

Sociological Theory (SYA 4010)
Distance Learning Section
Course website: <http://campus.fsu.edu>

Instructor: Jonniann Butterfield, M.S.
TAs: Natalie Armstrong, Joanna Stansfield

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jonniann Butterfield, M.S.

Email: jbutterfield@fsu.edu

Virtual (online) office hours: Thursday 9:30-10:30 pm (Tallahassee time).

I will hold online office hours in the class chatroom (in the "Communications" folder under "Collaboration")

Teaching assistants:

Natalie Armstrong: noa05@fsu.edu

Joanna Stansfield: jms05e@fsu.edu

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to give the student an overview of the study of sociological theory. It will present views from classical perspectives within sociology as well as some of the current perspectives within the discipline. The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to a variety of theoretical orientations, past and present, with an emphasis on the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. By analyzing a variety of theories, it is also hoped that the student will develop a theoretical view of his/her own and a critical (i.e., analytical) orientation toward theory in particular and social interaction in general. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- 1) Describe the major paradigms, theories, and concepts in social theory
- 2) Describe the relations among these
- 3) Express your personal paradigmatic preference and defend it coherently
- 4) Construct an argument combining theory and evidence

COURSE STRUCTURE

The set up of the course will typically follow this weekly schedule. Readings and the weekly quiz will become available on Monday mornings. You will have until Wednesdays at 11:59 pm to read and take the quiz over the weekly readings. On Thursday mornings, I will post a summary of the readings (in lecture format) to help clarify the readings. Some of the readings are dense and difficult so the lecture is an attempt to help clarify important concepts. Also on Thursday mornings, an essay-type question will be made available on the discussion board and you will have until noon on Monday to post your response. Office hours are held Thursday night so that you have a chance to review the lecture and the discussion board assignment and ask any questions that you may have at that time. Additionally, you have been broken up into 2 groups of 20 so that you can chat and discuss the readings with your fellow group members. With a subject as complex as social theory I encourage you to discuss and engage your fellow

classmates, even though we are not face to face. I hope this serves as an “online community” that you find supportive and helpful. Each group will be assigned a T.A. who will serve as your first point of contact. If you have any technology problems or administrative questions you may contact them. The TA for Group A is Natalie Armstrong. The TA for Group B is Joanna Stansfield. Their email addresses are at the top of the syllabus. Any substantive questions about the material can be sent directly to me.

COMMUNICATION

There are a number of ways to communicate in this course. You can always contact me via email or visit me virtually during office hours. You are currently assigned to a group which may change up until the Friday of week 1. To view what group you are in, click on the syllabus folder, then click on group assignments. These groups serve as a forum to discuss and debate the readings with other students. You can ask one another questions and work through any questions or problems you may have. Your group has been assigned a T.A. who will serve as your first point of contact. They should be able to answer all technical and administrative questions. You can email me directly with any questions related to course material. The T.A. for Group A is Natalie Armstrong and the TA for Group B is Joanna Stansfield.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Course grades will be based on the following weighting of course requirements

***All deadlines are based on EST (eastern standard time).** If you live outside of Tallahassee in a different time zone, you will need to adapt the due times so that they correspond to EST.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>	<u>Tentative Due Date</u>
1) Quizzes	10%	NA
2) Discussion Boards	30%	weekly
3) Exam 1	20%	Available Tues., Oct 2@ 11:59 pm
	Must complete by	Wed., Oct. 3 @ 11:59 pm
4) Current Events Paper	20%	By Fri., Nov. 16 @ 11:59 pm
5) Exam 2	20%	Available Tues., Dec 11@ 11:59 pm
	Must complete by	Wed., Dec. 12 @ 11:59 pm

**Due dates are subject to change

GRADING SCALE

A =93-100 A- =90-92 B+ =87-89 B=83-86 B- =80-82 C+ = 77-79
C=73-76 C- =70-72 D+=67-69 D=63-66 D- =60-62 F=<59

Quizzes: There will be timed weekly quizzes over the readings. Quizzes and readings will be available on Monday and the quiz must be taken by Wednesday @ 11:59 pm unless otherwise noted. Once you open the quiz to take it, you must finish the quiz in the amount of time allotted; the quiz will not be able to be re-opened at a later time. No make ups will be given and the lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Tests: Two exams will be given during the course of the semester. Exams will consist of short answer and multiple choice questions.

Discussion Board Posts: There will be weekly discussion board posts over the readings and lecture. *note* the discussion board is different than your group pages discussion forum where you can discuss, debate, and chat with one another. Discussion Board posts are where you respond to your weekly essay questions. To access the discussion board, go to the “communication” folder, then “discussion board” then click on the appropriate forum (week 1 – Icebreaker). Discussion Board questions will typically become available on Thursday mornings and be due by noon of the following Monday.

Current Events Application Paper: Students will be responsible for finding a current events news clipping that relates to one of the theorists studied in class and explain how the concepts of chosen theorist can be applied to the article. More details of this assignment will be made available later.

Group Discussion Boards: Group discussion boards exist as a place for students to discussion, debate, and ask one another questions about the readings. Each discussion board is monitored by a TA. I encourage you to use this frequently. This is not graded, but serves as an invaluable resource for you. To view your group, go to the “Syllabus” folder, then click on “Group Assignments”.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Late work** will receive a 5 points/24 hour period penalty. This includes weekends.
2. **Make up exams:** No make-up exams will be given. If students miss the exam they will receive a grade of zero. This penalty may be waived in the event of serious medical illness or verified emergencies, but I reserve the right to require documentation.
3. **Incomplete grades:** Missing work is insufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete (I). An incomplete will only be given under extenuating circumstances at my discretion. Note that College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an “I” must be passing the course.

4. Academic Honor Code: Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Please see the following web site for a complete explanation:

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>.

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of "zero" for that particular assignment. We reserve the right to use all means at our disposal to screen for plagiarism, including electronic citation checkers (e.g., Turnitin.com). For more information on plagiarism, see <http://online.fsu.edu/learningresources/plagiarism>.

Procedures for dealing with alleged academic dishonesty are described at:

http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergrad/info/acad_regs.htm#AcademicHonor

5. Student Conduct Code: Everyone in this class is expected to adhere to principles embodied in the FSU Student Contact Code, available at: <http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/2003codes/conduct.html>. This code essentially requires everyone to maintain the highest professional standards of conduct in this class, whether in face-to-face meetings or online. Violation of the conduct code carries a range of penalties that can range from a reduced grade to expulsion.

6. Americans with Disabilities Act: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring us a letter indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities:

<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

7. Syllabus change policy: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice. It and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1 – 8/27-8/31: Introduction to Course; Housekeeping

Week 2 – 9/3-9/7: Classical Marx

Week 3 – 9/10-9/14: Classical Marx

Week 4 – 9/17-9/21: Contemporary Applications of Marx

Week 5 – 9/24-9/28: Contemporary Applications of Marx

Week 6 – 10/01-10/05: Weber: EXAM 1

Week 7 – 10/08-10/12: Weber

Week 8 – 10/15-10/19: Weber

Week 9 – 10/22-10/26: Durkheim

Week 10 – 10/29-11/02: Durkheim

Week 11 – 11/5-11/9: Durkheim

Week 12 – 11/12-11/16: Gender; CURRENT EVENTS PAPER DUE

Week 13 – 11/19-11/23: Gender

Week 14 – 11/26-11/30: Gender

Week 15 – 12/03-12/07: Wrap Up and Review

Finals week – EXAM 2: By Wed., Dec. 12 @ 11:59 pm