

Sociological Theory

(Sociology 15613, SYA 4010-001, 3 credit hours)

Semester: Spring 2012
Instructor: Dr. Phillip A. Hough, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL 33431
Class Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:30 PM – 1:50 PM (GS 107)
Contact Info: phough2@fau.edu, 561-297-3271
Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-3:50 PM (Culture and Society Building, CU 262)

Course Description:

This upper division course introduces students to the major works of key classical and modern sociological theorists: Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, George Herbert Mead, W.E.B. DuBois, Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno, and Antonio Gramsci.

Course Objectives:

In this course, students will come to understand the main substantive arguments and theoretical concepts developed by the classical and modern sociological theorists listed above. Students will be tested on their knowledge of these theories, their ability to use these theories to help explain contemporary sociological issues, and their ability to explain these theories in clear terms to their classmates through group presentations.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

- a. Attendance: Students are permitted one excused absence throughout the semester. Students who add the class late without attending the first class meetings will not be excused for those days missed. Student attendance for each day ("0" or "1") will be marked on the course's blackboard site. Please email me the justification for your absences, I will hold them until the end of the semester and account for them when accounting for your total attendance grade [10%];
- b. Overall Participation in Class Discussions [10%]
- c. In-Class Presentation [10%]
- d. Five In-Class Tests [50%]
- e. Final Paper: A document stating the specific requirements of this paper will be posted on our blackboard site. In brief, students will reflect upon the most compelling theoretical concept/s or theorist learned in the course, formulate an argument about the contemporary relevance of this concept/theorist, and discuss how this concept/theorist compares and contrasts to other related concepts/theorists learned in the course (5-6 pages) [20%]

Course Grading Scale:

93-100=A, 90-92=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, 77-79=C+, 73-74=C, 70-72=C-, 67-69=D+, 63-67=D, 60-62=D-, 59 and below=F

Course Materials*:

- 1) Craig Calhoun ed., *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd Edition (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007) [this will be available at the FAU bookstore, though you may choose to purchase it elsewhere]
- 2) *The rest of the readings will be downloadable from our course's Blackboard site**

PART I: SEEING REALITY THROUGH SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

Week 1: Tuesday (1/10) Introduction to Course

Week 1: Thursday (1/12) Modes of Human Inquiry: Sociology vs. Experience & Ideology

Earl Babbie, "Chapter 1: Human Inquiry and Science," in *The Practice of Social Research*, 7th Edition (Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont, CA: 1992)

Craig Calhoun et al., "General Introduction" (pp. 1-16), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd Edition (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

***Choose Groups in Class**

Week 2: Tuesday (1/17) First Group Meeting in Class

Week 2: Thursday (1/19) Second Group Meeting in Class

PART II. PRESENTATIONS ON CLASSICAL SOCIOLOGICAL THEORISTS

Week 3: Tuesday (1/24) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Durkheim (a)

Week 3: Thursday (1/26) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Durkheim (b)

Week 4: Tuesday (1/31) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Durkheim (c)

Week 4: Thursday (2/2) Summary Lecture and Discussion on Durkheim

Week 5: Tuesday (2/7) *In-Class Test on Durkheim *****

Week 5: Thursday (2/9) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Marx (a)

Week 6: Tuesday (2/14) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Marx (b)

Week 6: Thursday (2/16) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Marx (c)

Week 7: Tuesday (2/21) Summary Lecture and Discussion on Marx

Week 7: Thursday (2/23) *In-Class Test on Marx *****

Week 8: Tuesday (2/28) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Weber (a)

Week 8: Thursday (3/1) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Weber (b)

Week 9: Tuesday (3/13) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Weber (c)

Week 9: Thursday (3/15) Summary Lecture and Discussion on Weber

Week 10: Tuesday (3/20) *In-Class Test on Weber*****

PART III: NEO-MARXIST, WEBERIAN, DURKHEIMIAN THEORISTS

Week 10: Thursday (3/22) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Mead

Week 11: Tuesday (3/27) Summary Lecture and Discussion on Mead

Week 11: Thursday (3/29) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on DuBois

Week 12: Tuesday (4/3) Summary Lecture and Discussion DuBois

Week 12: Thursday (4/5) *In-Class Test on Mead and DuBois*****

Week 13: Tuesday (4/10) Group Presentation/Discussion on Horkheimer and Adorno

Week 13: Thursday (4/12) Summary Lecture on Horkheimer and Adorno

Week 14: Tuesday (4/17) Group Presentation & Class Discussion on Gramsci

Week 14: Thursday (4/19) Summary Lecture on Gramsci

Week 15: Tuesday (4/24) *In-Class Test on Horkheimer and Adorno and Gramsci*****

Tuesday (5/1): Summary discussion of course

Final Paper Due [Drop off in my mailbox "HOUGH" by 5:00 PM]

REQUIRED COURSE READING:

1. EMILE DURKHEIM (1858-1917)

Biography, History and Worldview

Craig Calhoun et al., "Introduction to Part III" (pp. 131-132), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

a. Solidarity and Modern Life

Emile Durkheim, "The Division of Labor in Society" [1893] (pp. 158-180), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

b. Origins of Collective Conscience

Emile Durkheim, "The Elementary Forms of Religious Life" [1912] (pp. 181-192), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

c. Anomy and Social Cohesion

Emile Durkheim, "Suicide" [1897] (pp. 193-202), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

2. KARL MARX (1818-1883)

Biography, History and Worldview

Craig Calhoun et al., "Introduction to Part II" (pp. 75-81), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

a. Alienation and Historical Materialism

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The German Ideology" [1845] (pp. 82-85), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

Karl Marx, "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844" [1844] (pp. 86-95), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

b. History and Class Struggle

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party" [1848] (pp. 96-111), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

c. Capitalism and the Labor Process

Karl Marx, "Wage-Labour and Capital" [1847] (pp. 122-129), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

Karl Marx, "Classes" [1867], in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

3. MAX WEBER (1864-1920)

Biography, History and Worldview

Craig Calhoun et al., "Introduction to Part IV" (pp. 203-205), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

a. Types of Social Action

Max Weber, "Basic Sociological Terms" [1914] (pp. 218-227), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

b. Religion and Rationality

Max Weber, "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" [1904-05] (pp. 228-246), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

c. Bureaucracy and Politics

Max Weber, "The Distribution of Power within the Political Community: Class, Status, Party" [1914] (pp. 247-255), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

Max Weber, "The Types of Legitimate Domination" [1914] (pp. 256-263), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition* (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

Max Weber, "Bureaucracy" [1922] (pp. 264-273), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd Edition (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

4. GEORGE HERBERT MEAD (1863-1931)

Biography, History and Worldview

Craig Calhoun et al., "Introduction to Part V" (pp. 277-280), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd Edition (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

Sociology of Self and Society

George Herbert Mead, "The Self" [1934] (pp. 282-294), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd Edition (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

5. W.E.B. DUBOIS (1868-1963)

Biography, History and Worldview

Craig Calhoun et al., "Introduction to Part V" (pp. 277-280), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd Edition (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

Sociology of Self and Society

W.E.B. DuBois, "The Souls of Black Folk" [1903] (pp. 323-328), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd Edition (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

6. MAX HORKHEIMER (1895-1973) & THEODOR ADORNO (1903-1969)

Biography, History and Worldview

Craig Calhoun et al., "Introduction to Part VI" (pp. 331-334), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd Edition (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

Sociology of Culture and Knowledge

Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception" [1944] (pp. 385-389), in Graig Calhoun et al., *Classical Sociological Theory*, 2nd Edition (Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA: 2007)

7. ANTONIO GRAMSCI (1891-1937)

Hegemony and Organic Intellectuals

Antonio Gramsci, "The Intellectuals," [after 1927?] (pp. 3-14) (14-23 optional) *Selections from the Prison Notebooks of Antonio Gramsci* (International Publishers, New York: 1971)

Disability Statement Policy:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute course work must register with the Office

for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, MOD 1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305) – and follow all OSD procedures.

Code of Academic Integrity Policy:

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations at http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf.