

SOCIOLOGY 375

The History of Sociological Theory (Online)

Fall 2018, September 4-December 13
Gordon Gauchat
Bolton Hall, Room 742
Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:00 and by appointment
Email: gauchat@uwm.edu

Social theories attempt to describe the social world and predict how it will change. This course will focus on the origins of a number of key social theories that remain influential in social science. We will look at five major theoretical perspectives: rational choice, Durkheimian, Marxian, Weberian, and symbolic interactionism. These theoretical perspectives continue to dominate social science and broader debates about how to organize society and to solve the social problems we confront. Thus, throughout the course, we will link these five social theories to contemporary issues and political debates. We will also analyze how these different theories relate to each other; including what one theory emphasizes over another theory; points of disagreement between them, and points where they are complementary.

READINGS

There are no textbooks for this course. All readings are posted on the D2L site for the course in pdf form free of charge. You will need a pdf reader (such as adobe acrobat) installed on your computer to access these files. You can download a free pdf reader from one of the websites listed in the “links” section of the D2L site.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I want to emphasize that, as noted below, I will be very strict with deadlines. Therefore, it is essential that you keep up with the course readings (both the theory texts and lectures) and assignments. There are 8 essential requirements for this course:

1. Post an introductory note about yourself by 11:59pm Wednesday, Sept. 5th
2. Read all of the assigned texts for each of the 14 course modules
3. Read all of the lecture notes the day after each module due date, which is when I will post them
4. Regularly (several times each week) monitor and read D2L announcement and discussion boards AND check your UWM e-mail.
5. Post 4 discussion question answers (DQAs) to the D2L discussion board (maximum one per module, first 2 due no later than Oct. 10th, must be on a **DIFFERENT** modules than your DQRs)

6. Post 3 discussion questions responses (DQRs) to another student's DQA to the D2L discussion board (maximum one per module, must be on ***DIFFERENT*** modules than your DQAs, first one must be posted by Oct. 10th)
7. Complete and place a midterm exam in the course dropbox by 11:59pm, Wednesday, Oct. 17th
8. Complete and place a final exam in the course dropbox by 11:59 pm, Wednesday, Dec. 19th

Grading:

- Post of introductory note on yourself (by 11:59, Wednesday, Sept. 5th) 1%
- Post 4 discussion question answers (DQAs; 2 must be posted by 11:59pm, Oct. 10th) 20%
- Post 3 discussion question replies (DQRs; 1 must be posted by 11:59pm, Oct. 10th) 9%
- Midterm exam (essay Qs posted on Oct. 11th, DUE 11:59pm, Oct. 17th) 30%
- Final exam (essay Qs posted on Dec. 11th, DUE 11:59pm Wednesday, Dec. 19th) 40%

Discussion question answers (DQAs):

For each of the 14 course modules I have posted to the discussion board a number of questions on the readings for that module. You are required to post discussion question answers (DQAs) for 4 different modules; 2 of these must be completed by 11:59pm, Oct. 10th. By the last module, 11:59pm Dec. 12th, you should have completed at least 2 additional DQAs. I will grade each of these DQAs and each one will count for 5% of your grade (20% total). No late posts will be accepted. In terms of content, each DQA must attempt to answer at least three of the questions that I list for that module on the discussion board. Your posted answers:

- MUST be posted by the due date for that particular module (e.g. Module 1 DQAs are due by 11:59pm September 5th; any Module 1 DQAs posted after that deadline will not be accepted)
- Should specifically identify the three questions you are attempting to answer
- Should make direct references to the readings (in the form of quotations or citation of specific page numbers) to provide evidence supporting your answers
- Should include a total of at least 10 sentences (not including your identification of the questions).

Discussion question replies (DQRs):

You also must complete 3 discussion question replies (DQRs), each posted on ***different*** modules than any of your DQAs. The 1st DQR must be posted by 11:59pm October 10th, the other two by Dec. 12th; these DQRs will consist of you responding to the post of another student for that module. Of these 3 responses, I will grade each one and each will count for 3% of your final grade (9% total). Each DQR:

- MUST be posted by the due date for that particular module (e.g. Module 1 DQRs are due by 11:59pm September 5th; any Module 1 DQRs posted after that deadline will not be accepted)
- Should articulate a response to the answers provided in that student's post, including a discussion of ***why*** you agree or disagree (not just that you do agree or disagree)

- Should be respectful of the other student even if you disagree with what he or she wrote
- Should include at least 5 sentences respectfully explaining your position

All told, you should make 7 discussion board contributions (4 DQAs and 3 DQRs) to 7 ***DIFFERENT*** modules. Three postings (2 DQAs and 1 DQR) must be completed by October 10th; so you must post on 3 of the first 6 course modules. ***I will not count multiple DQAs or DQRs posted on a single module; you must make posts to 7 different modules.***

The DQAs and the DQRs are designed to help you learn the theories by interacting with them, your fellow students, and me (much as you would if we were meeting face to face). Below I suggest a sequence of tasks for each module in order to maximize your learning and your time. To make sure you don't lose any material, please compose your DQAs and DQRs in your own word-processing software, save it, and then cut and paste the text into the discussion forum; please do NOT attach your contributions as a separate file to the forums.

Midterm and final exams:

The exams in this class will be open book and open note essay tests, consisting primarily of questions asking you to critically illustrate and evaluate some aspects of one of the theoretical perspectives or compare and contrast two or more of the theoretical perspectives examined in this course. Students should not give or receive any other assistance in the completion of the exams. I will give you the questions more than a week before the exams are due. The midterm is due in the D2L drop box no later than 11:59pm, Wednesday, October 17th. You must save your exam in one of two software formats: word (.doc or docx) or rich text (.rtf); no other formats will be accepted.

Managing your time. Students should expect to spend an average of 9-10 hours per week completing tasks related to this course. As a general guide, each week students should expect to spend 2.5 hours reading and taking notes on assigned course materials, 1.5 hours reading lecture notes, 1.5 hours reading and composing discussion posts, and 1.5 hours reviewing material from previous weeks, and 2-3 hours preparing for or writing take-home exams. Some weeks may involve more or less time depending on whether an exam is scheduled or you are writing a DQA or DQR. This course moves quickly over very complicated material that builds upon itself so you must keep up. Remember that the course is organized into 14 modules and 5 theoretical perspectives. We will cover 1 module per week beginning September 5th, with the 14th module completed Wednesday, Dec. 12th. Each module has a set of readings that goes with it (the schedule is listed below; the readings are posted by due date and module number under "contents" on the D2L site). Let me suggest the following study strategy for each module:

In the days **before** the module due date:

- 1) consult the syllabus as to the readings due for this module

- 2) consult and copy or print the questions posted on the discussion board for that module
- 3) download and/or print the readings for the module
- 4) do the readings, keeping those discussion board questions by your side and taking notes
- 5) if you are doing a DQA this module, choose 3 questions, write up your answers (following the guidelines discussed above), and post them to the appropriate D2L discussion board module **before** the 11:59 module deadline
- 6) if you are doing a DQR this module, select another student's post for this module and respond to it, completing the posting **prior to** the 11:59 module deadline
- 7) read the DQAs and DQRs of other students

In the day or days **after** each module due date:

- 1) download and read Professor Gauchat's lecture notes on the just completed module
- 2) if you haven't already, read the DQAs or DQRs of other students
- 3) review course materials from previous weeks to make sure you are remembering and integrating what you have learned previously with the new material
- 4) restart the cycle by consulting your syllabus as to the readings for the next module, etc.

Late policy. All deadlines fall at 11:59pm. As noted above, absolutely no late discussion posts will be accepted; any post timed and dated after any of the deadlines will NOT be counted as a gradable post; so make sure you give yourself plenty of time to complete and post your work. As discussed above, you must have completed 2 DQAs by the end of Oct. 10th and 1 DQR by the end of the same day. Miss those deadlines and you automatically lose points off your final grade (5 percent for missing one original discussion submission, 3% for missing the response submission). Remember that you must make 7 different discussion board contributions to 7 ***DIFFERENT*** course modules. Midterm exams received after the 11:59pm, Oct. 17th deadline will be penalized one letter grade for each 24 hour period they are late; the same penalty will apply to the final examination (after the 11:59pm, Dec. 19th, deadline).

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism involves more than copying an entire discussion post or essay from another source. Plagiarism also occurs when phrases and sentences are patched together to create a paper. Of course, you will be using in your postings and essays a few words or concepts that come from the assigned reading. That is legitimate. What is not legitimate is copying phrases and sentences from other sources (whether assigned or not) and using them as if they represented your own writing. You can avoid this by honestly quoting and citing your sources. A rough rule of thumb is that plagiarism occurs if the writing in question could not have been constructed without copying directly (however sporadically) from another source or sources, including other students. The University's policies on plagiarism are severe; any student who plagiarizes will receive an F for the course and notification will be sent the dean. FYI, in the summer 2013 semester version of this course, 2 students received an F in this course and a letter in their permanent file because of plagiarism.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date Due	Module #, Topic, and Reading
W, Sept. 5	<p><u>Module 1: What are social theories? The origins of social theories in historical context.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Garraty & Gay, <i>Columbia History of the World</i>, "The Rise of Modern Political Thought" (591-6) -Robert Nisbet, <i>The Sociological Tradition</i>, ch.2, "The Two Revolutions" (pp. 20-44)
W, Sept. 12	<p><u>Module 2: Rational Choice/Utilitarian Theory: King James I, Hobbes, Locke, the problem of order</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -King James I, "Speech to Parliament 1610" (pp. 1-2) -Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> (pp. 1-8) -John Locke, <i>Two Treatises of Civil Government</i> (pp. 1-36)
W, Sept. 19	<p><u>Module 3: Rational Choice/Utilitarian Theory (cont'd): Smith, Bentham: Economy and Moral Order</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adam Smith, <i>The Wealth of Nations</i> chs. 1&2 on the "Division of Labor" (pp. 1-11) -Adam Smith, "The Invisible Hand" (one page) -Jeremy Bentham, <i>An Introduction of the Principles of Morals and Legislation</i>, (pp. 1-8)
W, Sept. 26	<p><u>Module 4: Introduction to Marx and Marxism: Alienation and Social change/revolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Karl Marx, <i>The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i>, "Estranged Labor" (p. 1-14) -Karl Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (pp. 1-32)
W, Oct. 3	<p><u>Module 5: Marx and Marxism (cont'd): The Materialist Conception of History</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Friedrich Engels, "Socialism: Utopian and Scientific" (pp. 1-19)
W, Oct. 10	<p><u>Module 6: Marx's Concept of Class Updated</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Erik Olin Wright, "A General Framework for the Analysis of Class" (pp. 108-123) <p>FIRST TWO DQAs and FIRST DQR MUST BE POSTED NO LATER THAN TODAY</p>
W, Oct. 17	<p><u>Module 7: Introduction to Durkheim: The Division of Labor and Mechanical Society</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Durkheim, <i>The Division of Labor in Society</i> (pp. 11-29; 31-64) <p>MIDTERM DUE IN D2L DROPBOX BY 11:59PM</p>
W, Oct. 24	<p><u>Module 8: Durkheim and the Division of Labor (cont'd): Organic Solidarity, the Causes, Abnormal Forms, and Suicide and the Division of Labor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Durkheim, <i>The Division of Labor in Society</i>, (pp. 68-86; 200-05) -Bearman, "The Social Structure of Suicide" (pp. 501-24)
W, Oct. 31	<p><u>Module 9: Introduction to Max Weber: Ideas and culture as "effective forces in history"</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> (ch. 1 pp. 1-5; ch.2:1-15)
W, Nov. 7	<p><u>Module 10: Max Weber (cont'd) The calling, predestination, and the spirit of capitalism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit Capitalism</i> (ch. 3:1-4; ch. 4: 1-15; ch.

W, Nov. 14	<u>Module 11: Weber's concept of "Rationalization" updated to "McDonaldization"</u> -Ritzer, <i>The McDonaldization of Society</i> (chs. 1 and 2, pp. 1-42)
W, Nov. 21	TAKE THANKSGIVING WEEK OFF!
W, Nov. 28	<u>Module 12: Introduction to Symbolic Interactionism</u> -Mead: selections from <i>Mind Self, and Society</i> (pp. 135-64; 173-78; 192-200) -Blumer: "Society as Symbolic Interaction" (pp. 206-13)
W, Dec. 5	<u>Module 13: Symbolic Interactionism's Concept of "Self" Updated</u> -Karp and Yoels: "Social Change and the Search for Self" (pp. 321-345)
W, Dec. 12	<u>Module 14: Summing Up</u> -Anthony Giddens, <i>Capitalism & Modern Social Theory</i> , ch. 15 "Social Differentiation..." (224-42)
W, Dec. 19	FINAL EXAM

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 page is: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. In the pursuit of equal access and in compliance with state and federal laws, the University is required to provide accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is expected that a statement be placed on your syllabus informing students to contact you to arrange needed accommodations. A sample syllabus statement can be found here: <https://uwm.edu/arc/wpcontent/uploads/sites/97/2015/08/Recommended-Syllabus-Statement.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: <https://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/>

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: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.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: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina duct Policy.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: <https://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>

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: https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina duct Policy.pdf

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 sociology department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College of Letters & Science. Procedures for undergraduate student grade appeal can be found at: <https://uwm.edu/letters-science/advising/answers-forms/policies/appeal-procedure-for-grades>
Procedures for graduate student grade appeal can be found at <https://uwm.edu/graduateschool/appealing-academic-decisions/>

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.