COURSE INFORMATION

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This graduate seminar explores advanced sociological principles through the use of selected classic and contemporary readings. Students will be expected to read, synthesize, and integrate a wide variety of sociological materials and to analyze and discuss them from divergent theoretical perspectives.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES/COURSE OBJECTIVES: This graduate course has the following major objectives, and after completing it students should be able to:

1. Describe and explain the world around them from a variety of sociological perspectives.

2. Demonstrate analytical and critical thinking skills--especially the ability to read, synthesize, and integrate a wide variety of materials and to analyze and discuss them from a multitude of theoretical perspectives.

3. Describe and explain some of the important "classic" and contemporary literature/authors in sociology.

4. Be prepared for other graduate courses and graduate comprehensive exams.


COURSE REQUIREMENTS
CLASS FORMAT: This is a graduate seminar. The purpose is not for the professor to dispense information and the students to try to absorb it. Rather, we all will be reading the same materials in preparation for class and will meet to analyze, discuss, and critique these readings together—all contributing to the learning process.

The environment will be totally open. Your participation in class discussion is not encouraged, it is demanded! All ideas, comments, opinions, etc., will be heard. Likewise, all of them will be questioned, analyzed, and critically scrutinized. Do not be timid and do not “wear your feelings on your shirtsleeves.” On the other hand, be cognizant of other's feelings and do nothing to interfere with another person's learning opportunities. We will be attacking other people's ideas, not attacking other people.

STATEMENT OF 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.)

We will be discussing many contemporary controversial topics. A mature attitude and open mind is essential.

THIS CLASSROOM IS A “SAFE SPACE”
All persons who enter this classroom will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of age, race, sex, social class, religion, politics, sexual orientation, and/or lifestyle. There will be “Zero Tolerance” in this classroom for any form of ageism, racism, sexism, sexual harassment, or any other form of prejudice, discrimination, or bigotry.

ATTENDANCE: It should go without saying that attendance at all class sessions is extremely important. The class meets only once a week and there is no possible way to gain the information lost by missing class discussions. It is inevitable that one or two of you will have to miss a session for some very good reason. If this is the case, please check with others in the class to see what you missed. If you anticipate missing more than two class sessions, you probably should drop the course.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be two examinations in this course: A short answer/essay exam at midterm; and a short answer/essay final exam. Each will be worth 100 points.

CRITICAL BOOK REVIEWS: There will be three out-of-class papers worth 100 points each. They should be 2 to 3 pages in length (typed, double-spaced). See guidelines at the end of syllabus for writing reviews and see the course schedule for due dates of each review. Papers turned in late (any time after the beginning of class when due) will be worth a maximum of 50 pts. Papers cannot be turned in any later than one week after the due date (NO EXCEPTIONS!). Do NOT e-mail the papers to the professor. Hand deliver them.

GRADES: Final course grades will be based on the 2 major exams (100 pts. ea.), 3 book reviews (100 pts. ea.), and seminar participation (100 pts.). The following final grading scale will be used:

A = 90-100% (540-600 total pts.)
B = 80 - 89% (480-539 total pts.)
C = 70 - 79% (420-479 total pts.)
D = 60 - 69% (360-419 total pts.)
F = < 60 % (< 360 total pts.)
POLICIES ON ENROLLMENT, "Xs", AND WITHDRAWAL: All policies regarding last day for enrollment, dropping without a grade, withdrawal from class, and the use of "X" will be rigidly adhered to in this course. Students should check the student handbook, current semester schedule, and the appropriate bulletin boards for specific deadlines. Seeing that all university procedures are properly followed is the student's responsibility.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Anyone who participates in either activity will fail the course and the professor will initiate steps for the department and/or university to take further disciplinary action.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

There are no technology requirements for this course. Students should have access to a computer, however, to check their MyLeo accounts for e-mails from the professor.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course is taught face-to-face and is not web-enhanced.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:
The most effective way to communicate with the professor will be to come to class. The professor will be in his office during posted office hours and by appointment. The best way to make an appointment is to communicate directly with the professor immediately prior to or after class. Appointments can also be made via e-mail.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through MyLeo e-mail. I will send out reminders about assignments, changes in syllabus, etc., to the entire class through e-mail using your official "My Leo" university e-mail address. Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. I will attempt to respond to your e-mails in a timely fashion (usually within 24 hours) except for e-mails received after noon on Friday, any time Saturday, or Sunday. There is no such thing as a "sociological emergency." Any questions or problems you encounter over the weekend can be addressed on Monday.

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@tamu-commerce.edu

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Reading Assignment:</th>
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Critical Book Reviews
(3-5 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font)

1. Complete citation for the book including: Title, author, city of publication, publisher, date.

2. What is the author's major thesis?

3. How convincing is the author in supporting the major thesis? What does he/she use to support thesis?

5. What major theoretical perspective(s) is(are) represented?

6. Are there apparent biases? If so, what are they?

7. What are the major strengths of the book?

7. What are the major weaknesses of the book?

9. Does this book make a major contribution to the field of sociology? If so, what is that contribution? If not, why not?

10. What is your personal reaction to the book? Would you recommend it to others? Why? Why not?

SOC 535
RECOMMENDED READING LIST*

(*Students also should consult with the Graduate Advisor for a reading list for comprehensive exams)

Berger, Peter
*Invitation to Sociology*
*The Social Construction of Reality* (with Luckmann)
*The Sacred Canopy*
*Pyramids of Sacrifice*
Blumer, Herbert  
*Symbolic Interactionism*

Cockerham, William C.  
*Society of Risk-Takers: Living Life on the Edge*

Collins, Randall  
*Four Traditions in Sociology*

Comte, Auguste  
*The Positive Philosophy*

Cooley, Charles H.  
*Human Nature and the Social Order*  
*Social Organization*  
*Social Process*

Durkheim, Emile  
*The Division of Labor in Society*  
*Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*  
*The Rules of the Sociological Method*  
*Suicide*

Friedan, Betty  
*The Feminine Mystique*  
*The Fountain of Age*

Faludi, Susan  
*Backlash: The Undeclared War against American Women*

Gans, Herbert  
*Popular Culture and High Culture: An Analysis and Evaluation of Taste*

Garfinkle, Harold  
*Studies in Ethnomethodology*

Goffman, Erving  
*The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*  
*Asylums*  
*Stigma*  
*Interaction Ritual*

Hall, Edward T.  
*The Silent Language*

Hochschild, Arlie  
*The Second Shift: Inside the Two-Job Marriage* (with Anne Machung)  
*The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work.*

Homans, George  
*The Human Group*
Jacobs, Jane  
*The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

Johnson, Allan G.  
*The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice, & Promise*

Lemert, Charles  
*Social Things: An Introduction to the Sociological Life*  
*Thinking the Unthinkable: The Riddle of Classical Social Theories*

Liebow, Elliot (anthropologist)  
*Tally's Corner*

Marx, Karl  
*Capital*  
*The German Ideology*  
*The Communist Manifesto* (with Engels)

McLeod, Jay  
*Ain’t No Makin It*

Mead, George H.  
*Mind, Self and Society*

Merton, Robert  
*Social Theory and Social Structure*

Mills, C. Wright  
*The Power Elite*  
*The Sociological Imagination*  
*White Collar*

Parsons, Talcott  
*The Social System*

Putnum, Robert  
*Bowling Alone: The collapse and Revival of American Community*

Ritzer, George  
*Enchanting a Disenchanted World*  
*Expressing America*  
*Sociology: A Multi-Paradigm Science*  
*The McDonaldization of Society*  
*The Globalization of Nothing*

Smith, Dorothy  
*The Everyday World as Problematic: A Feminist Sociology*  
*The Conceptual Practices of Power: A Feminist Sociology of Knowledge*

Sorokin, Pitirim  
*Fads and Foibles in Modern Sociology*
Contemporary Sociological Theories

Spencer, Herbert
   Social Statics
   Principles of Sociology

Sumner, William Graham
   Folkways

Tannen, Deborah
   You Just Don’t Understand: Women and Men in Conversation
   You’re Wearing That?

Terkel, Studs
   Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do

Thomas, William I.
   The Polish Peasant in Europe and America (with Znaniecki)
   The Unadjusted Girl

Twenge, Janet
   Generation Me

Toennies, Ferdinand
   Community and Society

Veblen, Thorsten
   Theory of the Leisure Class

Ward, Lester Frank
   Applied Sociology
   Dynamic Sociology
   Outlines of Sociology
   Pure Sociology

Weber, Max
   The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
   The Sociology of Religion

Whyte, William F.
   Street Corner Society