Syllabus

SOC 572 (Section 01E):

Classical Sociological Theory

Web Assisted Course

Fall 2015

R. N. Singh, Ph. D.

Professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice

Class meets in on Wednesdays 5:00 to 7:40 PM in SS 304. It is a web-assisted or ‘hybrid’ course. We will meet on several scheduled dates which are announced in the calendar given at the end of this syllabus. I will talk more about that in our first class meeting on September 2 at 5 PM to be held in SS 304 (not SS 313). I am confident that our use of the online mode will add support for effective to the teaching-learning process and help us achieve our class goals. For our classes that actually meet, I will record your class attendance and will give up to 20 bonus points.

Office: Social Sciences Bldg., Room 230, Texas A&M-Commerce, Commerce, TX 75429, (903) 886-5324

E-mail: Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: By appointment before or after your classes or requested through e-mail sent to me.

Office Phone: 903-886-5324 (e-mail me if you need to see me or talk to me on the phone; do give me your phone # if you want me to call back).

COURSE INFORMATION

I. Materials – Textbook, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required Textbook:

2] Copies of several articles and handouts will be either provided in classes or posted as pdf files on the eCollege website.

3] Recommended Textbook:


II. Course Description:

Welcome to the SOC 572: I am confident that we will have a productive semester in selected overview of the classical theories in sociology in particular reference to the writings of Durkheim, Marx, Weber, 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.

III. 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 Outline and Reading Assignments from the Required Textbook:

1. FUNCTIONALISM:

**Durkheim**

- The Puzzles of Social Order: Introductory essay (pp. 1-5)
- Rules of Sociological Method (pp. 7-13)
- The Division of Labor in Society (pp. 14-37)
- Suicide (pp. 38-49)
- Elementary Forms of Religious Life (pp. 50-69)
2. CONFLICT THEORY:

Marx
- Capitalism: Introductory Essay (pp. 107-113)
- German Ideology (pp. 115-119)
- Communist Manifesto (pp. 120-128)
- Capital (pp. 129-135)
- Economic & Political Manuscripts (pp. 136-142)
- Rise & Demise of Capitalism (pp. 143-152)

3. Interactionism

Weber
- Introductory Essay (pp. 201-207)
- The Protestant Ethic & the Spirit of Capitalism (pp. 209-236)
- Basic Sociological Concepts (pp. 237-249)
- Legitimate Domination (pp. 250-266)
- Bureaucracy (pp. 267-272)
- Class, Status, Party (pp. 273-282)

4. Symbolic Interactionism

Mead
- Introductory Essay: Self & Society (pp. 415-422)
- The Self (pp. 423-438)

IV. Student Learning Outcomes:

Through textbook readings and other materials, we will pursue the following learning objectives.

1. Students will be active and engaged participants in discussions by analyzing information on the classical sociological theories presented within the lectures and readings.
2. Students will demonstrate their comprehension of the primary writings of classical sociological theory.
3. Students will synthesize and apply classical sociological theory in empirical contexts.
V. Student Responsibilities

Your responsibilities in completing this course are stated below.

1. It will be very important that you all read regularly the syllabus and ALL Announcements posted at the home page of this course or e-mails sent on your myleo address very carefully and follow all instructions about course objectives, grading procedures, etc.

   Ignorance about details given in classes as well as in the course syllabus and various announcements posted on the eCollege web site may not be accepted as excuse. I urge that you FULLY understand course requirements, grading procedures, and details on exams and assignments. That will be the key to doing well in the course. Also, please feel free to ask me questions about the course requirements in classes and through e-mails.

2. This is a web-assisted course. I have posted a copy of the syllabus online and will take advantage of providing you instructions online as well as through your myleo e-mails. This way we will have effective communication with each other.

3. It is important that you attend all classes that are held as well as log into each week and use the study guide to complete work regularly. I will allocate bonus points for attendance.

4. All of your closed book exams will be given online and mainly be based on assigned readings and class discussions. Our 5 bi-weekly discussions will not only provide you opportunities for earning points but will also help your performance in exams.

5. You can post your questions at VIRTUAL OFFICE in the Home Page of this course. The virtual office will serve our learning needs of being in touch with not only me but with all persons in the class whenever you have questions or comments about the course (for example, about exams & study guides given and other aspects of the syllabus).

You can e-mail me whenever you have challenges or questions, particularly those that you don’t want to share with your class mates. Only use this address: Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu

Read all announcements posted at the Home Page of the course and read all e-mails sent by me at your My Leo account in the eCollege. If you have problem with your e-mail system, please contact the Instructional Technology office.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Grading will be based upon **total 300 points** accumulated from 2 exams scores & 5 bi-weekly discussions. Details on all requirements and grading procedures are stated below:

At the end of the course an “A” will be equal to 90+% based on 270+ points; a “B” will be equal to 80-89% based on 240 to 269 points; a “C” 70-79% based on 210 to 239 points; and so forth.

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

**A. Closed-Book Exams (a total of 200 points):**

There will be three major exams. You will be required to take two out of the three exams. If you take all three of them, I will drop the lowest score. Each exam will constitute 100 points for the final grade. There will be no other make-up exam.

**Dates for the three exams are given below (each exam will be available on-line starting past midnight each day and it closes at midnight on the same day it is scheduled):**

- Exam 1 consisting of essay questions worth 100 points based on the study guide given to you. The closed book exam will be given on-line on Wednesday, **October 21, 2015. YOU WILL HAVE 60 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE EXAM. YOU WILL BE LOGGED OUT OF THE EXAM AFTER 60 MINUTES. SO TIME YOURSELF CAREFULLY.**

- Exam 2 consisting of essay questions worth 100 points based on the study guide given to you. The closed book exam will be given on-line on Wednesday, **December 2, 2015. YOU WILL HAVE 60 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE EXAM ON-LINE. YOU WILL BE LOGGED OUT OF THE EXAM AFTER 90 MINUTES. SO TIME YOURSELF CAREFULLY.**

- Final optional/makeup exam consisting of essay questions worth 100 points based on the study guide given to you. The closed book exam will be given on-line on Monday, **December 15, 2015. YOU WILL HAVE 60 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE EXAM. YOU WILL BE LOGGED OUT OF THE EXAM AFTER 60 MINUTES. SO TIME YOURSELF CAREFULLY.**

If you have already taken the first two exams, you do not have to take the comprehensive final. However, if you are taking it to improve your bad score in one of the first two exams, it can only help you and will not bring your grade down even if
you fail it. The final will be required if you have missed one of the first two exams. If you missed both of the first two exams, you must have dropped the course by the university deadline for dropping.

- Additional instructions for each exam may be provided in classes and through my-leo e-mails to you when necessary. All exams will be closed-book. You must write dates for exams on your calendar. I will not be able to change dates for any students. Since I have already allowed flexibility to you of dropping one exam, you should do fine.

You will be logged out of each exam after the maximum allowed time. Do not take any break. Once you start the exam, you must complete it in one sitting.

B. BI-WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS (TOTAL OF 100 POINTS):

I will post five discussion questions on the major classical sociological theories and theorists and a number of conceptual issues at least once in two weeks. Be sure you log into discussions at the home page of the course and respond to questions during the two weeks specified. You will be able to earn bonus points for your participation in EACH discussion (up to 20 points for each two-weeks’ topic depending on how meaningful you are through your reading of materials assigned that week in your comments, and how much critical thinking you demonstrate in your discussion comments based on logical arguments).

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FIRST GIVE YOUR OWN RESPONSE TO EACH DISCUSSION QUESTION AND THEN RESPOND TO AT LEAST TWO OTHER STUDENTS’ RESPONSES (your response saying you agree or disagree with someone will not be enough; you must comment on why you agree or disagree). THAT WAY WE WILL HAVE SOME ONLINE DEBATE ON THESE QUESTIONS.

That can add up and will be an opportunity to improve your grade in the course. Your score achieved in discussions out of a total of 100 points in 5 discussions will be calculated and added to your total score for the final grade. Your active participation in discussions is required and will enhance your chances of making higher grades. I will be giving you additional info on discussions in my classes.

REMEMBER THAT EACH BI-WEEKLY DISCUSSION CAN ONLY BE RESPONDED TO BY YOU DURING SPECIFIC DATES OF EACH WEEK (AS STATED IN COURSE CALENDAR) IN ORDER TO EARN POINTS.

I will be able to find out through eCollege which one of you spent how much time on discussions and were meaningful and relevant in your comments. Elaborate in your discussion so that every one of you in class can understand what you are talking about. If someone in your class gives some arguments in discussions that you agree or disagree, be sure to be courteous and state your views accordingly. This is meant to be a debate to promote critical thinking. I will give
you credit for your discussions accordingly. Please take bi-weekly discussions seriously as this will help you relate to our important issues and express views on them.

I want you to do well in answering essay questions in exams and discussions. The essay questions may not only help you to improve your scores but they represent critical thinking on your part on serious questions. I encourage all of you to do your best in essay questions.

If you lose some points in any essay in exams and bi-weekly discussions, reasons for that could include:

- you may not have answered a question correctly;
- you may not have answered all parts of each question;
- you may have been too brief in your answer and might not have elaborated on your answer demonstrating your understanding;
- you may have included irrelevant materials in your answers;
- you may have lacked clarity; or
- you may not have provided examples illustrating your points, where needed.

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) 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.

- **5) 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.

- **6) Here are the essentials for our discussion boards this semester:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardinal Rules- OBEY!!!</th>
<th>Try NOT to:</th>
<th>Try to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wikipedia cannot be used</td>
<td>Do not rely on personal experiences as your “proof”</td>
<td>Take a firm stance &amp; defend it</td>
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<tr>
<td>as a credible source of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>information</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Bible cannot be used</td>
<td>Do not rely on overly-psychoanalytical explanations</td>
<td>Pose a question to take the discussion deeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as an academic source of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do NOT call people</td>
<td>Do not give us more to read- summarize and provide a link to a website</td>
<td>Engage in reciprocal interaction with other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“crazy”</td>
<td>for those who are curious, instead</td>
<td>students within a single thread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do NOT attribute behavior</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to the whims of individuals</td>
<td>Do not post overly-long or overly-complex responses</td>
<td></td>
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<td>in which patterns cannot be</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>deciphered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do NOT simply say “I agree”</td>
<td>Do not wait until the last day to post. Do not post only on one day at one</td>
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<tr>
<td>with someone’s post (send</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>them a private email, instead)</td>
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</table>

Cite whenever appropriate
Discussion board grades will be decided on the following rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Your Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did student post more than once, and on more than on one day at one sitting?</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student make a genuine attempt to engage in ongoing conversation within a single thread?</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student contribute and add something original &amp; valuable to the discussion?</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student integrate facts and information grounded in the readings?</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student respond to comments made by at least two other students’ postings in a meaningful way?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important Notes:

***Each discussion board is with worth 20 points.

***There will be 5 discussion board assignments over the course of the semester. You are required to participate in all of them.

***Discussion board assignments CANNOT be made up; you score zero if you do not respond to a discussion during the two week period assigned to you for each discussion.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

This is a web-assisted 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 ONLY via: Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

lider "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). Please make sure you use professional language in discussions, even when disagreeing with each other.

اضمئ، لقد استخدمت لغة مهنية في المحادثات، حتى عند التصافح معًا.

**A Note on 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 failing 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 of Arts and Sciences. These offices may also wish to evaluate the case and decide punishment independent of this professor's actions. I will use the technology to scan your answers and discussions to determine if anyone has copied contents from other students, on-line sources, and from published works. No credit will be given to anyone for giving or taking help toward any form of plagiarism beside punitive action in serious cases.

While I trust my students, precautions are needed to protect those who genuinely work on the course.

**Special Needs: 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/)

[officeOfStudentDisabilityResourcesAndServices](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.

CALENDAR CONTAINING DATES FOR EACH CLASS SCHEDULED MEETING AND REQUIRED EXAMS & BI-WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS

Week 1: Monday, 8/31 to Saturday, 9/5: Read assigned readings and start work on Discussion 1. Class held in SS 304 on 9/2.

Week 2: Monday, 9/7 to Saturday, 9/12. Read assigned readings and complete work on Discussion 1 and submit comments by 9/12 midnight on time. Class held in SS 304 on 9/9.

Week 3: Monday, 9/14 to Saturday, 9/19: Read assigned readings and start work on Discussion 2.

Week 4: Monday, 9/21 to Saturday, 9/26: Read assigned readings and complete work on Discussion 2 by 9/26 midnight and submit comments on time. Class held in SS 304 on 9/23.

Week 5: Monday, 9/28 to Saturday, 10/3: Read assigned readings and start work on Discussion 3.

Week 6: Monday, 10/5 to Saturday, 10/10: Read assigned readings and complete work on Discussion 3 by October 10 midnight and submit comments on time. Class held in SS 304 on 10/7.

Week 7: Monday, 10/12 to Saturday, 10/17: Read assigned readings and start work on Discussion 4. Class held in SS 304 on 10/14.

Take EXAM 1 online, covering assigned topics, on Wednesday, October 21. Class that day will not meet so you can take the exam.

Week 8: Monday, 10/19 to Saturday, 10/24: Read assigned readings and complete work on Discussion 4 by October 24 midnight and submit comments on time.

Week 9: Monday, 10/26 to Saturday, 10/31: Read assigned readings and start work on Discussion 5. Class held in SS 304 on 10/28.
Week 10: Monday, 11/2 to Saturday, 11/7: Read assigned readings and complete work on Discussion 5 by November 7 and submit comments on time. Class held in SS 304 on 11/4.

Week 11: Monday, 11/9 to Saturday, 11/14: Read assigned readings and work on preparing for Exam 2. Class held in SS 304 on 11/11.

Week 12: Monday, 11/16 to Saturday, 11/21: Read assigned readings and work on preparing for Exam 2.

**Thanksgiving Break.**

*Take EXAM 2 online, covering assigned topics, on Wednesday, December 2. Class that day will not meet so you can take the exam.*

Weeks 13-14: During the remaining days (11/30 to the semester end) in the semester. Also, work on preparing for the make-up final exam. Class held in SS 304 on 12/9.

*Take FINAL COMPREHENSIVE-Make-Up EXAM online, covering assigned readings given in the study guide on Monday, December 14.*

*Final Grade available to you on December 16.*