

SOAN 291
Sec A & B
History of Sociological Theory
Spring 2009
Trina Smith, PhD

Course Times:

Sec A: T 0800-0925
Th 0800-0920
Sec B: T 0935-1100
Th 0930-1050

Course Location:

HH 516 (both sections)

Professor: Trina Smith, PHD

Office: HH 401D

Office Phone: x3755

Cell Phone: 612-210-5345

Email: smithtr@stolaf.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:15-3:15 and by appointment

Website: moodle.stolaf.edu (click on our course SOAN 291)

Course Information

Required Texts:

- 1) Classical Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition. 2007. Eds. Calhoun et al. Blackwell Publishing.
- 2) Contemporary Sociological Theory, 2nd Edition. 2007. Eds. Calhoun et al. Blackwell Publishing.
- 3) Other articles & readings posted on Moodle or students will find in library or via internet.

Catalog Course Description: This course provides an overview of the major thinkers who sought to create a science of human society, the ideas they found fundamental to a science of society, and how human society changes through history. Classical thinkers such as Marx, Durkheim, Simmel, Weber, and Mead are studied along with the schools of theory which they inspired: positivism, interpretive and critical conflict theory.

Course Goals: For students to be comfortable with social theory and to learn about its history, use, application, and importance not only in academia, but also for social life in the “real world.”

Course Objectives:

- 1) Be cognizant of how time, location, and status affects social theories and theorists.

- 2) To understand how theory and research are related and how they build upon each other.
- 3) To understand how theory is a framework and can be both implicit and explicit.
- 4) To understand the evolution of social theories (related to #1).
- 5) To understand how social theories have limitations (related to #1).
- 6) To understand how the history of sociology relates to the evolution of different theories and schools of thought.
- 7) To be able to apply theory to contemporary and historical issues.
- 8) To understand the importance and validity of different theories despite their criticisms.

Course Expectations and Policies

Class Room Discussions:

I would love to hear everyone speak in this classroom. I value the diversity of ideas. However, I realize that not all people like to talk in class and some people like to talk a lot. As an instructor, part of my job is to manage the classroom. If you talk a lot and someone else who doesn't want to speak, they will probably get called on. I may call on you if you don't talk. If you really don't want to speak, you have the right to say pass, but the more diverse ideas we hear in the class, the more we will learn.

Technology:

1. If you're email has not been answered in 24 hours, please send another email reminding me or call me in my office or on my cell phone. Technology is not perfect!
2. Moodle will be used to post the syllabus, course assignments, supplementary readings, and other things.
3. I will alert you to changes in the class via email, moodle, and in-class (if possible).

Attendance: Attendance is a vital part of doing well in this course. Though I do not take attendance in lecture, your attendance will be measured through course assignments. The material covered in lecture, which goes beyond the book, will be included on exams and assignments. Any written assignments should convey your reading and understanding of the course material.

Readings: You are expected to have the readings done before you come to class. If you have not done the readings you will miss out on a valuable opportunity to learn and participate.

Participation: This means paying attention during class, working with your group, and contributing to group and class discussions.

Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty: These will not be tolerated in this course and are serious offenses that can result in severe consequences such as failing an assignment or the course. Please see the policies and procedures of the college (<http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/thebook/academic/plagiarism.html>).

Missed Final Exam: Make-ups for a missed final exams will ONLY be granted with a legitimate and documented excuse. You must contact me ASAP to arrange an alternative

time to take the exam. Since we only have a final exam, it is imperative you note this. I will not grant make ups for personal/family travel or similar cases.

Late Work: I will only accept late work with a justified excuse. Since much of your work in this class is cumulative (meaning you will be working on things over the semester), late work is not tolerated. If you don't understand class materials, please talk to me early in the semester.

Student Resources

Disability Services: Any student with a documented cognitive, physical or social/emotional disability needing academic accommodations is expected to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with a disability who do not have an accommodation letter to present to me must also contact Ruth Bolstad (bolstadr@stolaf.edu) or Connie Ford (ford@stolaf.edu) in Student Disability Services in the Academic Support Center (x3288) located in the Modular Village.

Academic Support Center: Ext. 3288

IT Help Desk: Ext. 3830

Grading and Assignments

Grades:

This class is based on a point system, which means you can easily keep track of your grade throughout the semester. I highly advise you to check with your TA throughout the semester to check your grade.

Grading Components:

Group Presentation = 50 points
Discussion Questions = 20 points
Contemporary Issues Journal= 80points
Final Exam = 50 points
Total Points: 200 points

Grading Scale:

185-200 points	A	93-100%
179-184 points	A-	90-92%
171-178 points	B+	86-89%
165-170 points	B	83-85%
159-164 points	B-	80-82%
151-158 points	C+	76-79%
145-150 points	C	73-75%

139-144 points	C-	70-72%
131-138 points	D+	66-69%
125-130 points	D	63-65%
119-124 points	D-	60-62%
118 points & below	F	59% and below

I do not grade on a curve.. Thus, every student has the possibility of getting an A, if they perform at an A level.

If you fall in between the point ranges, your grade will be rounded. For example, if you have a 248.5 at the end of the semester, your grade would be rounded to 249. If you would have a 248.25, your grade would be rounded to a 248.

Incompletes: All coursework must be completed during the semester of enrollment. Incompletes will be allowed only in cases of severe, documented circumstances such as serious illness or death in the immediate family (see Dean of Students).

Assignments

Group Presentation/Leading Class (50 points):

In groups of 2-3 students, you will lead class on a selected day for approximately 1 hour to 1 and one-half hours. Group members will present background information and history on the theorist/theory for the day. They will be required to explain how this information relates to the course readings and view of the world presented. The group will be required to have visual materials. Not every group member will receive the same score as you will not only be graded on your presentation, but also on the amount of work you put into the group, materials, and presentation. You should be able in group to both present and explain information to the group along with generating discussion among the class (you may and should incorporate discussion questions posted on moodle by class members). You are required to turn in the following for your presentation:

- a) a write up of group members duties, roles, and work.
- b) written document (one per group) on the history/ background of the theorist/theory you are presenting on.
- c) copies of visual materials (i.e power point slides, names of videos used, or links to websites)

You will be graded on your work, the presentation itself including creativity, use of visual aids, class materials, and outside sources.

Weekly Discussion Questions (2points *10 postings=20 points):

One time each week, beginning with the 2nd week of class for 10 weeks (so hence you have a free week), you need to post at least one discussion question based on the course readings to moodle. In addition, at the end of the semester you need to turn in a journal of these questions (i.e. one document with each question, showing the date you posted it). This journal is due on Thursday May 7th.

Media/Contemporary Issues Journal (2 journals with 4 entries per journal * 10 points=40*2= 80 points total):

You will keep a journal and turn in once at midterm (March 19th and then again at the end of the semester (May 7th). Each journal will have four entries. You will pick a contemporary issue and preferably find a media source (i.e. newspaper) and write about how the theory we are discussing applies to our understanding of this issue. You should discuss not only how the theorist/theory helps us understand the issue, but also the limitations of the theory for understanding the issue and how the theory helps us think of solutions to the issues. You can only do one entry per theorist/theory. You should keep copies of the newspaper articles you use and clip to your journal when you turn in.

Final Exam (50 points): During our scheduled final time, you will have a cumulative final. The final will be a mix between multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay.

Course Schedule

***Instructor reserves the right to make changes. Changes will be announced in class both verbally and in written form in addition to electronic forms of communication.*

W1	Date : 2/10/09
	Topic: Introductions
	Readings Due: None
	Date: 2/12/09
	Topic: Intro & History to Soc Theory
	Readings Due: Classical pp. 1-27 , #3

W2	Date : 2/17/09
	Topic: Marx & Engels
	Readings Due: Classical #5,#6, #8 (read first page of this one)
	Date: 2/19/09
	Topic: Marx & Engels
	Readings Due: Classical #7, #9, #10

W3	Date : 2/24/09
	Topic: Durkheim
	Readings Due: Classical #11, #12
	Date: 2/26/09
	Topic: Durkheim
	Readings Due: Classical #13 (can skim). #14

W4	Date : 3/3/09
	Topic: Weber
	Readings Due: Classical #15,17.. can skim #16
	Date: 3/5/09
	Topic: Weber
	Readings Due: Classical #18, #19, #20

W5	Date : 3/10/09
	Topic: Mead & Simmel (Self & Society)
	Readings Due: Classical #21, #25
	Date: 3/12/09
	Topic: Mead & Simmel (Self & Society)
	Readings Due: Classical #22, #23

W6	Date : 3/17/09
	Topic: Structural Functionalism
	Readings Due: Classical #32, #33 (skim)
	Date: 3/19/09
	Topic: Structural Functionalism
	Readings Due: Classical #34, #36
	Work Due: Medial/Contemporary Issues Journal Due

W7	Date : 3/17/09: <i>Spring Break</i>
	Date: 3/19/09 <i>Spring Break</i>

W8	Date : 3/31/09
	Topic: Micro
	Readings Due: Contemporary, #1, #2
	Date: 4/2/09
	Topic: Micro
	Readings Due: Contemporary #3, #4

W9	Date : 4/7/09
	Topic: Exchange & Rational Choice
	Readings Due: Contemporary, #5, #6
	Date: 4/9/09
	Topic: Institutional
	Readings Due: Contemporary #10 and TBD

W10	Date : 4/14/09
	Topic: Foucault
	Readings Due: Contemporary #13
	Date: 4/16/09
	Topic: Foucault
	Readings Due: Contemporary #14, #15

W11	Date : 4/21/09
	Topic: Giddens
	Readings Due: Contemporary #16, #17
	Date: 4/23/09
	Topic: Bourdieu
	Readings Due: Contemporary #19, #20

W12	Date : 4/28/09
	Topic: Critical Theory
	Readings Due: Contemporary #22, 23
	Date: 4/30/09
	Topic: Critical Theory
	Readings Due: Contemporary #24, #25

W13	Date : 5/5/09
	Topic: Habermas
	Readings Due: Contemporary #27, #28
	Date: 5/7/09
	Topic: Modern/Post-Modern
	Readings Due: Contemporary #31, #32 and TBA
	Work Due: Discussion Question Journals & 2 nd Media, Contemporary Issues Journal

W14	Date : 5/12/09 (Last Day of Class)
	Topic: Review and Wrap Up
	Readings Due: TBA
	Date: 5/14/09
	READING DAY

FINAL EXAMS	SECTION A :
	Tuesday, May 19, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
	SECTION B
	Friday, May 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m