

Modern Sociological Theory: The Major Schools

October 25-31 Structural Functionalism, System Theory and Conflict Theory

Required Readings: Modern Sociological Theory, Chapter 3; Classical Sociological Theory, Chapter 17.

Discussion # 6. It opens at 12:00 am on October 25 and closes at 11:59 pm on October 31.

October 31 **TEST Number 6 (Modern Sociological Theory: Chapter 3; Classical Sociological Theory Chapter 17)**

November 1-7 Varieties of Neo-Marxian Theory

Required Readings: Modern Sociological Theory, Chapter 4.

Recommended readings: Herbert Marcuse, "One Dimensional-Man." Max Horkheimer, "Traditional and Critical Theory."

Discussion # 7. It opens at 12:00 am on November 1 and closes at 11:59 pm on November 7.

November 7 **TEST Number 7 (Modern Sociological Theory: Varieties of Neo-Marxian Theory: Chapter 4)**

November 8-14 Symbolic Interaction

Required Readings: Modern Sociological Theory, Chapter 5. Erwin Goffman "Stigma."

Discussion # 8. It opens at 12:00 am on November 8 and closes at 11:59 pm on November 14.

Book reviews of Erwin Goffman, *Stigma* are due at 11:59 pm on November 14

November 14 **TEST Number 8 (Modern Sociological Theory: Symbolic Interaction: Chapter 6).**

From Modern to Post-Modern Social Theory

November 15-20 Contemporary Theories of Modernity and Theories of Globalization

Required Readings: Modern Sociological Theory, Chapters 10 and 12.

Recommended readings: Beck, *The Risk Society*; George Ritzer, *The MacDonaldisation Thesis*.

Discussion # 9. It opens at 12:00 am on November 15 and closes at 11:59 pm on November 20

November 20 **TEST Number 9 (Modern Sociological Theory: Contemporary Theories of Modernity and Theories of Globalization: Chapters 10 and 12)**

November 22-24 **Thanksgiving Break**

Nov. 21- Dec. 1 Structuralism, Post Structuralism and Post Modern Theory Required

Readings: Structuralism, Post-structuralism, and Postmodern Social Theory, (Chapter 13). Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics*.

Discussion # 10. It opens at 12:00 am on November 21 (students are not required to post during the Thanksgiving break) and closes at 11:59 pm on December 1.

Book reviews of Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics* are due at 11:59 pm on December 1.

December 4-5 **TEST Number 10 (Modern Sociological Theory: Structuralism, Post-structuralism, and Postmodern Social Theory: Chapter 13).** The test will be open for 48 hours (from 12:00 am on December 4 to 11:59 pm on December 5).

END OF SEMESTER