Modern Sociological Theory

SOCIOL 376 Spring 2020

Time & Location: ONLINE

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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.

Texts

❖ All required texts will be available on Canvas.

Goals

❖ Outline theories of modern society and their implications for everyday social reality (including your own).
❖ Identify potential issues, problems, and risks that can be explained in a new way by any of the theories learned.

Assignments:

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 Canvas course website.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>300 (due May 7th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>300 (20 points each, due every Sunday)</td>
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<td>Discussion participation</td>
<td>225 (15 pts each, due Thursday but available until Sunday)</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>825</td>
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Credit Hours
It is expected that students will spend about 10 hours per week completing tasks related to this course. As a general guide, students should expect to spend about 3 hours reading assigned course materials, about 2 hours composing weekly responses for discussion, about 3 hours preparing for quizzes, and about 2 hours working on the semester long proposal project or preparing for exams.

Schedule
Details of each week's readings, assignments, and lectures are available on Canvas.

Week 1
Review of Classical Theory
Karl Marx

Week 2
Review of Classical Theory
Max Weber

Week 3
Functionalism

Week 4
Conflict Theory

Week 5
Symbolic Interactionism

Week 6
Phenomenology

Week 7
Critical Theory: Jurgen Habermas

Week 8
Sociology of Science: Thomas Kuhn

Spring Recess: March 15-22

Week 9
Sociology of the Body

Week 10
Rational Choice

Week 11
Structuralism

Week 12
Marxist Structuralism: Louis Althusser

Week 13
Post-Structuralism
SYLLABUS LINKS: UWM POLICY

1. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. NOTICE TO THESE STUDENTS SHOULD APPEAR PROMINENTLY IN THE SYLLABUS SO THAT SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS ARE PROVIDED IN A TIMELY MANNER. http://uwm.edu/arc/

2. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ABSENCES DUE TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE SHOULD BE NOTED.
   https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-2.%20Accommodation%20of%20Religious%20Beliefs.pdf

3. STUDENTS CALLED TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ABSENCES DUE TO CALL-UP OF RESERVES TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY SHOULD BE NOTED.
   STUDENTS: http://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/

4. INCOMPLETES. A NOTATION OF "INCOMPLETE" MAY BE GIVEN IN LIEU OF A FINAL GRADE TO A STUDENT WHO HAS CARRIED A SUBJECT SUCCESSFULLY UNTIL THE END OF A SEMESTER BUT WHO, BECAUSE OF ILLNESS OR OTHER UNUSUAL AND SUBSTANTIATED CAUSE BEYOND THE STUDENT’S CONTROL, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO TAKE OR COMPLETE THE FINAL EXAMINATION OR TO COMPLETE SOME LIMITED AMOUNT OF TERM WORK.
   https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-3.%20Incomplete%20Grades.pdf


6. TITLE IX/SEXUAL VIOLENCE. TITLE IX IS A FEDERAL LAW THAT PROHIBITS SEX DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION PROGRAM OR ACTIVITIES, AND UWM POLICY PROHIBITS SUCH CONDUCT (SEE DISCRIMINATORY CONDUCT, ABOVE). THIS INCLUDES SEXUAL VIOLENCE, WHICH MAY INCLUDE SEXUAL HARASSMENT, SEXUAL ASSAULT, RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE, AND/OR STALKING IN ALL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION-RELATED AREAS. UWM STRONGLY ENCOURAGES ITS STUDENTS TO REPORT ANY INSTANCE OF SEX DISCRIMINATION TO UWM’S TITLE IX COORDINATOR (titleix@uwm.edu). WHETHER OR NOT A STUDENT WISHES TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, THE TITLE IX COORDINATOR CAN CONNECT STUDENTS TO RESOURCES AT UWM AND/OR IN THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, VICTIM ADVOCACY, MEDICAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES, AND/OR LAW ENFORCEMENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: https://uwm.edu/sexual-assault/

7. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT. CHEATING ON EXAMS OR PLAGIARISM ARE VIOLATIONS OF THE ACADEMIC HONOR CODE AND CARRY SEVERE SANCTIONS, INCLUDING FAILING A COURSE OR EVEN SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY. https://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/conduct/academic-misconduct/

8. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES. STUDENTS MAY DIRECT COMPLAINTS TO THE HEAD OF THE ACADEMIC UNIT OR DEPARTMENT IN WHICH THE COMPLAINT OCCURS. IF THE COMPLAINT ALLEGEDLY VIOLATES A SPECIFIC UNIVERSITY POLICY, IT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OR ACADEMIC UNIT IN WHICH THE COMPLAINT OCCURRED OR TO THE APPROPRIATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THE POLICY. https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%201-1.%20Discriminatory%20Conduct%20Policy.pdf
9. **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/School. [https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%20110%20Grade%20Appeals%20by%20Students.pdf](https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%20110%20Grade%20Appeals%20by%20Students.pdf)

10. **LGBT+ Resources.** Faculty and staff can find resources to support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment. [http://uwm.edu/rgbtrc/](http://uwm.edu/rgbtrc/)

11. **Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campus.** UWM prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco on all campus property. [https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%2010-8%20Smoke%20and%20Tobacco-Free%20Campus%20Policy.pdf](https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%2010-8%20Smoke%20and%20Tobacco-Free%20Campus%20Policy.pdf)

12. **Final Examinations.** Information about the final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, and make-up examinations. [https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%209-20Final%20Examinations.pdf](https://apps.uwm.edu/secu-policies/storage/other/SAAP%209-20Final%20Examinations.pdf)