

Theory and Society: Sociology 301-01

Theory and Society

Southern Illinois University

Soc 301-001 Fall 2008

Class: MW 3:00-4:15 **Room:** Parkinson 202

Instructor: Marcie Sheumaker **Office:** 3435 Faner Hall

Phone: 453-7621 **E-mail:** marciej@siu.edu

Office Hours: M & W: 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

Required Text:

Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings by Laura Desfor Edles and Scott Applerouth. 2005. Pine Forge Press: Thousand Oaks, CA.

Course Website: This course will have a WebCT website. It may have links to some readings and I may put some of the exercises on it. Mostly, though you will use the site for keeping track of your grades on assignments and viewing notes to the class. If you need to get a message to me, however, please use my e-mail address listed above as Web CT will not forward your message to my e-mail account. You need to log on and establish a WebCT account by the second week of class. To do so, go to <http://webct.lib.siu.edu> and follow the instructions. Note: When you sign up for your general WebCT account, you need to remember the ID and password you select for yourself. If you don't remember it, you can't get back into the facility and I can't help you with the problem (you'll have to contact JP Dunn, the WebCT administrator). But you only have to log in for SOC 301 once. After doing this you will be able to access your Web CT account anytime.

Course Description and Objectives:

How do sociologists define social theory? Social theory can be defined as the organized, provable ideas that social theorists develop to explain various parts of society and social behavior. We use social theory to better understand how people interact with, interpret, understand, and experience the social world. I have designed this course to present and overview of the unfolding of social theory and sociological thought from the 1800s through the early 1900s. Sociologists call the theories developed during this time period "classical sociological theory" because they were foundational in creating sociology as a distinct academic discipline and because they are time-tested ideas. We will be focusing primarily on the major thinkers who laid the foundation of classical sociological thought including: Spencer, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, Du Bois, Gilman, Martineau Mead, Simmel, and others.

My specific objectives for this course are as follows:

- (1) To begin to learn to think theoretically and sociologically.
- (2) To become familiar with some classical sociological literature.

(3) To learn to make application of classical sociological theory to modern and past social issues.

(4) To begin to think critically or continue to think critically about social issues.

You have the opportunity to meet these objectives by being present (in body and mind) at lectures, to thoughtfully engage the readings and assignments, to participate fully in class discussions, and to perform your best on exams.

Readings:

The text for this class is listed above. You must read the assigned readings before class. If you read each assignment twice, you will better understand what you have read. Please be ready to make substantial contributions to the day's discussion by preparing adequately. This entails reading each original work at least twice and taking notes on what you read. You will find that this method will help refresh your memory for papers and exams as well. I will not lecture on the readings alone; therefore it is imperative that you take good notes and show up for class. All of the materials given in lectures, whether in the text or not will provide the basis for examinations. The readings are also mandatory and you will be tested on your knowledge of the material presented in the text as well.

Course Requirements:

(1). **Examinations:** I will give three examinations in this course. Each exam will be a take-home essay exam and you will have an entire weekend to complete it. Exam I is due September 29th, Exam II is due November 3rd (both due at the beginning of class), and the final exam is due Monday, December 8th by 3:00 p.m. in the sociology office at Faner 3362. Each exam is worth a potential 100 points.

(2). **Writing Assignments:** This semester you will write two short papers (5 to 7 pages in length) in which you summarize and analyze a theoretical concept. I will use these assignments to assess your understanding of sociological theory and its application as well as how you have synthesized what you have learned. It is imperative that you follow all of the instructions on this assignment. Students who do not follow the instructions can expect a grade of zero. Paper #1 due September 22nd, and Paper #2 due December 1st.

(3). **Participation:**

You are here at SIUC and in this class to learn. I am not interested in your ability to memorize terms and then regurgitate them on a test. Therefore, I highly value your intelligent and thoughtful participation in this class. Class discussion time will give you an opportunity to ask questions about concepts and ideas and share what you have learned with your fellow students. I will periodically give pop-quizzes to ensure you are engaging the readings and processing the material. No make-ups work will be given for in-class participation, so be sure to show up as participation is worth a potential 50 points.

Grading Scale:

100% - 90%..A
89% - 80%....B

Basis for Final Grade:

Exam I..... 100
Exam II..... 100

79% - 70%....C
69% - 60%....D
59% - 0%.....F

Exam III.....100
Writing Assignments.....100
Participation.....50
Total Possible Points.....450

(4).Communication:

Occasionally, I will need to send you e-mail regarding the next class or assignment. Please check you e-mail before each class. For your benefit, I will try not to send e-mail less than 8 hours before our next class meeting or after 5 p.m. the night before. I require students to read the e-mail before class as it may have direct bearing on the class that day.

Please e-mail, call or stop by during office hours. If you can't make it during office hours and you need to speak with me, please schedule an appointment for an alternate time. I will check my e-mail Monday through Friday before 5 p.m. You may send questions about assignments, but please be aware that an e-mail does not constitute a substitute for the actual assignment. Always include your name, e-mail address and an intelligible message. Use the following as a guide when sending e-mail to me or any of your instructors:

From: lucysmith@siu.edu
To: marciej@siu.edu
Subject: Questions about writing assignment and excuse for absence

Dear Instructor Sheumaker:

I did not fully understand the writing assignment for this week. How would you like us to answer the questions? Should we refer to the text or just use our own impressions from class? Also, I am attaching a note from my volleyball coach excusing me from class tomorrow for an out-of town game.

Thank you,
Lucy Smith
lucysmith@siu.edu

Attachment: Notefromvolleyballcoach.doc

The reason why this is an effective e-mail is that:

- I can tell who is sending me the e-mail: for example, it is not from 98huyty@hotmail.com and it is signed at the end of the e-mail.
- I can easily identify the subject from the subject line.
- This individual does not use any undecipherable texting language such as: R U posting gr8s?
- There are no unnecessary capital letters or exclamation points.

- The attachment is clearly labeled and is in Microsoft Word format
- The individual clearly states the question and specifies what she needs

Please note that if you send an e-mail on Friday at 5, I may not receive it or be able to respond to it before Monday. I may be out of town. Therefore, understand that you may not always get an answer as quickly as you wanted.

Make time to familiarize yourself with this course on Blackboard. If you need assistance in using it, please contact the administrator or speak to someone in computer support. If you can't log on to Blackboard, I can't help you, only the Blackboard person or the computer support technicians can do so. Further, this is not an acceptable excuse for late assignments, etc.

(5).Late Assignments

If you decide to slip a late paper or a note under my door in hopes of communicating with me that way, let me dissuade you now. All late papers turned in without my prior approval and a verifiable excuse are subject to a 10% grade reduction per day late. This means that if the paper is due on Monday and you slip it under my door on Wednesday night, but I don't come into my office and find it until the following Monday, it will be 7 days late, thus a 70% grade reduction, thus an 'F'. Therefore, if you must turn in a paper late, please take it to the Sociology office and ask the student worker to verify the time you brought it in by signing the turn-in sheet. The student worker will then place it in my mailbox. However, unless you have spoken with me previously and I have approved your excuse, your grade will still be reduced by 10% per day late.

(5). Academic Dishonesty

In accordance with SIUC's academic honesty policy, I expect you turn in your own work. Further, if you disobey the academic honesty policy, you will receive an F on the assignment and, possibly, in the course. Additionally, you may also be forced to submit to the review process as detailed in the conduct code. If you are unsure what constitutes cheating, please consult me or refer to the SIUC Conduct code:

<http://www.siuc.edu/~policies/policies/conduct.html>

Specifically, this is what I require of you:

On Papers and other assignments:

Use only your own words and ideas when writing. All papers and exams must be typed, double-spaced with 12-point Times New Roman font and 1 inch margins. Cite all works to which you refer in American Sociological Association (ASA) style. When you are referring to someone else's ideas, use proper citation such as: (Hill Collins 2007:56) immediately following the reference to the idea with the year and the page number included. (Not a real citation). When quoting another author directly, use quotation marks unless the quotation is longer than two lines. In this instance, indent the quotation 5 inches on either side.

(6). *Incompletes:*

I will not give any incompletes in this course except in the event of an extreme circumstance such as a documented catastrophic illness.

(7). *Emergency Procedures:*

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on the BERT'S website at www.bert.siu.edu, the Department of Public Safety's website at www.d~s.siu.edu (disaster drop down), and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

(8). *Course Schedule:*

Monday, August 18th (Week 1): Introduction to the Course

Ideology and History: Classical Theory Roots. What is theory? Why should we study it?

Have read: No Required Readings for Today.

Wednesday, August 20th (Week 1): Introduction to Social Theory

Have Read: Ch. 1: Introduction: Text pp.1-16

Monday, August 25th (Week 2): Foundational thinkers: Herbert Spencer

Have Read: Week 2 readings (on reserve in the Sociology office)

Wednesday, August 27th (Week 2): Marx's Historical Materialism

Have Read: Text pp.17-31

Monday, September 1st: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY—NO CLASS

(Work on paper)

Wednesday, September 3rd (Week 3): The German Ideology

Have Read: Chapter 2: pp. 31-49

Monday, September 8th (Week 4): Capital

Have Read: Text pp.49-64

Wednesday, September 10th (Week 4): The Communist Manifesto
Have Read: Text pp.64-78

Monday, September 15th (Week 5): Durkheim: Introduction and *Rules of the Sociological Method*
Have Read: Text pp. 79-99

Wednesday, September 17th (Week 5): Durkheim: *The Division of Labor in Society**Pick-up writing prompt for paper #1 *******
Have Read: Text pp. 99-105

Monday, September 22nd (Week 6):***PAPER #1 DUE ***Durkheim: *Anomie & Suicide***
Have Read: Text pp. 105-121

Wednesday, September 24th (Week 6):*** Pickup Exam I*******
Durkheim: *Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*
Have Read: pp. 121-134

Monday, September 29th (Week 7):*** Turn-in Exam I*******
Have Read: Have read: No readings for today

Wednesday, October 1st (Week 7): Max Weber: *The Protestant Ethic & the Spirit of Capitalism*
Have Read: Text pp. 136-160

Monday, October 6th (Week 8): Weber: *Class, Status & Party*
Have Read: Text pp. 161-171

Wednesday, October 8th (Week 8): Weber: *Domination, Legitimacy & Bureaucracy*
Have Read: Text pp. 171-191

Monday, October 13th (Week 9): Charlotte Perkins Gilman
Have Read: Text pp. 194-231

Wednesday, October 15th (Week 9): Gilman
Have Read: Text pp. 231-240

Monday, October 20th (Week 10): Georg Simmel: *Introduction and Exchange*
Have Read: Text pp. 241-262

Wednesday, October 22nd (Week 10): Simmel: “Conflict” and “Sociability”
Have Read: Text pp. 262 -276

Monday, October 27th (Week 11): Simmel: “The Stranger”
Have Read: Text pp. 276-299

Wednesday, October 29th (Week 11): ***PICK-UP Exam II*******
Topic: TBA

Monday, November 3rd (Week 12): ***Exam II DUE*******
Topic: TBA

Wednesday, November 5th (Week 12): W.E.B. Du Bois: Intro and *The Philadelphia Negro*
Have Read: Text pp. 302- 321

Monday, November 10th (Week 13): Du Bois: *The Souls of Black Folk* and Conclusion
Have Read: 322-345

Wednesday November 12th (Week 13): George Herbert Mead: The “I” and the “Me”
Have Read: Text pp. 347-365

Monday, November 17th (Week 14): Mead: Self & Society
Have Read: Text pp. 365-391

Wednesday, November 19th (Week 14) Mead, continued, **Pick up writing prompt for paper # 2*****
Have Read: Catch-up on reading

November 24th and 26th: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY—NO CLASS

Monday, December 1st (Week 15): ***PAPER # 2 DUE*******
Have Read: (Modern work applying sociological theory well: On reserve in Sociology office)

Wednesday, December 3rd (Week 15): Applying Sociological Concepts to Research
Have Read: What I hope you learned this semester
*****PICK-UP FINAL EXAM*****

*****TURN-IN FINAL EXAM*****
by Monday, Dec 8th at 3:00 p.m. in Sociology office: Faner 3384

Note #1: I am deeply indebted to the following individuals for some of the content and organization of this syllabus: Professors Tim Clark, Daren Hendrickson, Michelle Lamont, and Mark Schneider as well as those authors who contributed to the ASA’s teaching sociological theory guide.

Note #2: I reserve the right to change anything on this syllabus as needed. Please stay updated by attending class, getting notes when you must miss class, and regularly checking Blackboard for messages.

Note #3: No recording devices allowed in class without instructor's prior permission.