



SOC 310: Social Theory

Term: 2021 Summer Session

Instructor: Staff

Language of Instruction: English

Classroom: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Class Sessions Per Week: 5

Total Weeks: 5

Total Class Sessions: 25

Class Session Length (minutes): 145

Credit Hours: 4

Course Description:

Social theory is a means of understanding and explaining social world around us, allowing people to make sense of all kinds of social phenomena. Usually, sociological theory is divided into two separate parts: classical theory and contemporary theory. This course will primarily introduce students to the three major historical theorists in the social science: Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. Then emphasis will be laid on structural-functionalism, conflict theory, exchange theory and interactionism. Student will also examine the other contemporary social theory issues, such as Feminist, Racism and social reproduction of inequality. Upon completion of this course, students are expected to understand the importance of research in social theory and to apply social theories learnt in this course to interpret, explain and predict real world social phenomena both in academic level and practical level.

Course Materials:

Introduction to Sociological Theory: Theorists, Concepts, and Their Applicability to the Twenty-first Century, by Michele Dillon, 2nd Edition, Wiley-Blackwell (31 Jan. 2014).

Course Format and Requirements:

This course has 25 class sessions in total. Each class session is 145 minutes in length.



The class is primarily composed of lectures and class discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussion. This course also requires students to read a lot of social theory, which will be abstract and difficult. If you are struggling to understand course material on your own, do not worry! When you come to class, we will put the reading in historical context and in conversation with other readings. Through lecturing, your own readings, and class discussions, we will together get a deeper understanding of the social world and social thought.

Please do not use electronic devices such as phones, iPads, computers, etc. during the lectures.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction in your participation grade, for instance from A- to B+. Your active participation in the class is expected and constitutes part of your grade.

Grading Scale:

A+: 98%-100%

A: 93%-97%

A-: 90%-92%

B+: 88%-89%

B: 83%-87%

B-: 80%-82%

C+: 78%-79%

C: 73%-77%

C-: 70%-72%

D+: 68%-69%

D: 63%-67%

D-: 60%-62%

F: Below 60%

Course Assignments:

Participation and Discussion

This course is combined with lectures and class discussion. So, active participation will be the key to its success. The participation accounts for 10% of your final grade. The score will be given based on your contributions to the in-class discussions.



Chapter Quizzes

There will be 10 chapter quizzes administrated throughout the whole semester. They will cover social theory topics discussed in relevant chapter and usually consist of conceptual multiple choices and/ or short answer questions. There is no make-up quizzes.

Weekly Writing Assignments

Weekly writing assignments are required for a course need. The instructor will assigned reading materials during the class and students need to finish the reading and then complete an essay about 800 to 1000words with application of social theories covered in this week. All papers must be double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1” margins all around. All weekly writing, except the last one will be due on Wednesday of next Week, for example the first weekly writing assignment will be assigned in the first week and due on Wednesday of the second week. However, please note the last weekly writing assignment will be due on the date of final exam.

Exams

There will be two midterms and one final exam administrated throughout this semester. Both the midterm exam and the final will be cumulative and close-book, composed of conceptual multiple choices, short answers questions and short essay questions.

The midterm exam will be held at the regular class time. The date, time and location for the final examination will be announced later. Unless you have a documented health problem or family emergency, if you fail to take an exam, your score for the missed exam will be zero.

Course Assessment:

Participation and Discussion	10%
Quizzes	15%
Weekly Writing Assignments	20%
Midterm 1	15%
Midterm 2	15%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Course Schedule:

Week	Topics	Activities
1	<p>Course Syllabus + Course Overview</p> <p>Introduction to Sociological Theory</p> <p>Karl Marx (Chapter 1):</p> <p>Marx's Theory of History; Capitalism; Human Nature; Wage Labor; The Division of Labor and Alienation; Economic Inequality, Ideology and Power; Summary to chapter 1;</p> <p>Emile Durkheim(Chapter 2):</p> <p>Durkheim's Methodological Rules, The Nature of Society; Society Transformation and Social Cohesion;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reading● Review● Chapter Quizzes● Weekly Writing
2	<p>Emile Durkheim(Chapter 2):</p> <p>Traditional Society and Modern Society; Social Conditions of Suicide; Religion and the Sacred; Summary to chapter 2</p> <p>Max Webber (Chapter 3):</p> <p>Weber's definition to Sociology, Culture and Economic Activity, Ideal Types; Social Action; Power, Authority, and Domination; Social Stratification; Modernity and Competing Values; Summary to Chapter 3</p> <p>Structural Functionalism (Chapter 4):</p> <p>Talcott Parsons; The social System, Socialization and Societal Integration; Social Differentiation, Culture, and the secularization of Protestantism;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reading● Review● Chapter Quizzes● Weekly Writing● Midterm Exam 1



3	<p>Structural Functionalism (Chapter 4): Pattern Variables; Modernization Theory; Stratification and Inequality; Robert Merton's Middle-Range Theory; Parsons's Legacy: Varied Directions; Summary to Chapter 4</p> <p>Conflict, Power and Dependency in Macro-Societal Process (Chapter 6): Ralf Dahrendorf's Theory of Group Conflict, C. Wright Mills; Dependency Theory: Neo-Marxist Critiques of Economic Development; Summary to Chapter 6</p> <p>Exchange, Exchange Network, and Rational Choice Theories (Chapter 7): Exchange Theory, Exchange Network Theory, Actor-Network Theory;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reading● Review● Chapter Quizzes● Weekly Writing
4	<p>Exchange, Exchange Network, and Rational Choice Theories (Chapter 7): Rational Choice Theory, Analytical Marxism; Summary to Chapter 7</p> <p>Symbolic Interactionism (Chapter 8): Development of the self through Social Interaction; The premises of Symbolic Interactionism; Erving Goffman: Society as Ritualized Social Interaction; Symbolic Interactionism and Ethnographic Research; Summary to Chapter 8;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reading● Review● Weekly Writing● Chapter Quizzes● Midterm 2



	<p>Feminist Theory (Chapter 10): Consciousness of Women’s Inequality; Standpoint Theory: Dorothy Smith and the Relations of Ruling Masculinity;</p>	
5	<p>Feminist Theory (Chapter 10): Patricia Hill Collins: Black Women’s Standpoint; Sociology of Emotion, Arlie Hochschild: Emotional Labor; Summary to Feminist Theory</p> <p>Race and Racism (Chapter 12) Slavery, Colonialism and Racial Formation; William Du Bois: Slavery and Racial Inequality Race, Community, and Democracy; New Racism and cultural, Summary to Chapter 12;</p> <p>The social Reproduction of Inequality (Chapter 13) Social Stratifications; Family and School in the Production of Cultural Capital; Taste and Everyday Practice; Summary to chapter 13;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading ● Review ● Weekly Writing ● Chapter Quizzes ● Final Exam

Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Shanghai Normal University’s *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean’s Office.

Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.



Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.