



SOC 436 01E SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2015

Instructor: Martha Henderson Hurley

Office Location: Social Sciences 213

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Communication Response Time: Monday through Friday within 24 hours by email

COURSE INFORMATION

I. Materials – Textbook, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required Textbook: The Discovery of Society by Randall Collins & M. Makowsky, 8th Edition, McGraw Hill, 2010. Contact Texas Book Store on Commerce campus or buy the book online.

Additional Readings: You will be provided copies of handouts, additional required readings, and a list of recommended readings online via document sharing in ecollege.

II. Course Description:

This course examines the nature of theory and review major sociological theories, especially structural-functionalism, conflict theory, exchange theory, and interaction. Special attention is given to leading figures representative of the above schools of thought. Prerequisite Sociology 1301 or its equivalent.

While we will be meeting face-to-face every week on scheduled times, this course is web-assisted and your work on-line shall supplement work in our class. Thus, there will be some work that must be completed fully online.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

This course is focused on enabling you to think critically and conceptually. It is a general survey course on sociological theory at an introductory level. Through textbook readings and on-line materials, we will pursue the following course objectives:

1. Understand what theory is or is not, and what roles theory plays. Identify different types of theory (e. g. metaphysical, analytical, normative, and scientific). Critically estimate scope and limits of science and scientific thinking.
2. Conceptualize the meaning and scope of the sociological perspective. How is this perspective different from those of the other social sciences?
3. Explore a history of sociological ideas and theories.
4. Develop a comparative understanding of the conflict theory, functionalism, interactionism, and exchange theory. Within contexts of these theoretical perspectives, identify the major contributions of various sociologists, particularly: Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Talcott Parsons, and G.H. Mead. Contemporary theorists are also reviewed.
5. Get an overview of the application of sociological theory during classical and contemporary periods and the future trends in sociological theory.

The **learning outcome assessment** for the goals stated above will be based on essays exams, quizzes, and assignments to ensure:

1. That students have adequately learned a history and the major types of sociological theories;
2. That students fully understand the contributions made by classical theorists in developing ideas that led to the growth of sociological theories;
3. That students have developed critical as well as conceptual thinking grasping various sociological theories explaining phenomena such as socialization, social control, freedom, inequalities, social deviance, and social change;
4. That students have a grasp of the sociological perspective, along with the role of research in developing that perspective as well as theories in sociology; and
5. That students have conceptualized the application of the sociological theory in solving problems or addressing social issues and demonstrate an understanding of the emerging trends in the contemporary sociological theory.

III. Student Responsibilities

Your responsibilities in completing this course are stated below.

1. You must regularly read the syllabus and all announcements posted on line at the home page of this course (or sent to you through the MyLeo e-mails) very carefully and follow all instructions about course objectives, grading procedures, and other guidelines given therein. This is an important course in our curriculum for the sociology majors and for other students taking it as an elective, particularly in counseling, psychology, other social sciences and social work.

2. This is a web-assisted course. You must log into eCollege a few times every week; read the objectives and work to be done each week; and follow your calendar for submitting 4 out of 6 online writing assignments and taking exams online on dates specified therein.
3. **Your classes will be structured around the following:**
 - A. You will be expected to attend all scheduled classes on time. (For attendance policy, see the Undergraduate Catalog of Texas A&M University-Commerce.) Attendance in this class is particularly important in this course because of the following reasons:
 - B. Reading the textbook in the sociological theory course may not be as easy as in certain other courses. I will go over various theories and theorists carefully in my weekly classes. I will require that you take notes in classes (on a notebook, not the lap tops as they will not be allowed in my classes in the best interest of face-to-face discussions).
 - C. Classes will begin promptly at the scheduled time. You are expected to be on time as late arrivals are disrupting to everyone. If you are late by more than two minutes and the door is closed, please do not try to enter classroom. Also, you are not expected to leave the classroom without instructor's prior approval.
 - D. Since this is a web assisted course, class may not meet on certain days as specified in the calendar given in the course syllabus. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTING ALL DATES AND TIMES THE CLASS WILL MEET.
 - E. You must bring your textbook to class every time it meets. I will call on you and draw your attention to specific portions of chapters to underline certain sections of a chapter and mark certain things as important.
 - F. Readings of textbook and other materials must be done when assigned. That is the only way to make the best use of reading materials. I will call on you during class discussions to talk about what you read during the period of a reading assignment.
 - G. I expect you to be attentive in the classroom. Let's not have any distractions (food, drink, chewing gum, a laptop, a nap, cell phones usage, etc.). I will appreciate your cooperation in making our classroom atmosphere conducive to learning.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your final grade will be based on the following procedures given stated under A & B below:

- A. Exams
There are **four** exams in this course. Each exam is worth 100 points each. Only three exams will count toward your final grade. **You must take 3 out of 4 exams** including the final. If you take all 4 exams, I will drop your lowest exam score.

Dates for exams are given in your calendar. Additional details will be provided in classes.

1st Exam **September 25-** This exam will be given during class.

2nd Exam **October 23-** This exam will be given during class.

3rd Exam **November 23**
This exam will be given online and must be uploaded by 11:59pm November 23..

Final Exam **December 16**
A comprehensive final exam is due. A list of specific topics will be given in the class. As stated earlier, **the final is a make-up and optional** exam. However, if you miss any of the first three exams, the final is required to pass the course. This exam will be given online and must be uploaded by 11:59pm December 16th.

All exams will consist of short essays and a few objective questions. The first two exams will be given in class on scheduled dates. **No individually scheduled make-up exams** will be given to anyone during the semester. You get to drop one exam.

For the two exams that are given online, make sure that you save your answers often during the exam. If you lose connectivity during an exam make sure that you contact the eCollege Helpdesk immediately so that the issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Once you have the Helpdesk ticket number, the student should then inform me of the problem and provide the Helpdesk ticket number in the subject line. I will call the Helpdesk to confirm the problem and will then make a decision on whether to allow the student to continue the exam or give a zero. Please see the access and navigation policies provided later in this syllabus for more details.

B. Writing Assignments

There will be 4 required theory application/critical analysis assignments for this course. Students must complete **4 out of 6 written assignments during the semester**. Each assignment is worth 50 points. These assignments are designed to be completed in 1-2 pages **directly apply or critique** theory. Details will be provided in the Assignment Section of the course **for each week**. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE ACCEPTED.** I will only grade 4 of your written assignments. If you complete 6 assignments, I will only grade the first four submitted.

The rubric for grading assignment is provided below.

Assignment Grading Criteria	Maximum Points
Applied a relevant sociological perspective or theory correctly	5
Integrated applicable course material	10
Adequately answered all parts of questions	10
Justified your theoretical selection	15
Used correct spelling, grammar, professional vocabulary, and paper flows.	10

C. Quizzes

There are **three** required quizzes in this course. Theory classes can be challenging for students. I want to make sure that you are adequately prepared for the exams in the course. The quizzes are designed to assess whether students have a basic understanding of the theoretical constructs. While the quizzes will focus on assessing student understanding of the basics, the exams are where mastery and critical thinking are expected to be demonstrated. If you do not do well on a quiz, the student should re-read the course material.

Course Points:

3 out 4 exams @ 100 points each	300 points
Class Assignments 4 out of 6 @50 points each	200 points
3 quizzes @ 50 points each	150 points
Attendance and Participation	50 points
Total points:	700 points

I do not give extra credit. DO NOT ASK. You will not be allowed to complete an extra paper, complete an extra assignment, or count more than the number of required assignments for additional points.

Grading

Your final grade is calculated as a percentage of total points possible. Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

This is an enhanced course. You must be able to log on to MyLeo in order to complete some course requirements and to take exams. Below you will find technology requirements and a discussion of what to do if you experience problems while taking an exam or completing an assignment.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in enhanced courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset)

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical)

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx). <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

It is strongly recommended you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the "My Courses" tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

Pearson Learning Studio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

If you experience eCollege technical problems, contact the eCollege helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit [Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site](http://247support.custhelp.com)
<http://247support.custhelp.com/>

The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson Learning Studio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson Learning Studio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the '*Tech Support*' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You then will be able to get assistance via online chat, email or by phone by calling the Help Desk number noted below.

Note: Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk immediately. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
4. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you.

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform. **ONLY** Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu). <https://leo.tamuc.edu>

Learner Support

Go to the following link [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/)- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

Go to the following link [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/)- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success. <http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

FREE Mobile APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	App Title:	iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone Android – LearningStudio Courses - Phone
	Operating System:	iPhone - OS 6 and above Android – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS
	iPhone App URL:	https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8
	Android App URL:	https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

- View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online
- View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
- View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
- View Graded items, Grades and comments in individual Courses
- Grade to Date
- View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses
- View Activity Feed for all courses
- View course filters on activities
- View link to Privacy Policy
- Ability to Sign out
- Send Feedback

LearningStudio Notifications

Students can be alerted to course activities via text on their mobile phones or up to two email addresses.

Based on their preferences, students can automatically receive a push notification with every new: course announcement, threaded discussion post, grade, and/or assignment without having to login to the course.

Enrolled students will automatically receive email notifications for announcements and can opt out of this feature. To receive text notifications, students must opt in.

To begin setting up notifications, go into your course in LearningStudio and click on the bell-shaped Notifications icon on the main menu ribbon.

By default the student's university email address will appear. This cannot be changed in LearningStudio. Additional email addresses may be added by clicking the Add button. After all of the other selections are completed be sure to click the Save and Finish button.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Participation:

Successful learning requires active participation in discussion. Participation includes responses to discussion questions as well as discourse between students related to the subject matter. Students are expected to contribute to class discussion. Relevant opinions and ideas as well as personal experiences can enrich the classroom environment. Some of the material covered in class may be controversial. Every individual in the class has the right to be **respected** regardless of their opinion. While topical disagreements can occur, professional demeanor and respect is expected from the students at all times.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

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
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	MATERIAL	ASSIGNMENT
Week 1 8/31	Introduction Sociological Perspective	Read: C. Wright Mills- "The Promise" from <i>The Sociological Imagination</i> Roberts " A Sociology of Writing" Collins & Makowsky- Preface and Introduction	
Week 2 9/7	Saint-Simon and Comte	Collins & Makowsky Chapter 1 Chapter 3 "The Sociology of Comte"	
9/11		Theory Application Assignment Sociological Perspective	Writing Assignment 1
Week 3 9/14	Durkheim Parsons Merton Luhmann	Read: Collins & Makowsky Chapter 6& 12 Handout provided	
9/18	Quiz 1		Quiz 1
Week 4 9/21	Marx	Read: Collins & MaKowsky Chapter 2	
9/25	EXAM 1	In class	EXAM 1
Week 5 9/28	Hitler, Michels, Mannheim, Mills	Read: Collins& Makowsky Chapters 13	
10/2		Theory Application Assignment Shawshank Redemption Film	Writing Assignment 2
Week 6 10/5	Weber	Read: Collins & Makowsky Chapters 7	
10/9		Theory Application Assignment Historical Impact	Writing Assignment 3
Week 7 10/12	Freud	Read: Collins& Makowsky Chapter 8	
10/16	Quiz 2		Quiz 2
Week 8 10/19	Randall Collins- Analytical Conflict	Read: TBA	
10/23	EXAM 2	In class	EXAM 2
Week 9 10/26	Simmel,Cooley & Mead	Read: Collins& Makowsky Chapter 9 Handout provided	

10/30		Theory Application Assignment 2012 Presidential Election	Writing Assignment 4
Week 10 11/2	Goffman	Read: Collins& Makowsky Chapter 14	
11/6		Theory Application Assignment <i>Lord of the Rings Film</i>	Writing Assignment 5
Week 11 11/9	Thomas, Park & Chicago School	Read: Collins& Makowsky Chapter 10	
11/13	Quiz 3	In class	Quiz 3
Week 12 11/16	African American Sociology- DuBois, Frazier, Drake, Cayton	Read: Collins& Makowsky Chapter 11 Handout provided	
Week 13 11/23	EXAM 3	Submit essays to drop box in e- college by 11:59pm; objective online in ecollege	Exam 3- Monday 23rd
11/25- 11/27	THANKSGIVING BREAK NO CLASS		
Week 14 11/30	Feminist Perspective Patricia Hill Collins	Readings: TBA	
12/2		Theory Application Assignment Contemporary Social Issue	Writing Assignment 6
Week 15 12/7	Globalization	Read: Collins & Makowsky Chapter 15	
12/16	FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM	Submit essays to drop box in e- college by 11:59pm; objective online in ecollege	FINAL EXAM