

SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SYA 4010

(3 credits)

SPRING 2012

Mondays 7:10 – 10 pm

This course is an advanced introduction to sociological theory. In this course we will focus most heavily on the sociological theorists of the classical period, the period in the middle to late 19th century and early 20th century when sociology was first established as an academic discipline in Europe and the United States. These theorists include: Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Georg Simmel, W. E. B. Dubois, and George Herbert Mead. Although the focus of the course is primarily classical social theory, we will also consider some of the key developments in post-classical and contemporary social theory.

COURSE PREREQUISITES/PLACE IN SOCIOLOGY BA PROGRAM

The formal prerequisite for this course is the completion of one of four lower division courses (SYG 1000, SYG 2010, SYD 2790, or SYP 2450) offered by the sociology department at FAU (or an equivalent course taken at another college or university). This course is an advanced course in the undergraduate sociology curriculum and is one of two regularly offered courses that meet the requirement for sociology majors to complete at least one course in social theory. Even though only one course in social theory is required of sociology majors, students may find it interesting or beneficial to take both this course and the other social theory course, Contemporary Social Theory. If students choose to take two courses in social theory, the second one will count as a general sociology elective and one of the 10 total upper division sociology courses majors are required to complete. Students considering the possibility of graduate-level study in sociology would especially benefit from taking both. Sociology majors who wish to apply this course towards the required 30 credits of upper-division sociology must earn at least a 'C' in the course. Non-majors are also welcome to take this course.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Ann Branaman

Culture & Society Building (CU) #260

Office hours: Tuesdays 11 AM – 7 PM (walk-in); Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays

11 AM – 7 PM by appointment

Email address: branaman@fau.edu

Office phone: 561-297-3278

All communication should be shared within the course communication tools, except in an emergency. If your question(s) are not of a personal or confidential nature, please post your questions to the Questions/Concerns discussion board within the course. (Before posting a question on the discussion board, however, please check to see if another student has already asked the same question.) I will generally respond to these posts within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. For messages that are more personal or confidential, please use the Messages feature in Blackboard. Call me or email me directly at branaman@fau.edu if your question or concern is more pressing.

Required Text

There is one required textbook for this course:

Edles and Applerouth, *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Texts and Readings*, 2nd edition, 2009, Pine Forge Press.

Other required reading will be made available on Blackboard.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the social-historical context in which sociology developed as an academic discipline in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Articulate the core issues addressed by classical sociological theorists.
- Read primary texts in social theory with a high level of understanding.
- Move back and forth between abstract concepts and concrete experiences.
- Name key social theorists in sociology's history and explain the main contributions of each.
- Compare and contrast the assumptions of different social theorists and theoretical perspectives.
- Evaluate the contemporary relevance of the ideas of classical and post-classical social theorists.
- Write about an experience, event, or topic of contemporary relevance, using ideas of any of the theorists we study in this course to help illuminate the experience, event, or topic.

Evaluation

Your grade will be based on your performance on each of the following assignments and assessments:

Midterm (25%)

Final Exam (25%)

Discussion board or primary text summary assignments (25%)

Reading quizzes (25%)

The midterm exam is scheduled for Monday, February 27th. The final exam is scheduled for Monday, April 30th. Reading quizzes must be completed every week prior to our weekly meetings; quizzes will be available no later than the end of the day on Wednesday prior to our next class meeting. Either a discussion board assignment OR a primary text summary assignment will also be given each week no later than the end of the day on Wednesday prior to our next class meeting. These assignments must also be completed prior to the next weekly meeting.

Grade Scale:	A	95-100	A-	90-94	B+	87-89
	B	83-86	B-	80-82	C+	76-80
	C	70-75	D	60-69	F	0-59

Course Outline and Schedule of Readings

January 9	Introduction – What is Social Theory? Historical context of development of sociology
January 16	Karl Marx Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 2
January 23	Karl Marx, continued Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 2
January 30	Emile Durkheim Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 3
February 6	Emile Durkheim, continued Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 3
February 13	Max Weber Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 4
February 20	Max Weber, continued Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 4
February 27	Midterm Exam
March 12	Charlotte Perkins Gilman Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 5
March 19	Georg Simmel Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 6
March 26	W. E. B. Dubois Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 7
April 2	George Herbert Mead Edles and Applerouth, Chapter 8
April 9	Herbert Marcuse, Theodor Adorno, Erich Fromm Marcuse, “Liberation from an Affluent Society” Adorno, “The Culture Industry Reconsidered”

April 16

Erich Fromm, Selection from *The Sane Society*
C. Wright Mills
Mills, Selection from *White Collar*

April 23

Arlie Hochschild
Hochschild, Selection from *The Managed Heart*

April 30 Final Exam

The course schedule is subject to change. Any changes in schedule will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. Students are responsible to know and adjust to any changes.

COURSE POLICIES

Time Commitment

To be successful in this course, I estimate that you will need to commit at least 8 hours per week.

Email Policy

The preferred method to contact me is through messages in Blackboard. Except for weekends and holidays, generally I will respond to these messages within 24 hours. Such messages should only be used to communicate personal or confidential matters; otherwise, please use the Questions/Concerns discussion board within the course.

Course-related questions

Post course-related questions to the Questions/Concerns discussion board. Asking course-related questions in this way allows other participants with the same question to benefit from the responses. Also, make sure you review this forum prior to posting a question; it may have already been asked and answered in previous posts. Except for weekends and holidays, questions will generally be answered within 48 hours.

Announcements

You are responsible for reading all announcements posted by the instructor. Check the announcements each time you login to Blackboard to be sure you have read all of them since your last login session.

Exam Procedures

Each of the three exams students are required to complete during this course will be given online through Blackboard. Students will be expected to complete these exams during or within 72 hours of the 3-hour scheduled class period reserved for each of the exams. The exam will be

opened at 4 p.m. on the day of the scheduled exam and will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on the Thursday of the week during which the exam is scheduled. Students are welcome to make use of notes and reading materials while taking exams, but each exam will be time limited.

Policies on Late Work, Incompletes, and Technical Difficulties

Because of the flexible time frame for completion of exams, there should rarely be any reason for a student to miss an exam. If students have a valid documented excuse for being unable to complete the exam during the 72-hour period in which it is offered, they will be given the opportunity to make up the exam at the university testing center. Students are warned to complete the exam well in advance of the 11:59 pm Friday deadline so that they will have the opportunity to resolve any technical difficulties should they arise. It is strongly recommended that students complete the exam on the date of the class period scheduled for the exam; this will allow ample opportunity to address any technical difficulties that might arise in advance of the Friday night deadline. Incompletes in the course will be given only in exceptional circumstances. If circumstances beyond the student's control make it impossible for a student to complete required work by the end of the term, incompletes will be permitted *if* a student has completed more than 50% of the exams and assignments in the course with an average grade of 'C' or better.

Technical Problem Resolution Procedure

Many technical difficulties can be resolved relatively quickly, but if you wait to the last minute before due dates, the chances of these glitches affecting your success are greatly increased. Please plan appropriately. Should a problem occur, it is essential you take immediate action to document the issue so your instructors can verify and take appropriate action regarding a resolution. Please take the following steps should a problem occur:

1. If you can, make a Print Screen of the monitor when the problem occurred. Save the Print Screen as a .jpg file. If you are unfamiliar with creating a Print Screen file, click the appropriate links below.
 - a. For PC users ([video](#) or [script](#))
 - b. For MAC users
2. Complete a Help Desk ticket at <http://www.fau.edu/helpdesk>. Make sure you complete the form entirely and give a full description of your problem so the Help Desk staff will have the pertinent information in order to assist you properly. This includes:
 - a. Select "Blackboard (Student)" for the Ticket Type.
 - b. Input the Course ID.
 - c. In the Summary/Additional Details section, include your operating system, internet browser, and internet service provider (ISP).
 - d. Attach the Print Screen file, if available.
3. Send a message within Blackboard to your instructor to notify him/her of the problem. Include all pertinent information of the incident (2b-d above).

4. If you do not have access to Blackboard, send an email to your instructor with all pertinent information of the incident (2b-d above).
5. If you do not have access to a computer, call your instructor with all pertinent information of the incident. If he/she is not available, make sure you leave a detailed message.
6. If you do not hear back from the Help Desk or your instructor within a timely manner (48 hours), it is your responsibility to follow up with the appropriate person until a resolution is obtained.

Disability 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 I (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.

The FAU Code of Academic Integrity prohibits dishonesty and requires a faculty member, student, or staff member to notify an instructor when there is reason to believe dishonesty has occurred in a course/program requirement. The instructor must pursue any reasonable allegation, taking action where appropriate. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) Cheating

1. The unauthorized use of notes, books, electronic devices, or other study aids while taking an examination or working on an assignment.
2. Providing unauthorized assistance to or receiving assistance from another student during an examination or while working on an assignment.
3. Having someone take an exam or complete an assignment in one's place.

4. Securing an exam, receiving an unauthorized copy of an exam, or sharing a copy of an exam.

(B) Plagiarism

1. The presentation of words from any other source or another person as one's own without proper quotation and citation.

2. Putting someone else's ideas or facts into your own words (paraphrasing) without proper citation.

3. Turning in someone else's work as one's own, including the buying and selling of term papers or assignments.

(C) Other Forms of Dishonesty

1. Falsifying or inventing information, data, or citations.

2. Failing to comply with examination regulations or failing to obey the instructions of an examination proctor.

3. Submitting the same paper or assignment, or part thereof, in more than one class without the written consent of both instructors.

4. Any other form of academic cheating, plagiarism, or 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.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD)

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<http://www.osd.fau.edu/>

Information Resource Management (IRM)

Students who confront computing, network, or other technological difficulties during this course may seek assistance from the University's IRM Department. Visit the IRM site at www.fau.edu/irtm/index.php for information and resources; questions not addressed by existing resources on the IRM website can be directed to IRM's online "Helpdesk" at www.fau.edu/helpdesk/. The helpdesk provides an online ticket submission system to help resolve any technological difficulties you may have throughout the course. If unable to login to the FAU website, you may call the helpdesk at (561) 297-3999.

University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW)

The University Center for Excellence in Writing is a valuable resource for any student interested in improving writing skills. The Center provides one-on-one consultation with trained consultants to enhance writing skills and address problem areas. As I grade written work throughout the semester, I will recommend seeking consultation from the UCEW to any student who demonstrates writing deficiencies. The Center has walk-in locations on all campuses; see www.fau.edu/UCEW/WC for further information and for all center locations.

Library Resources

Students in this course will be required to make use of the university's library services for some assignments. The library's website is <http://www.fau.edu/library>. From this website, students may gain access to online articles and databases; these may be directly accessed from any computer on any FAU campus, but they may also be accessed from home or elsewhere by logging into Off Campus Connect (EZ Proxy). The link to Off Campus Connect can be found on the library's homepage. Students unskilled in use of the library's resources may seek help from the Reference Department. From the library's homepage, click on "Ask a Librarian"; from this site, you may initiate contact with a librarian through chat, text, email, phone, or in-person. From this "Ask a Librarian" page, you may also click on Reference Department where you will find an array of resources that will guide you in the effective use of library resources.

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

The University's Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) offers resources that students may find helpful in improving their study skills and facilitating academic success. Their website is <http://www.fau.edu/ctl>. I strongly encourage students to visit this website and to make use of its many valuable resources, including especially "Tips for Success and Academic Resources" (<http://www.fau.edu/ctl/TipsForSuccessAndAcademicResourcesStudentResources.php>).

