

SOC 445 SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Syllabus

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CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:

Soc 201 The Sociological Imagination

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course covers the major theories of society in their classical and contemporary forms. This course is a requirement for the sociology major and an option for the sociology minor. It is a useful elective for any major.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- provide systematic overview of fundamental theoretical traditions in sociology.
- compare and contrast classical and contemporary sociological theories.
- illustrate the role of theory in research, investigation, and analysis.
- identify the role of theory in sociology.
- recognize major historical figures in social theory.
- compare and contrast the major theories in sociology.
- apply major theories to modern social issues.
- develop effective writing skills.
- apply social theory to personal and professional life.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings, a research project, and complete four proctored exams. More generally, students are expected to become thoroughly familiar and actively engaged with the ideas and theories studied in this course.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Textbook:

Ritzer, George. *Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots: The Basics, second edition*. McGraw-Hill, 2007. ISBN-13 9780072997590

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

Proctored Exams (4)	100 points each	400 points
Research Project		<u>50 points</u>
Total Points		450

Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

All students are required to complete four exams and a research project.

Course Schedule:

Reading, Exam, and Research Project Assignments:

Chapter 1: Introduction (reading only, no assignment due)

Chapter 2: Classical Theories I

Chapter 3: Classical Theories II

Proctored Exam One – Chapters 2-3

Chapter 4: Contemporary Grand Theories I

Chapter 5: Contemporary Grand Theories II

Proctored Exam Two – Chapters 4-5

Chapter 6: Contemporary Theories of Everyday Life

Chapter 7: Contemporary Integrative Theories

Proctored Exam Three – Chapters 6-7

Chapter 8: Contemporary Feminist Theories

Chapter 9: Postmodern Grand Theories

Research Project Due before exam four

Proctored Exam Four – Chapters 8-9

Proctored Exams:

We will have four proctored exams covering material from the textbook. The exams will be multiple-choice, fifty questions, and worth 100 points each. Please refer to the Guidelines for Proctored Exams and submit your Exam Request three weeks BEFORE you plan to take the exam.

Research Project:

Please conduct a research project on a topic of interest to you using secondary sources: academic sociological journal articles (4-5) and/or books (1-2). The first step in this research project is to choose your research topic. You might want to develop a topic related to something that you are interested in, but you have to narrow it down to a specific research interest. For example, if you are interested in deviant behavior you might want to consider as a research topic something like the following: “deviant behavior among the elderly,” “deviant behavior among suburban youth,” or even “new trends in white collar crime.” If you are interested in gender, you might want to consider “gender division of labor in the household,” “gender roles in advertisement (or in storybooks),” or “the gender pay gap.”

There are several topics that you might want to choose to look at. My best advice is to start with some general idea that intrigues you and then try to find in the textbook a topic related to that idea (you might even want to use the textbook to find some suggestions or ideas). Once you have narrowed down your topic, for example to “gender division of labor in the household,” you need to develop your research question. Your question might be “Which household chores are done by men and which ones are done by women? Is there an unequal distribution of household chores when both men and women work fulltime?” Your hypothesis could be “Different generations have different distributions of household chores. That is, the gender division of labor in the household tends to be more unequal among older couples than among younger ones.” Or, another hypothesis could be “In couples that both work full time females still do most of the household work.” However, you might find after reading the literature (the articles and the books that you found related to your topic), that the authors tend to agree that there is no major change in the distribution of household chores and that women still do the major part of the housework, and “age” or “generation” is an irrelevant variable. It is OK to find that the literature says something different from what you hypothesized; you just have to acknowledge that.

You will write a paper for your research project. The paper must be typed using a word processor, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with full 1-inch margins. The paper will include:

- a description of your research topic,
- your question and hypothesis,
- your specific identification of your dependent and independent variables,
- what the literature says and doesn't say about your research topic,
- what do you think is missing or what could be improved in the literature, and
- a bibliography.

ADA Statement:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.