



Sociology 572.001: Classical Sociological Theory COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2014

Instructor: Yvonne Villanueva-Russell; Associate Professor

Class Time: Monday evenings, 5PM-7:40PM in SS313

Office Location: Social Sciences 232

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 8AM-9AM and 1PM-3PM ; Fridays 8AM-9AM

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Supplemental 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:

Textbook, Required:

- 1] Longhofer, Wesley and Daniel Winchester (editors). 2012. Social Theory Re-Wired: New Connections to Classical and Contemporary Perspectives. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-88654-3
- 2] Several articles posted as pdf files on the ecollege website

Textbook, Recommended

- 3] Ritzer, George. 2010. Contemporary Social Theory & Its Classical Roots. (3rd edition). New York: McGraw Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-340438-7
[This book is recommended for those of you planning to take the written comprehensive exams in Sociology, and for those of you with little-to-no background exposure to Sociology]

Course Description:

This course will study the classical foundation of sociology, focusing on the writings of Durkheim, Weber, Marx and Mead. Attention will be given to how these theories have given rise to the major theoretical perspectives in sociology, particularly functionalism, conflict theory and symbolic interactionism

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be active and engaged participants in discussions by **analyzing** information presented within the lectures and readings.
2. Students will demonstrate their **comprehension** of the primary writings of classical sociological theory through written papers.
3. Students will **synthesize and apply** classical sociological theory in written papers.

Course Format:

Because we are not relying on a traditional textbook, it will be important for you to take notes as you are reading. I suggest that students take these points into consideration when they approach reading for any graduate level course:

- What is the main idea, point or argument of the reading?
- List three important facts or sources of evidence to support the main idea
- What concepts or ideas from class lecture are also discussed in this reading?
- List any new terms or concepts introduced in the article with a brief definition
- Are there any problems or points I disagree with in the main point of the reading? That is, are there alternate explanations or theories that could also explain these phenomena?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Our course will have FOUR types of assignments:

- 1) Online Discussion Board (1 @ 34 points)
- 2) Written Papers (4 @ 100 points)
- 3) Final Exam (1 @ 120 points)
- 4) Quote of the Week (ungraded)

Detailed instructions for each of these assignments follows:

1] DISCUSSION BOARD (1 @ 34 points)

This assignment has been designed to meet Student Learning Objective #1:

- Students will be active and engaged participants in discussions by **analyzing** information presented within the lectures and readings.

It is expected that students will thoughtfully reflect on the discussion that ensues, and reply back to comments posted by other students. Here are some ground rules for our discussion boards:

- 1) **There are no minimums or maximums on how much or how little you post on the discussion boards. The goal is to achieve quantity & quality. I am striving for us to have a *genuine conversation* on the boards this semester.** You may post a new question, start a new thread, or simply respond to other students. For this to happen, we need a couple of guidelines: post or reply, and then **follow-up**. You will not achieve full points by just logging on in the last hour of the last day and posting a couple of random comments on others' posts. Ideally, you'll post something, check back in a few hours and check-in again over the course of several days to interact, reply, respond and comment on what

others have said on a single thread. **You don't always have to post a new topic or start a new thread.** You should aim to contribute meaningfully and engage in actual reciprocal interaction, extending a thread to its maximum.

- 2) This discussion will take place within a set timeframe. After the deadline, your professor may post some summary comments of the discussion, highlighting the themes and questions that have emerged. Discussion boards cannot be made up. If you miss out, there is no way to makeup these points.
- 3) Students should feel free to honestly post and defend their opinions, but should be tolerant of other students who express views that are contrary to their own. Discussion boards are places where *dialogue* occurs. They are not a debate that is to be “won” or places where “conversion” takes place. Feel free to explore differences in view points, but do not allow these conflicts to escalate into personal attacks. Please do *not* play devil’s advocate or pretend to take a stance that is not genuine or authentically held.
- 4) Full, complete sentences are required. Do not use jargon, abbreviations, or acronyms. So, no “LOL,” “SMH,” “IMHO” or “BTW,” please.
- 5) **IMPORTANT:** Demonstrate your “sociological imagination” by integrating relevant theories and concepts to help explain, support and defend the arguments you plan to make. **You will usually need to draw upon the articles for support. Be sure to CITE appropriately.**
- 6) Spell-check your posts. You may want to draft your response in Microsoft Word, spell-check it, then cut and paste it into the discussion board on eCollege. You will not be able to go back and edit your post once it has been submitted to eCollege.
- 7) Here are the essentials for our discussion boards this semester:

Cardinal Rules- OBEY!!!	Try NOT to:	Try to:
Wikipedia cannot be used as a credible source of information	Do not rely on personal experiences as your “proof”	Take a firm stance & defend it
The Bible cannot be used as an academic source of information	Do not rely on overly-psychological or psychoanalytical explanations	Pose a question to take the discussion deeper
Do NOT call people “crazy”	Do not give us more to read- summarize and provide a link to a website for those who are curious, instead	Engage in reciprocal interaction with other students within a single thread
Do NOT attribute behavior to the whims of individuals in which patterns cannot be deciphered	Do not post overly-long or overly-complex responses	Give us something new to think about
Do NOT simply say “I agree” with someone’s post	Do not wait until the last day to post. Do no post only on	Cite whenever appropriate

(send them a private email, instead)	one day at one sitting.	
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8) Discussion board grades will be decided on the following rubric:

Grading rubric- discussion boards

Criteria	Possible Points	Your Points
Did student post more than once, and on more than on one day at one sitting?	3	
Did student make a genuine attempt to engage in ongoing conversation within a single thread?	4	
Did student contribute and add something original & valuable to the discussion	6	
Did student demonstrate comprehension of the assigned readings and/or address the prompt provided?	6	
Did student integrate sociological concepts and theories where appropriate?	6	
Did student write from an academic perspective rather than personal opinion?	3	
Was the student collegial and professional in interactions with fellow students?	3	
Proper grammar and citations used throughout	3	
SCORE	34 points	points

Important Notes:

***The discussion board is with worth 34 points.

***Discussion board assignments CANNOT be made up.

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.**

2] WRITTEN PAPERS (4 @ 100 points)

This assignment has been designed to measure student learning outcome #3:

- Students will **synthesize and apply** classical sociological theory in written papers.

a) Assignment description

Students will be assigned a paper to cover each of the main classical theorists of the course. The papers will be assigned as follows:

Theorist	Due Date
Emile Durkheim	Hardcopy should be submitted at the beginning of class on (M) February 10th
Karl Marx	Hardcopy should be submitted at the beginning of class on (M) March 3rd
Max Weber	Hardcopy should be submitted at the beginning of class on (M) March 31st
George Herbert Mead	Hardcopy should be submitted at the beginning of class on (M) April 14th

b) Assessment

A grading rubric will be used to evaluate student papers. This instrument will be provided along with the instructions presented to students prior to the due date. Each paper will be worth 100 points.

c) Important notes

- ***Students should submit a **HARDCOPY** of their papers at the beginning of class. Do not email the paper, leave under the office door, or leave in my departmental mailbox unless prior arrangements have been made.
- *** Students should consult two handouts posted on eCollege for assistance in writing papers: 1) "Citations" and 2) "How To Apply a Theory"
- ***Late papers will receive a 10% deduction in points
- ***Papers cannot be accepted beyond one week of the original due date
- ***Students will need to completed ALL FOUR paper assignments
- ***Papers cannot be re-done or re-submitted; extra or makeup assignments will not be given
- *** 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.

3] FINAL EXAM (1 @ 120 points)

This assignment has been designed to measure student learning outcome #2:

- Students will demonstrate their comprehension of the primary writings of classical sociological theory through written papers.

a) Assignment description:

The final exam will be administered as a take home paper. Detailed instructions will be provided in class and posted on the eCollege website several weeks prior to the due date. The exam will focus on the work of the last three theorists covered in our course: Georg Simmel; Harriet Martineau and W.E.B DuBois. Questions will total 40 points for each of these theorists.

b) Assessment

A grading rubric will be used to evaluate student papers. This instrument will be provided along with the instructions presented to students prior to the due date. The final exam will be worth 120 points.

c) Important notes:

- *** Please save and submit your document like so: last name_title of document. For example: "Jones_Soc572Final.doc"
- *** Summary papers are **due by 11:59PM on Monday, May 5th**, and is worth 120 points. Papers should be submitted as a word or rtf attachment to the dropbox provided on ecollege.
- *** Late papers will receive a 10% deduction in points
- *** 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.

4] QUOTE OF THE WEEK: ungraded

This assignment has been designed to measure student learning outcome #2:

- Students will demonstrate their **comprehension** of the primary writings of classical sociological theory through written papers.

a) Assignment description:

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.

b) Assessment:

Each week, the quote should be emailed to your professor at: Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu by 2PM. 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.

c) Important notes:

All students are expected to contribute a quote for each week assigned.

Grading

There are a total of 554 points in this course. A breakdown of assignments and their point values is as follows:

4 papers (@ 100 points each)	400 points
1 discussion board	34 points
1 final exam	120 points
	554 points

Your grade for the course will be calculated using the following scale:

498-554 points	= 90% - 100%	= A
443-497 points	= 80% - 89%	= B
387-442 points	= 70%-79%	=C
332-386 points	= 60% - 69%	=D
0 - 331 points	= 0% - 59%	=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.

I do not drop students from my courses. If you feel Sociology 572 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.]

Important dates:

Last Day to Drop: February 27, 2014

Last Day to Withdraw from the semester: April 25, 2014

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is an online course and some obvious technological resources will be required. You will need access to a computer with:

- Internet access (high-speed preferred)
- Word processing software (Microsoft Word 2007 or later preferred)
- Adobe Acrobat, or ability to open pdf files

As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via **myLeo** - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so please be sure to check it regularly. Conversely, you are to email me via the eCollege email system or your myLeo email as our spam filters will often directly send yahoo, hotmail, etc. to junk mail, and I will not regularly check for your email in spam.

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 (toll-free) 1-866-656-5511, or through the Online Chat by clicking on the "Live Support" tab within your eCollege course. [You may also want to click on the "compatibility test" button on the main page of eCollege to see whether your computer has all of the necessary programs to work with eCollege.](#)

Course Concerns: If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about a paper or discussion board, about course due dates, etc.), please contact your instructor via email: Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu

Other Questions/Concerns: Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department relating to your questions/concern. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5511 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Participation & Communication: I expect each of you to be active and thoughtful participants within the learning environment (eCollege) and your learning community. You may expect the same of me.

1. **Email is the best way to reach me as I check it daily.** If you do not hear from me within 24 hours, please resend your message as there is a good chance it was lost in cyberspace.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Attendance & Participation:

This is a graduate course. Although attendance will not be taken, it is crucial that you regularly attend and participate in class.. **Regularly check your MyLeo email account** for notifications about our class, too.

Late Work:

Discussion board assignments cannot be made up. Lack of participation in this forum will result in a loss of points for this assignment. Written work is due by the day and time assigned. Late work will result in a loss of points, usually 10%. See specific assignment for details.

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's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information).

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 academic honesty policies will receive a zero on the exam or assignment involved.** ALL instance of academic dishonesty will be reported to both the Department Head as well as the Dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences & Art. 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 short-term rewards—don't do it!

*****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. See also the handout "how to cite" in document sharing for guidelines. Feel free to use any citation style you are familiar with: APA, MLA, ASA, and Chicago are all acceptable.**

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement:

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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Reading & writing 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.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
(M) January 13	Introductory Remarks	None!	
(M) January 20	Comte & Spencer	Readings TBD- posted on eCollege	Online Discussion Board in lieu of class meeting
(M) January 27	Emile Durkheim	1] "The Rules of the Sociological Method" p. 7 2] "The Division of Labor in Society" p. 14	Email your cited quote from the readings to your professor by 2PM on 1/27 and be prepared to discuss in class
(M) February 3	Emile Durkheim	1] "Suicide" p. 38 [Use the "Interactive Reading" on the Social Theory Re-Wired website to accompany this reading] 2] "Elementary Forms of Religious Life" p. 50	Email your cited quote from the readings to your professor by 2PM on 2/3 and be prepared to discuss in class
(M) February 10	Structural-Functional Theory	Readings TBD- posted on eCollege	Durkheim Paper Due
(M) February 17	Karl Marx	1] "Capital" p. 129 [Use the "Interactive Reading" on the Social Theory Re-Wired website to accompany this reading] 2] "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" p. 136	Email your cited quote from the readings to your professor by 2PM on 2/17 and be prepared to discuss in class
(M) February 24	Karl Marx	1] "The German Ideology" p. 115 2] "Manifesto of the Communist Party" p. 120	Email your cited quote from the readings to your professor by 2PM on 2/24 and be prepared to discuss in class
(M) March 3	Conflict Theory	Readings TBD- posted on eCollege	Marx Paper Due
(M) March 10	No class- SPRING BREAK	No class- SPRING BREAK	No class- SPRING BREAK

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
(M) March 17	Max Weber	1] "Basic Sociological Terms" p. 237 2] "Bureaucracy" p. 267 3] "Class, Status and Party" p. 273	Email your cited quote from the readings to your professor by 2PM on 3/17 and be prepared to discuss in class
(M) March 24	Max Weber	1] "The Types of Legitimate Domination" p. 250 2] "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" p. 209 [Use the "Interactive Reading" on the Social Theory Re-Wired website to accompany this reading]	Email your cited quote from the readings to your professor by 2PM on 3/27 and be prepared to discuss in class
(M) March 31	George Herbert Mead	1] "The Self" p. 423 [Use the "Interactive Reading" on the Social Theory Re-Wired website to accompany this reading]	Weber Paper Due
(M) April 7	George Herbert Mead & Symbolic Interactionism	Readings TBD- posted on eCollege	Email your cited quote from the readings to your professor by 2PM on 4/7 and be prepared to discuss in class
(M) April 14	Georg Simmel	"The Metropolis and Mental Life" p. 439	Mead Paper Due
(M) April 21	Martineau	Readings TBD- posted on eCollege	Email your cited quote from the readings to your professor by 2PM on 4/21 and be prepared to discuss in class
(M) April 28	DuBois	Readings TBD- posted on eCollege	Email your cited quote from the readings to your professor by 2PM on 4/28 and be prepared to discuss in class

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
(M) May 5	FINALS WEEK- Submit take home exam to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM on Monday, May 5th	FINALS WEEK- Submit take home exam to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM on Monday, May 5th	FINALS WEEK- Submit take home exam to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM on Monday, May 5th