



SOCIOLOGY 573.001
Contemporary Sociological Theory
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2013

Instructor: Yvonne Villanueva-Russell (Associate Professor)

Class Time: Wednesday, 7:30PM – 10:00PM

Class Location: Ferguson Social Sciences, Room 304

Office Location: Social Sciences 310

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 8AM-9AM; 11AM-Noon; 1PM-2PM

Fridays: 11AM-Noon

& other times by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5320

Skype Username: yvrussell1

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu

eCollege Website: <https://myleo.tamuc.edu>

Companion Course Website: <http://www.theory.routledgesoc.com>

[Please register and then enter in “Yvonne” as your instructor’s unique userID to gain access to our class dashboard & paper assignments]

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks Required:

- 1) Longhofer, Wesley & Daniel Winchester. 2012. Social Theory Re-Wired. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 9780415886543
- 2) Several research readings. These will be available as .pdf files posted on eCollege

Textbooks, Recommended:

- 1) Ritzer, George. 2013. Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots (**fourth** edition) New York: McGraw Hill. ISBN: 9780078026782 [Any edition of this book will do]

Catalog Description

This course will build on the foundation of classical theory to focus on the construction and application of contemporary theories used in current sociological research. The major theoretical perspectives to be studied include: neofunctionalism, neomarxism, critical theory, rational choice theory, feminist theory, post-modernism as well as significant theorists dating from Talcott Parsons to the more recent theorists. Emphasis will be placed on the basic assumptions of the various theories, and the relevance of these ideas for understanding contemporary society.

Prerequisites: Sociology 436, its equivalent or Department Head’s permission.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1) Students will demonstrate comprehension of major sociological theories through integration and synthesis of concepts in written work
- 2) Students will demonstrate the ability to apply sociological theories to real world scenarios in written work.

Course Format

Each class session will be divided into two halves. The first portion of class will be a seminar-style discussion. Basically, that means that you, the student, will do the bulk of course presentations, discussions, outlines and critiques. Your professor, rather than lecturing, will serve only as a guide and moderator in moving class discussions toward certain topics and away from others.

The second half of the class will be lecture provided by your professor. This instruction is designed to give you preliminary background and an introduction to key concepts that will be covered for the following week. By giving you this foundation, students will have a framework by which to understand the readings they will be expected to discuss in the first half of the class in the next week.

Students will be expected to have read the weekly reading assignments and be able to share their insights, questions and opinions about the issues raised within them. Students will need to be active participants as well as being active listeners.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading Procedures

Our course will be evaluated using paper assignments immediately following each unit of the class. A more detailed description follows.

A. Writing Out Loud Papers: 10 @ 50 Points each

This class element is designed to measure Student Learning Outcome #1: Students will demonstrate comprehension of major sociological theories through integration and synthesis of concepts in written work, and Student Learning Outcome #2: Students will demonstrate the ability to apply sociological theories to real world scenarios in written work.

1. **Assignment Description:** Upon the completion of each theorist/theory discussion, students will write a paper answering a set of 5 question prompts provided by the professor. These questions will be loosely based on "Writing Out Loud" papers that appear on our companion website: <http://theory.routledgesoc.com>. Please note that the actual paper instructions will be given to you by your professor, and will NOT appear exactly as on the companion website (2 additional questions will be added to those that appear on the website).

A total of 12 papers will be assigned, with students completing ANY TEN of these assignments. Each paper will be worth 50 points

Students who complete more than 10 papers will have only their 10 highest scores recorded. Extra papers cannot be completed for extra credit. Papers cannot be re-done or re-graded.

All papers should be submitted as .doc or .rtf attachments to the dropbox on eCollege. Do not email your papers to your professor unless prior arrangements have been made. All written work is subject to turnitin.com review

Please save and submit your papers as an attachment with a filename like so: **Last Name_Theorist Paper.doc or "Russell_Exchange Theory Paper.doc**

Papers are due by 11:59PM on the day the assignment is due. Late papers will incur a **20% deduction** in points. Papers will not be accepted beyond **one week** of the original assignment's due date.

2. **Assessment:** A detailed rubric will be provided to students with the specific assignment instructions handed out in class. Paper should be between 1-3 pages, although there are no page minimums or maximums. Due Dates vary—a list of papers and their dues appears below:

Paper Description	Due Date
Structural-Functional Theory	Feb 6
Ethnomethodology	Feb 13
World Systems Theory	Feb 20
Bourdieu	Feb 27
Mills	March 6
Foucault	March 27
Standpoint Theory	April 3
Intersectionality Theory	April 10
Dramaturgy	April 17
Structural Symbolic Interactionism	April 24
Exchange Theory	May 1
Postmodernism	May 6

3. **Important notes**

- a. Students are expected to integrate as many relevant sociological concepts as possible, making sure to define them before using them in their essays
- b. Students must cite in-text using APA, ASA or another style they are familiar with
- c. All written work should be submitted to the dropbox on eCollege by the due date
- d. Late assignments will receive a 20% deduction in points
- e. No written assignment will be accepted beyond one week of the original due date.
- f. Written assignments cannot be re-done or re-graded.
- g. All written work must be submitted *as a WORD (.doc) attachment* to the dropbox on eCollege. Do not email assignments to your professor, and make sure assignments are .doc or .rtf files.
- h. Any written work in this class is subject to turnitin review (including posts on discussion boards). Turnitin.com is a website that checks for plagiarism and generates an originality report that notes which parts of a paper appear unattributed to other student papers, internet sources or articles and books. Please make sure that you cite wherever appropriate. If you need help or advice on how to do this, please contact your professor. See document sharing for guidelines on how to cite. **Students who plagiarize will receive a zero on the assignment in question.**

B. Quote of the Week: ungraded

As a measure of accountability, and as a facilitator of class discussion, students are expected to submit a quote of their choice from the readings assigned for the week. Students should select a

brief passage from one of the primary readings (not including the Ritzer book) that is 4 sentences or less. Students will need to type the quote verbatim, and also provide a page number for reference.

Each week, the quote should be emailed to your professor at: Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu by **5PM**. These quotes will then be the foundation for our class discussion to be held later that evening. Students should be prepared to read the quote for their fellow students, but then discuss briefly why it was chosen as noteworthy.

All students are expected to contribute a quote each week.

GRADING

There are a total of 500 points attainable in this class. The breakdown of points is as follows:

Summary Papers 10 @ 50 points each = 500 points

Your grade in the class will be determined according to the following scale:

450 points – 500 points	(90% - 100%)	A
400 points – 459 points	(80% - 89%)	B
350 points – 399 points	(70% - 79%)	C
300 points – 349 points	(60% - 69%)	D
299 points and below	(59% and below)	F

Grades of Incomplete:

I do not assign grades of incomplete in this course. Your grade will assigned based on the points you have earned from all completed work at that time. It is your responsibility to finish assignments prior to their due dates or to make alternate arrangements for their completion. Do not assume I can or will extend due dates or course requirements for your individual needs or preferences. All coursework must be submitted by 5PM on Wednesday, May 6th.

I do not drop students from my courses. If you feel Sociology 573 is not the course for you, please take the necessary steps to remove yourself from this class. Simply not participating or logging on, in hopes that I will remedy the situation for you will not occur. You are responsible for the consequences stemming from either coming to class, or not coming to class. [Student may submit a “drop request” through MyLeo to drop this course.]

Important dates:

Last Day to Drop: Feb 29, 2013

Last Day to Withdraw from the semester: April 26, 2013

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is primarily a face to face course, but course handouts, instruction assignments, PowerPoint be posted on eCollege as a supplement. In order to access eCollege, student will need the following:

Ability to open Adobe Acrobat files (.pdf), PowerPoint files (.ppt) and Word files (.doc)

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you [perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course](#). To launch a browser test, login to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

For those of you who are not familiar with eCollege, I suggest you take the tutorial offered online. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the folks in Technology Services.

We will also frequently consult our companion website: <http://theory.routledgesoc.com>. In order to access this website, students will need to 1) purchase the textbook, and then 2) register at the website (at no cost to you. When registering, students will need to enter in “Yvonne” as the “unique userID.” Although we will utilize this website often, **all paper assignments are to be submitted to the dropbox on eCollege**, and NOT submitted through the Social Theory Re-Wired website.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Ecollege technical concerns: Please contact the eCollege HelpDesk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by sending an email directly to helpdesk@online.tamuc.org. You may also reach the HelpDesk by calling 1-866-656-5511, or through online chat by clicking on the “Live Support” tab within your ecollege course.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

I expect each of you to be active and thoughtful participants within our classroom and learning community. You are to expect the same of me. This includes completing our readings related to course topics, individual written assignments, and completion of exams.

Email I [Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu] s the best way to reach me, as I check it daily. . You can expect to receive a reply to any inquiry within 24 hours (M-F). It is advisable to include the course number and your full name in any electronic correspondence with me.

In case of emergency, you may leave word for me through the Sociology & Criminal Justice department, who can forward your message to me: 903-886-5332.

Check your MyLeo email account regularly for announcements about our class!!!

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

I. Course Specific Procedures:

a. Late Work:

Unless a genuine emergency has arisen, all students are expected to turn in assignments on or before the deadlines assigned. Late assignments will receive a **20% deduction** in points for that assignment. No assignment will be accepted beyond **one week** of the original assignment's due date.

b. Grades of Incomplete

I do not assign grades of incomplete in this course. All coursework must be handed in to me by May 6, 2013. Your grade will be assigned based on the points you have earned from all completed work at that time. It is your responsibility to finish assignments prior to their due dates or to make alternate arrangements for their completion. Do not assume I can or will extend due dates or course requirements for your individual needs or preferences.

c. Dropping the class

I do not drop students from my courses. If you feel Sociology 573 is not the course for you, please take the necessary steps to remove yourself from this class. Simply not attending in hopes that I will remedy the situation for you will not occur. You are responsible for the consequences stemming from either coming to class, or not coming to class.

d. Attendance:

At the graduate level, regular class attendance, alone, is not enough to master the complex theories we will discuss over the course of the semester. Students should not only be present in class, but prepared and able to contribute meaningfully to ongoing discussions. It is your responsibility to have an understanding of course material whether you were present in class or not.

e. Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must work to provide an environment in which each student has the opportunity to be evaluated fairly on the basis of his/her own performance. University regulations regarding academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. At a minimum, any student found to be in violation of university rules will receive a zero grade on the exam or assignment involved. ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to both the Department Head as well as the Dean of the College. These offices may also wish to evaluate the case and decide punishment independent of this professor's actions. In short, cheating, plagiarizing and engaging in unethical student behavior carries a high price for such a short-term reward – don't do it! If in doubt, check with your professor on citing procedures, format and style.

*****If in doubt, check with your professor on citing procedures, format and style. See notes above about the use of turnitin.com in this class.**

II. University Specific Procedures:

A. Special Needs:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

B. Statement on Student Behavior

As stated in the student handbook: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information.) Please refer to the section on discussion boards about expected behaviors in these forums.

All cellular telephones, beepers and electronic devices should be turned off or set on silent mode before entering the classroom.

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

Test dates and written assignments are scheduled tentatively at this time. They may be changed but advanced notice will be given in class. You are expected to read the assigned material prior to its discussion in class. In the case of inclement weather, a substitute assignment will be given via eCollege.

Date	First Half of Class	Second Half of Class	Assignments/Notes
Jan 16	Syllabus distribution and discussion	Introductory Remarks	
Jan 23	Lecture: Classical versus Contemporary Theory	Lecture: From Durkheim to Parsons and Merton	
Jan 30	Discussion of Structural-Functional Articles: 1] "Categories of the Orientation and Organization of Action" Social Theory Re-Wired book, p. 66 2] "Some Principles of Stratification" posted on eCollege 3] For background information, , read pp. 72-93 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: Ethnomethodology	Email your professor your chosen "quote of the week" from one of the Structural-Functional readings by 5PM

Date	First Half of Class	Second Half of Class	Assignment/Notes
Feb 6	Discuss Ethnomethodology Readings 1] “Studies in Ethnomethodology” Social Theory Re-Wired, p. 82 2] “Just Go Straight Ahead” on eCollege 3] For background information, read pp. 152 – 157 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: From Marx to Wallerstein and World Systems Theory MOVIE: <i>Life and Debt</i>	Email your quote of the week from the Ethnomethodology readings by 5PM today If completing a paper on Structural-Functionalism , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today
Feb 13	Discuss World Systems Theory Readings 1] ““The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System” Social Theory Re-Wired, p. 143 2] “The Nation as Babbitt” on eCollege 3] For background information, read p. 123 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: Bourdieu <i>The Wire</i> : “Know Your Place”	Email your quote of the week based on one of the World Systems Theory Readings by 5PM today If completing a paper on Ethnomethodology , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today
Feb 20	Discuss Bourdieu Readings 1] “The Forms of Capital” Social Theory Re-Wired, p. 168 2] “Nobrow” Culture on eCollege 3] For background information, read pp. 183-192 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: From Weber to Mills	Email your quote of the week based on the Bourdieu Readings by 5PM today If completing a paper on World Systems Theory , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today

Date	First Half of Class	Second Half of Class	Assignment/Notes
Feb 27	Discuss Mills Readings 1] ““White Collar”- on eCollege 2] “Culture and Politics” on eCollege 3] For background information, read p. 94 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: Critical Theory	Email your quote of the week based on the Mills Readings by 5PM today If completing a paper on Bourdieu , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today
March 6	Discuss Critical Theory Readings 1] “One Dimensional Man” Social Theory Re-Wired” p. 283 2] “How to Watch Television” on eCollege 3] For background information, read pp. 108-116 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: Foucault	Email your quote of the week based on the Critical Theory Readings by 5PM today If completing a paper on Mills , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today
March 13	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
March 20	Discuss Foucault Readings 1] “Discipline and Punish” Social Theory Re-Wired” p. 299 2] “The Politics of Health as a School Sponsored Ethic” on eCollege 3] For background information, read pp. 223 – 241 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: Feminist Theory (Standpoint Theory)	Email your quote of the week based on the Foucault Readings by 5PM today

Date	First Half of Class	Second Half of Class	Assignment/Notes
March 27	Discuss Standpoint Theory Readings 1] “The Conceptual Practices of Power” Social Theory Re-Wired, p. 388 2] “K is Mentally Ill” on eCollege 3] For background information, read pp. 222-228 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: Feminist Theory (Intersectionality Theory)	Email your quote of the week based on the Standpoint Theory Readings by 5PM today If completing a paper based on Foucault , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today
April 3	Discuss Intersectionality Theory Readings 1] “Black Feminist Thought” Social Theory Re-Wired, p. 395 2] “Mammies, Matriarchs and Other Controlling Images” on eCollege 3] For background information, read pp. 219 – 222 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: From Mead to Blumer to Goffman	Email your quote of the week based on Intersectionality Theory by 5PM today If completing a paper on Standpoint Theory , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today
April 10	Discuss Dramaturgy Readings 1] “The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life” p. 452 2] “Aces and Bombers” on eCollege 3] For background information, read pp. 143 – 151 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: The Expansion of Symbolic Interactionism (Structural SI)	Email your quote of the week based on the Dramaturgy readings by 5PM today If completing a paper on Intersectionality Theory , submit it to eCollege by 11:59PM today

Date	First Half of Class	Second Half of Class	Assignments/Notes
April 17	Discuss Structural Symbolic Interactionism Readings 1] “The Codification of Symbolic Interactionism” on eCollege 2] “Symbolic Interaction as an Approach to Family Research” on eCollege	Lecture: Exchange Theory	Email your quote of the week based on the Structural Symbolic Interactionism Readings by 5PM today If completing a paper on Dramaturgy , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today
April 24	Discuss Exchange Theory Readings 1] “The Formulation of Exchange Theory” on eCollege 2] “The Expression of Anger, Guilt and Sadness in Marriage” 3] For background information, read pp. 157-163 in recommended Ritzer book	Lecture: Postmodernism	Email your quote of the week based on the Exchange Theory Readings by 5PM today If completing a paper on Structural Symbolic Interactionism , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today
May 1	Discuss Postmodernism Readings 1] “From Pilgrim to Tourist: or a Short History of Identity” Social Theory Re-Wired, p. 482 2] Nikolas Rose reading TBA 3] For background information, read pp. 241 – 245 in recommended Ritzer book	Short class—No more lectures!	Email your quote of the week based on the Postmodernism Readings by 5PM today If completing a paper on Exchange Theory , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today
May 6	No Class Lecture	No Class Lecture	If completing a paper on Postmodernism , submit it to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM today