COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course seeks not only to explore the writings of sociological theorists, but also to consider how their insights might help us conduct research today, and to solve problems we see around us. The focus of the course will be on the core building blocks of social theory, including cognition, social structure, and institutions. The course will combine a grounding in classical sociological theory with more contemporary analyses. The first portion of the course will focus on classical sociological theory, while the second portion will offer you an introduction to a selection of contemporary theorists and theoretical schools. The readings are challenging, and it is vital that you come to class having completed that week’s readings. Ideally you will even have read the most difficult portions twice.

Note: It is possible that we will fall slightly behind or get ahead of ourselves, so the dates on the syllabus may change slightly if we find it necessary.

Attendance and Participation are both essential for success in this course. More than one absence will seriously impact this portion of your grade, and it is vital that you participate actively in discussion each and every week. As a general rule, plan on talking at least twice each meeting—even if you are not particularly comfortable with class discussion, it is definitely important that you actively participate.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reflections Papers and Presentations
You will be required to turn in a total of four short reflection papers (5 pages) on the readings over the semester. This is designed to help you with comprehension and retention of these often challenging readings, AND to provide you material that should be helpful in writing your final paper. I will provide further details about these reflection papers on D2L. In addition, in two of the weeks that you are writing a reflection, you must also organize the class discussion of the readings. This will involve you posting a short abstract on the readings that provides a broad summary and starting point for the discussion (i.e., what unifying ideas did you see, what were the key ideas). Then, you should include a minimum of 7 discussion questions for the class to discuss in class. You will need to post this summary by Friday at 11:59pm the week we discuss your readings—plan ahead, as there WILL be penalties for late notes. Please include page numbers when you refer to specific points in the readings. This course requirement will be worth 60% of your final grade.
Final Research Paper
In addition to the short reflection papers outline above, you will also be required to write a longer research paper at the end of the semester. You and I must discuss the general topic of your paper. This should happen before November 19th, the week of Thanksgiving break. However, I encourage you to think about the paper topic and come talk to me before this date. The easiest way is to schedule an appointment with me. Again, I will have a more detailed description of the final paper posted to D2L. In brief, the paper must identify a theory, theorist, or key reading outside those we address in class and then apply/compare/contrast this to the course readings. The “outside” source must be contemporary and theoretical (written since 2000). The source should be written by a sociologist or closely related fields. One strategy is to find a recent book in your “ASA area” that has received a lot of attention or is “agenda setting.” This paper will constitute the other 30% of your grade.

Grades
10% Participation and Attendance
60% Reflection Papers and Discussions (10% each)
30% Final Paper

Warning
Plagiarism and cheating of any kind are unacceptable, and will be penalized both with a 0 on the relevant assignment, and according to UWM Academic Disciplinary Procedures. If you have any doubts as to what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to ask me or to consult university regulations. I HAVE caught plagiarism cases in the past, and I am NOT interested in having to deal with that! ANY TIME that you use someone else’s words, those words MUST be in quotation marks and MUST be thoroughly cited—no exceptions. Late papers will be penalized one-third grade for each day late (an A- paper will drop to a B+, for example). Incompletes will only be granted in extremely rare and severe cases and only with relevant documentation.

***************The Syllabus is subject to change****************
You are responsible for keeping track of any changes to the syllabus. If for any reason you are not in class when a change is announced, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what has been changed by asking me or a classmate. It is very possible that we will fall slightly behind or get slightly ahead of ourselves in terms of the reading, so each week I will make clear what the next week’s readings will be.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Routledge. [BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE ROUTLEDGE EDITION!! Other editions have different translations, different page numbers, etc., all of which will cause you (and me) great inconvenience!]


* All other readings will be posted on D2L (and are indicated by underlining below).

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Week 1 Sept. 10 Introductions**

**Week 2 Sept. 17 What is Sociological Theory**

Except Chapter 6

**Week 3 Sept. 24 Marx**
1. *EngelsManchester*

*Marx-Engels Reader*
2. xv-xxxviii, 3-18 (Introductions)
3. 146-188 (German Ideology)

**Week 4 Sept. 1 Marx**
*Marx-Engels Reader*
1. 469-500 (Communist Manifesto)
2. 294-343 (Capital)
3. 66-81, 93-105 (Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts)

**Week 5 Oct. 8 Introduction to Weber**
1. *WeberClassStatusParty*

2. *WeberScienceasaVocation*

**Week 6 Oct. 15 Weber, Protestant Ethic**
*Protestant Ethic* xxviii-xlii, 3-50

**Week 7 Oct. 22 Weber: Conclusion**
*Protestant Ethic,* 53-92, 102-125

**Week 8 Oct. 29 Durkheim: Sociology and the Topography of Modernity**
Introduction, 1-28
Appendix, 283-295
Parts I and II, 29-164

Week 9 Nov. 5 Durkheim: The Institutional and Moral Order of Society

Part II and IV, 165-282

Week 10 Nov. 12 American Pragmatism The “Other” Classical Theory

Week 11 Nov. 19 Professionalization of Theory: Interactionism vs. Functionalism
1. Merton, *Social Theory and Social Structure*, Chapters II, III, XVIII
2. Goffman, *Presentation of Self*, 1-76

Week 12 Nov. 26


Week 13 Dec. 7 The New General Theory: Field Theory


Week 14 Dec. 10 Field Theory and Bourdieu

Introduction, Part I and II, 1-244

FINAL PAPER DUE BY EMAIL ON Monday, December 17th at 11:59 p.m.
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_Discriminatory_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_Discriminatory_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

**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.

Update 08/2018