

COURSE SYLLABUS

SOC 386 (W), CID #7933
Sociology Theory
3 Credit Hours
Summer '08
Wynne Unit
Wed. 12:50 – 3:55 p.m.

Professor: Walter H. Bennett
Office: AB1, 311H
Phone: 936-294-1511
Office Hours: _____
(provided at first meeting)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an upper level study of sociological theory from inception to its most recent developments.

Initial focus is given to social and intellectual forces in the early development of sociological theory. The course gives special attention to the contributions of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber and George Simmel to the development of schools in sociological theory. These include Structural Functionalism, Neo-functionalism, Conflict Theory, New-Marxian theory, Symbolic Interactions and Ethnomethodology.

The course concludes with an examination of integrative developments from modern to post-modern theory.

II. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Sociological Theory, George Ritzer and Douglas Goochman, 6th edition, New York, McGraw-Hill, 2004

III. SEMESTER EXAMS AND GRADING PLAN

The course grade will be based upon performance on three exams as formally scheduled in this syllabus and weekly class activities. Each of these four components will contribute twenty-five percent in the determination of the semester grade.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. ATTENDANCE POLICY

SHSU policy is that attendance is mandatory. Attendance is recorded at the beginning of class. Students who arrive once class is underway, or leave early, may be counted absent unless the late arrival/early departure has been negotiated with the professor prior to the class meeting. A student is not only expected to show appropriate cause for both absence and tardiness, but he/she is also expected to initiate action to satisfy all missed class work, whether assigned or not. Missed exams and make-up work will be treated on the basis of individual circumstance(s).

2. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings

against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/810213.pdf

3. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. **This meeting should take place within the first two weeks of the semester.** <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

4. RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911(a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20..." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent him/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf

5. VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to classes must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office. <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

6. CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of the component, copies of which shall be available to each student for review only and/or at various locations on each campus. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct>

V. COURSE OUTLINE/ASSIGNMENTS/TIME SCHEDULE

(The course outline and related time schedule is tentative and may be subject to revision)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Reference(s)</u>
June 4, 11, 18	I. <u>Classical Sociological Theory</u>	1
	1. A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Early Years	3
	2. Karl Marx	40
	3. Emile Durkheim	71
	4. Max Weber	108
	5. George Simmel	153
June 25	EXAM #1	
July 2, 9	II. <u>Modern Sociological Theory: The Major Schools</u>	183
	6. A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Later Years	185
	7. Structural Functionalism, Neo-functionalism, and Conflict Theory	226
	8. Varieties of Neo-Marxian Theory	226
	9. Systems Theory	314
	10. Symbolic Interactionism	334
	11. Ethnomethodology	374
	12. Exchange, Network, and Rational Choice Theories	402
	13. Contemporary Feminist Theory	436
July 16	EXAM #2	
July 23	III. <u>Recent Integrative Developments in Sociological Theory</u>	481
	14. Micro – Macro Integration	483
	15. Agency – Structure Integration	508

IV. <u>From Modern to Post-Modern Social Theory (and Beyond)</u>	539
16. Contemporary Theories of Modernity	
541	
17. Structuralism, Post-structuralism and the Emergence of Post-Modern Theory	579

August 6 FINAL EXAM