Do we actively manage the impressions others may have about us? Perhaps. Are elections the most important part of a democracy? Perhaps not. Why are we developing so many technologies ranging from webcams to traffic cameras to put ourselves under surveillance? This course not only provides answers to such questions of social importance; it also seeks to train you how to think. While one of the objectives of this course is to make you conversant with the most important theories in contemporary sociology, it will not be sufficient to simply memorize facts about theories. We will read about them, talk about them, write about them, and use them in analyzing novel events. It is of critical interest not only to students who wish to major in sociology, but also to those, who need tools to think and talk about their society with a view to broader life satisfaction.

**Required Texts**

**Exams**
Exams are a highly troubling feature of modern times, I agree. But there is nothing you and I can do about them, except take and give them. Response Paper, Quizzes, and Discussion forum participation are three types of exam in this course. For more details, visit the course website.

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<th>Points</th>
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<td><strong>Response Paper</strong></td>
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<th>Week 1: Review of Classical Theory</th>
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<td>Karl Marx</td>
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**First Assignment:** Write a 200-word essay on yourself (self introduction), and upload a small picture of yours. Your introduction and picture will be available for the whole class to view, get to know you.

**Read Lecture:** *Marx, Technology, and our Work Life*
**Read:** *Karl Marx's Manifesto* (one of the few original writings you will be reading in this course)
Week 2: Review of Classical Theory
Max Weber

Read lecture: Max Weber: The Ethos of an Age and the Mode of our Work
Read: Notes on Weber's Protestant Ethic and Capitalism
Read: Bureaucracy and Rationalization
Read: Scientific Management

Week 3
Functionalism

Lecture Slides: Functionalism
Read: Functionalism (Chapter 2 Contemporary Sociological Theory, ie, CST)

Week 4
Conflict Theory

Lecture Slides: Conflict Theory
Read: Conflict Theory (Chapter 3, Contemporary Sociological Theory, ie, CST)

Week 5
Symbolic Interactionism

Lecture Slides: Symbolic Interactionism
Read: Symbolic Interactionism (Chapter 5, Contemporary Sociological Theory, ie, CST)

Week 6
Phenomenology

Lecture Slides: Phenomenology
Read: Phenomenology (Chapter 6, Contemporary Sociological Theory)

Week 7
Critical Theory: Jurgen Habermas

Lecture Slides: Habermas and Modernity
Read: Jurgen Habermas, Chapter 7, The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences
Read: Evolution and Modernity (Chapter 4, Pages 174-195, Contemporary Sociological Theory)

Week 8
Sociology of Science: Thomas Kuhn

Lecture Slides: Science
Read: Thomas Kuhn (Chapter 5, The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences)
Read: John Law: Notes on Actor-Network Theory
## Week 9
**Sociology of the Body**

**Lecture Slides:** Sociology and the Body
**Read:** Rediscovering the body (Chapter 8, Contemporary Sociological Theory)

## Week 10
**Rational Choice**

**Lecture Slides:** Rational Choice
**Read:** Theories of Rational Choice (Chapter 7, Contemporary Sociological Theory)

## Week 11
**Structuralism**

**Lecture Slides:** Structuralism
**Read:** Claude Levi-Strauss (Chapter 9, The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences)
**Read:** Aneesh's two-page commentary on Levi-Strauss's book The Raw and the Cooked.

## Week 12
**Althusser**

**Lecture Slides:** Marxist Structuralism
**Read:** Louis Althusser (Chapter 8, The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences)
**Read:** Althusser, Ideology

## Week 13
**Post-structuralism**

**Lecture Slides:** Post Structuralism
**Read:** Michel Foucault (Chapter 4, The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences)

## Week 14
**Postmodernism**

**Lecture Slides:** Postmodernism
**Read:** Baudrillard, The Gulf War Did Not Take Place (click to read the article)
UNIVERSITY AND SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is:  http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf

**Students with Disabilities.** Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following:  http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

**Students called to active Military Duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following: 
http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

**Incompletes.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following:  
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf

**Discriminatory Conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf

**Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following:  
http://www4.uwm.edu/dos/conduct/academic-misconduct.cfm

**Complaint Procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the Sociology Department Chair or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Sociology Department Chair, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at:
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm

**Grade Appeal Procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/upload/grievance_procedure.pdf

Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/policies/

**Final Examination Policy.** Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following:
http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

**Book Royalties.** In accord with Department of Sociology policy, the royalties from the sale of faculty-authored books to students in their classes are donated to a UWM Foundation/Sociology Account to support future awards and activities for UWM students in Sociology.

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