

Sociological Theory (SYA 4010)
Distance Learning Section
Fall 2008

Course website: <http://campus.fsu.edu>

Instructor: Jonniann Butterfield, M.S.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jonniann Butterfield, M.S.

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Sunshine Rote – Teaching Assistant

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Your T.A. in this class is Sunshine Rote. She will be an integral part of the course and will serve as your first point of contact. If you have any technology problems or administrative questions you should contact her, or you can always contact me directly.

REQUIRED TEXT: Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings, Third Edition 2004 by Charles Lemert

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 & SCHEDULE

The set up of the course will typically follow this weekly schedule (excluding week 1). Everything for the course is available in the course library; there you will find a folder for each week, which contains your reading assignments, weekly quiz, and any other weekly assignment. Each weekly folder will be made available to you on Friday. So, for example, this Friday the week 2 folder will become visible to you in the course library. You will have until the following Thursday at 11:59 pm to read the readings and take the quiz over the weekly readings. In addition, on Fridays, 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. However, notice that the lecture is not posted until after you take the quiz. The rationale for this is two fold; 1) I want you to have a chance to read, digest, and form an opinion on the readings ON YOUR OWN. 2) I want to make sure you have done the readings. (If I simply post a lecture, you may be tempted to not read, which is an important experience in and of itself.)

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	15%	TBA
2) Exam 1	30%	Available 11:59 pm Sun., Oct. 5 through 11:59 pm on Wed, Oct. 8
3) Current Events Paper	25%	Mon, Nov. 24
4) Exam 2	30%	Available 11:59 pm Sun, Dec, 7 through 11:59 pm on Wed, Dec 10th

**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 Friday afternoon and the quiz must be taken by the following Thursday @ 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. If you experience technical difficulties during your quiz, contact your t.a. or myself immediately to have it reset. Technical difficulties will not be an excuse for not getting a quiz done on time, so please plan to allow yourself plenty of time to take the quiz within the allotted timeframe.

Tests: Two exams will be given during the course of the semester. Exams will consist of short answer, True/False, fill in the blanks, and multiple choice questions. If you

experience technical difficulties during your exam, contact your t.a. or myself immediately to have it reset.

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.

NOTE ABOUT ONLINE COURSES: Because this is an online course, it is likely that you will experience technical problems at some point. Plan accordingly! Don't wait to take your quiz or exam until the last minute. If you are having connection difficulties at home, be sure you have access to an alternative computer somewhere. Technical difficulties is not a valid excuse for late work!

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 – 1/7 - 1/11: Introduction to Course; Housekeeping

Week 2 – 1/14 – 1/18: Classical Marx

Week 3 – 1/21 - 1/25: Classical Marx

Week 4 – 1/28 - 2/1: Contemporary Applications of Marx

Week 5 – 2/4 - 2/8: Contemporary Applications of Marx

Week 6 – 2/11 - 2/15: Weber: EXAM 1

Week 7 – 2/18 - 2/22: Weber

Week 8 – 2/25 - 2/29: Weber

Week 9 – 3/3 – 3/7: Durkheim

Week 10 - 3/10 – 3/14 : Spring Break! Have fun!

Week 11 – 3/17 – 3/21: Durkheim

Week 12 – 3/24 – 3/28: Durkheim

Week 13 – 3/31 - 4/4: Gender; CURRENT EVENTS PAPER DUE

Week 14 – 4/7 – 4/11: Gender

Week 15 – 4/14 - 4/18: Gender

Finals week – EXAM 2: By Wed., Dec. 10th @ 11:59 pm