

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SOCI 4344

Spring 2018
online

Instructor

Dr. Alessandro Bonanno
Office: 270p CHSS BLDG
Office Hours: Available online M-F: 9:00 am -5:00 pm
e-mail: soc_aab@shsu.edu
Phone: (936) 294-1488

Required Text

George Ritzer and Jeffrey Stepnisky. 2018. *Sociological Theory*, Tenth Edition. Los Angeles: SAGE.

Course Objectives, Description and Learning Outcomes

By completing this course students will be able to obtain knowledge of the most relevant sociological **theories** of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Emphasis is placed on the relevance of classical sociological theory in the formation and development of modern 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. The course also investigates the development of Neo-Marxism, Interactionism, Functionalism and Post-Modernism. Accounts of these paradigms are provided together with their theoretical ramifications. Illustration of the basic assumptions of Critical Theory, Symbolic Interaction and Post-structuralism are also provided. The course is designed for students with advanced knowledge of the history, and major substantive areas, of Sociology. Students who took only introductory level sociological courses are advised to take this course only after completing advanced sociology classes. At the end of the semester students should be able to have knowledge of **SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES**.

Lectures

There will be brief video lectures by Dr. Bonanno. Additionally, Dr. Bonanno class notes and power-point presentations for each assignment appear on blackboard. Student familiarity with blackboard is necessary. Blackboard and posted material can be accessed through any electronic device including PCs, laptop computers, tablets and smartphones.

Attendance and class behavior

Students must logon to Blackboard regularly and frequently during the semester. **It is the student's responsibility to be able to access blackboard to complete assignments and tests. Being disconnected during a test is not a valid excuse to ask for a re-take.**

Credit and Examinations

Tests

**** There will be eleven (11) tests during the semester, one for each of the assigned chapters.**

****Of these eleven (11) tests only eight (8) will be taken into consideration for the class final grade.** Students, therefore, will be graded on only the best eight (8) test scores.

****Students must take at least 8 of the eleven tests. In the event that more than 8 test will be taken the best 8 test scores will be counted toward the final class grade.**

****Tests will be administered through Blackboard and are online. Students can take the test during a 24 hour period. Tests are timed and should be completed in 30 minutes or less from the start time. A penalty is assessed for each extra minute taken to complete the test (see below)**

**** Students must become familiar with Blackboard and be able to take the test online. It is their responsibility to become familiar with Blackboard.**

****It is important that students take all the required eight tests and make arrangements to be available during test days.**

****THESE TESTS WILL CONSTITUTE 100 % THE FINAL GRADE.**

****Each test consists of twelve (12) multiple-choice questions.** These are taken directly from the textbook and the lecture notes but require elaboration and critical thinking. Each **test is an open-book and open-note exam.** Therefore, students can and should use the textbook and their notes during the test.

****The test is timed. Students have thirty (30) minutes to complete the twelve (12) question test. For each test a total of two hundred and fifty points (250) points will be assigned. Twenty (20) points will be assigned for each question answered correctly with the exception of one question that is worth thirty (30) points. A thirty (30) point penalty will be assessed for each extra minute taken to complete the test.**

****Tests will be available on exam day from 12:00 am midnight to 11:59 pm. See schedule below. It is the student's RESPONSIBILITY to learn how to take the test through Blackboard. Tutorial courses are available. On test days, Dr. Bonanno will be available from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (central time). In case of non-technical problems, e-mail him immediately. In case of technical problems, contact "SHSU Online Support" immediately at 936.294.2780, or blackboard@shsu.edu . Dr. Bonanno will not be available outside business**

hours.

Extra Credit Projects

Summaries

Forty (40) extra credit points are available to students who complete a 1,000-word summary of each of the assigned chapters. A total of **200 extra credit points** is available. Students, therefore, can receive credit for only **Five (5)** chapter summaries during the course of the semester. Additional chapter summaries will be reviewed but no extra credit points will be assigned. Extra credit points will be added to the student grade at the end of the semester and will complement the points obtained through the regularly scheduled tests. Summaries should be submitted through Blackboard

Grades: A total of 2000 possible points will be available (without extra credit points). Grades will be assigned according to the following chart:

2000-1800 - A
1799-1600 - B
1599-1400 - C
1399-1200 - D
1199-0 - F

Make up Exams

Make up exams **will not be allowed**. It is important, therefore, that students do not miss the scheduled exams. See class schedule for exam dates. Re-takes (or the re-opening of a test on test days) are not allowed.

Instructor Evaluation

Student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Religious Holy days

Students desiring to absent themselves from a scheduled exam 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 during the first twelve days of the semester (i.e., on or before February 1, 2018). Please check the attached web-site:

<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 or assignment is

an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the exam and/or assignment. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213. Please check the attached 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

Students are required to become familiar with, and pay attention to, the class schedule. They must be aware of the dates for assignments and tests.

Classical Sociological Theory

January 17-19	Introduction – Study the syllabus.
January 22-29	A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Early Years (Chapter 1). Extra credit summaries are due at the end (11:59 pm) of January 29 th
January 29	Test # 1. Students will be tested on chapter one and related material.
Jan. 30 Feb -5	Emile Durkheim (Chapter 3). Extra credit summaries are due at the end of February 5 th (11:59 pm).
February 5	Test # 2 Students will be tested on chapter three and related material.
February 6-12	Karl Marx (Chapter 2). Extra credit summaries are due at the end of February 12 th (11:59 pm).
February 12	Test # 3 Students will be tested on chapter two and related material.

February 13-19 Max Weber (Chapter 4).
Extra credit summaries are due at the end of February 19th (11:59 pm).

February 19 **Test # 4** Students will be tested on **chapter four** and related material.

Modern Sociological Theory

February 20-26 A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Later Years (Chapter 6).
Extra credit summaries are due at the end of February 26th (11:59 pm).

February 26 **Test # 5** Students will be tested on **chapter six** and related material.

Feb 27- Mar. 5 Functionalism, Neo-functionalism and Conflict Theory (Chapter 7).
Extra credit summaries are due at the end of March 5th (11:59 pm).

March 5 **Test # 6** Students will be tested on **chapter seven** and related material.

March 6-19 Varieties of Neo-Marxian Theory (Chapter 8).
Extra credit summaries are due at the end of March 19th (11:59 pm).

March 12-16 **Spring Break**

March 19 **Test # 7** Students will be tested on **chapter eight** and related material

March 20-26 Symbolic Interactionism (Chapter 9).
Extra credit summaries are due at the end of March 26th (11:59 pm).

March 26 **Test # 8** Students will be tested on **chapter nine** and related material.

March 30 **Good Friday**

Mar. 27- Apr. 2 Contemporary Feminist Theory (Chapter 12).
Extra credit summaries are due at the end of March 24th (11:59 pm).

April 2 **Test # 9** Students will be tested on **chapter twelve** and related material.

April 3 - 16 Contemporary Theories of Modernity (Chapter 14) and Globalization

Theory (Chapter 16).

Extra credit summaries are due at the end of April 16th (11:59 pm). Only one combined summary is required for these two chapters.

April 16

Test # 10 Students will be tested on **chapters fourteen and sixteen** and related material.

Apr. 17 – May 4

Structuralism, Post-structuralism and the Emergence of Postmodern Social Theory (Chapter 17).

Extra credit summaries are due at the end of May 4th (11:59 pm).

May 7-8

Test # 11 Students will be tested on **chapter seventeen** and related material. The test will be open for 48 hours from 12:00 am on May 7th to 11:59 on May 8th.

END OF SEMESTER