SOC 572
Classical Sociological Theory
Fall 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Zachary Palmer  
**Office Location:** Ferguson 232  
**Office Hours:** MWF 1-4pm by email or by appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903-468-3276  
**University Email Address:** Zachary.palmer@tamuc.edu  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email  
**Communication Response Time:** Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

**Required Text:** Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory (3rd edition), eds. Scott Appelrouth and Laura Desfor Edles

**Course Description**

This course focuses on the classical foundation of sociology, particularly the works of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. Attention will be given to how these theories have given rise to the major theoretical perspectives in sociology as well as their general applicability to contemporary social phenomena.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

After completing this class, you should be able to…

1. Identify major sociological theorists and describe their main ideas and contributions to sociology

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2. Describe, synthesize, evaluate, and explain classical theoretical arguments based on the reading of primary source materials
3. Apply a theoretical lens to the world around you

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

You must be able to access a computer with Microsoft Word and use D2L.

GRADING

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

Grades are out of 1,000 points

Assessments

- **Connection Papers (50%)** - 4 times throughout the semester you will write a paper examining a social phenomenon or piece of media through a particular theoretical lens. These papers should be roughly 5 pages in length and demonstrate your thorough understanding of one of the assigned readings. You will be graded primarily based on your engagement with and understanding of one of the readings. You MUST write connection papers on Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, though you can choose from the remaining theorists for your other paper. Each paper is worth 125 points.

- **Discussion Posts (35%)** - Each week you will post your response to the readings to the discussion board (weeks without readings will have discussion prompts to respond to). Your response should consist of an approximately 2 sentence summary of each reading and your reaction/response to each of the readings. This assignment is designed to challenge you to both communicate complex concepts in a simple and straightforward way in your writing and to distill what is most important from each reading. The goal is also to encourage you to reflect on the readings and share those reflections with the rest of the class in a way that promotes discussion. Each post is worth 25 points. You have until 5pm on the Saturday the week they are due to post your discussion posts.

- **Discussion Comments (15%)** - 10 times throughout the semester (with the exception of the first and last weeks), you will post at least 1 comment to other people’s discussion posts

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or comments, asking questions, supplying additional information, making connections to news stories, media, life experience, engaging in friendly debate, etc. Your comments must meaningfully engage with the conversation and the topic at hand to receive points. Each week’s comments are worth 15 points. However, I encourage you to engage in discussion beyond this requirement. Discussion comments must be posted before 5pm on the Monday following the original date of the discussion.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All courses offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

LMS Requirements: https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements

LMS Browser Support: https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and Internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework 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, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

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http://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I am available through email and in-person during office hours. Please feel free to stop by my office during office hours or any time my door is open.

COURe AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Policies

- For every hour an assignment or paper is late, I take off 10 points unless we have made prior arrangements BEFORE the due date
- If you experience a death in the family, serious illness, or other life trauma, please speak to me and I will work with you to do my best to help you keep up with the course

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for me to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact in an online forum: https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99R0.01.

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty, see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

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Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

Students with Disabilities- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protections 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 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
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, and environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill- 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns on Campus document.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1: Getting Situated

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Readings- Syllabus
Due- Introduction Post

Week 2: Introduction to Classical Theory
Readings- Introduction of textbook
Due- Discussion Post #1

Week 3: Marx
Readings- Overview of Karl Marx, “The German Ideology,” “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844”
Due- Discussion Post #2

Week 4: Marx
Readings- “The Communist Manifesto,” “Capital”
Due- Discussion Post #3, Marx Making Connections Paper

Week 5: Durkheim
Due- Discussion Post #4

Week 6: Durkheim
Readings- “Suicide,” “Elementary Forms of Religious Life”
Due- Discussion Post #5, Durkheim Making Connections Paper

Week 7: Weber
Due- Discussion Post #6

Week 8: Weber
Readings- “The Types of Legitimate Domination,” “Bureaucracy”
Due- Discussion Post #7, Weber Making Connections Paper

Week 9: Marx, Weber, Durkheim Wrap-Up
Readings- None
Due- Discussion Post #8

Week 10: Gilman
Due- Discussion Post #9

Week 11: Simmel
Readings- Overview of Georg Simmel, “The Stranger,” “The Metropolis and Mental Life”

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Due- Discussion Post #10

**Week 12: Du Bois**
Due- Discussion Post #11

**Week 13: Mead**
Readings- Overview of George Herbert Mead, “Mind,” “Self”
Due- Discussion Post #12, Final Making Connections Paper

**Week 14: Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 15: Wrap-Up and Reflection**
Readings- None
Due- Reflection Post

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