

# **SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**

## **SOC 386w**

Spring 2008  
AB1 302  
TU-TH 11:00-12-30

### **Instructor**

Dr. Alessandro Bonanno  
Office: 311a AB1  
Office Hours: TU-TH 1:00 - 3:00  
or by appointment  
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### **Required Text**

George Ritzer and Douglas J. Goodman. 2008. *Sociological Theory*. Seventh Edition. New-York. McGraw-Hill.

### **Course Objectives and Description**

The objective of the course is to survey the most relevant sociological **theories** of the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Emphasis is placed on the relevance of classic sociological theory in the formation and development of contemporary sociological theory. The characteristics and origins of major sociological schools are explored including the study of the works and ideas of Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, and Max Weber. The course also investigates the development of Neo-Marxism, Interactionism, Functionalism and Post-Modernism. Accounts of these paradigms are provided together with their theoretical ramifications. Illustration of the basic assumptions of Critical Theory, Ethnomethodology, and Symbolic Interaction are also provided. The course is designed for students with advanced knowledge of the history, and major substantive areas of, Sociology. Students who took only introductory level Sociological courses are advised to take this course only after completing advanced Sociology classes.

### **Lectures**

Lectures will be on Tuesday and Thursday. Many of these will be devoted to specific theoretical issues and will not necessarily review textbook material. Before each lecture period, the student is to study the assigned readings in order to have a framework for understanding the material presented in the lecture. If a lecture is missed, it is important to obtain notes from another student.

### **Credit and Examinations**

Three examinations will be given during the semester. Each of these exams will constitute 33.3 percent of your final grade and will cover material assigned during the class sessions preceding each exam. These exams are not comprehensive. They will consist of a set of short essays concerning topics and issues discussed in class lectures or in the textbook. They will also be closed-book, which means that students are not allowed to use notes, the textbook or other books during the examination periods. Final grading for the course will be based on the three examinations. There will be a total of 300 points available for the class. Each exam will consist of 100 points. **There will not be a FINAL EXAM.**

### **Make up Exams**

Make up exams will be allowed only in **extreme cases** and with the professor's prior consent. Before each exam period, students, who are not able to take the exam, are required to notify the professor. Notification of the student's inability to take the exam **does not** automatically involve that he/she will be allowed to take a make up exam.

### **Attendance and class behavior**

Attendance is mandatory. The class roll will be called at the outset of each class period. Absences will be recorded at that time. Students who are late to class will be also recorded absent. Students are required to **come to class on time**. Each student must be at her/his seat by the time the lecture begins at 11:00 am. During the lecture students must maintain a behavior that is compatible with class activities. Students must be courteous and respectful toward other students and the professor. **NO CELL PHONES ARE ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM AT ANYTIME.** Students who use their cell phone during class time, including text messaging, will be penalized 5 points for each violation.

### **Instructor Evaluation**

Student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

### **Religious Holy days**

Students desiring to absent themselves from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to Dr. Bonanno a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made during the first fifteen days of the semester (i.e., on or before January 25, 2008).

### **Academic Dishonesty**

SHSU expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any

phase of the academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Cheating on an exam, assignment and/or a class activity is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the exam, assignment or class activity in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213.

### **Students with Disabilities**

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then you are encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with Dr. Bonanno about how you can be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

## **Course Outline**

### *Classical Sociological Theory*

January 17	Introduction
January 22	A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Early Years (Chapter 1).
January 24-31	Emile Durkheim (Chapter 3).
Feb 5-12	Karl Marx (Chapter 2).
Feb 14-21	Max Weber (Chapter 4).
February 26	Review Classical Sociology
February 28	<b>Exam # 1</b>

### *Contemporary Sociological Theory*

March 4	A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Later Years (Chapter 6).
March 6-20	Structural Functionalism, Neofunctionalism and Conflict Theory (Chapter 7).
March 10-14	Spring Break
March 25-April 1	Varieties of Neo-Marxian Theory (Chapter 8).
April 3	Symbolic Interactionism (Chapter 10).

April 8	Review Contemporary Sociology Part I
April 10	<b>Exam # 2</b>
April 15	Ethnomethodology (Chapter 11).
April 17	Contemporary Feminist Theory (Chapter 13).
April 22-24	Contemporary Theories of Modernity (Chapter 15) and Globalization Theory (Chapter 16).
April 29-May 1	Structuralism, Post-structuralism and the Emergence of Postmodern Social Theory (Chapter 17).
May 6	Review Contemporary Sociology Part II
May 8	<b>Exam # 3</b> (11:00-12:30; room AB1 302).