SOCIOLOGY 301 - FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY I - Fall 2011

Instructor: Michael A. Toth, Ph.D., Office: 217U Cramer Hall,
Office Hours: by appointment (email or phone ahead)
Office Phone: (503) 725-8368, email: tothm@pdx.edu

Syllabus, Reading, and Course Schedule

This reading schedule is available on the web at: http://web.pdx.edu/~tothm/theory. It contains links to all of the recommended web-sited readings and additional resource sites re: the theorists.

Required Reading Materials:

KEY: Those materials marked with a ► (in the Allan and Farganis texts) are required for the course. (Please note that we will read the chapters in a slightly different sequence than they occur in the text.) Those materials marked with an ☐ are more than just supplemental and you may find them especially helpful. I would especially direct your attention to additional relevant material not listed here that is currently available online via direct links on the course website; you are encouraged to add these to your reading as you have time and interest. I will make more than casual reference to these materials from time to time during the lectures. As a final note, I would urge serious students of the discipline to read the sections on Marx, Durkheim, and Weber in the two noted volumes by Raymond Aron.

All of the materials on this reading list authored by Lewis Coser are available courtesy of the web site (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/Iridener/DSS/) called “The Dead Sociologist’s Index” maintained by Larry Ridener, Chair of the Department of Sociology at Pfeiffer University. The web addresses provided in the schedule link directly to that site at the point where the material on each of the respective theorists is presented, but you may wish to view the entire site and are encouraged to use it as a supplemental resource for the entire course. All of the written material at this site (with the exception of excerpts from original works) was originally published in Masters of Sociological Thought, 2nd Edition by Lewis Coser (New York: Harcourt Brace Javonowich, 1977). This same text was reprinted by Waveland Press in 2003 and is currently available in paperback format as a 2nd edition.

PLEASE NOTE:
If you have a disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please notify me (the instructor) immediately to arrange needed supports.
What This Course Is...

First of all, it is literally an introduction to the thought of the classical founders of sociology, the seminal thinkers of the 19th and early to mid-20th centuries who established and secured the fundamental dimensions of the sociological enterprise.

Second, it is an exemplification of that enterprise, of struggling to understand human behavior as it is rooted in and influenced by social factors.

Third, it is the experience of providing a concrete sense of what sociological theory is, where it came from, and why it came to be when and how it did.

Fourth, it is an attempt to illustrate the relevance of theory itself both within the disciplines of the social sciences and in everyday life.

Finally, it is an adventure in intellectual history, an engagement with the minds whose questions and answers helped shape the world we live in today.

If history is, as the wags have it, “the science of that which happens once,” and economics is “the dismal science,” then perhaps sociology can best be described as “the ironic science.” By definition, sociology is the social science par excellence, the most social and perhaps the most curious and troubling of all the sciences dealing with human behavior. The sociological perspective is a curious one because it jars us out of the taken-for-granted embedded-ness we each have in our own social settings and in the ways we ordinarily live our lives. It disturbs us into an increased reflexivity—that odd human capacity to look back at our individual selves and our own collective behavior as if we were actually looking from outside of ourselves. Simultaneously disruptive and liberating, this paradoxical experience encourages an appreciation of irony—that things are very likely not exactly as we think they are, that unanticipated consequences are more the norm than the exception, that even our own intentions are not entirely trustworthy—that something else is always going on. As one of my mentors was fond of saying, the core sociological question is always "What's going on here, anyway?" The sociological perspective also fosters a sense of humor, however dark it may often be. You may come to appreciate that even though the people we will be studying are long dead, what they were concerned about is as contemporary as the content of tomorrow's New York Times, tonight’s network news, or the tweet you may be receiving as you read this! My goal is to help you discover that understanding these theorists may well help you better understand your world and better accomplish your life.

This course is essentially a lecture course: the material I will present in class is intended to augment, illustrate, expand on, and otherwise make the course content more intriguing as well as more understandable. I have a strong conviction that you will benefit not only by attending the lectures but by attending to them as well. My expectations are that you will read—and then reread—the assigned materials. I encourage you to study and discuss the course material with your fellow students, but I expect each one of you to write your own exams. I hope you will have questions, that you will get at least a few answers worth thinking about, and that your time and effort in this course will be well spent.
WORKING SCHEDULE

Introduction: September 26, 28, October 3

1. All the materials listed for the first week on the course website
   - The Sacred Canopy (Berger) 
   - Classical Tradition, Contemporary Sociological Theory
   - Sociology, Theory, and the Modern Agenda

-------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Auguste Comte - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
   (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/iridener/DSS/#comte)
   Lewis Coser

1. Harriet Martineau - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
   (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/iridener/DSS/#martineau)
   Lewis Coser

1. Herbert Spencer

-------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Karl Marx: October 5, 10, 12
   - Karl Marx
     [Karl Marx in Main Currents in Sociological Thought I, pp. 145-236]
   Lewis Coser

-------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Emile Durkheim: October 17, 19, 24
   - Emile Durkheim
     [Emile Durkheim in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 1-117]
   Lewis Coser

-------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Max Weber: October 26, 31, November 2
   - Max Weber
     [Max Weber in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 219-317]
   Lewis Coser

-------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Talcott Parsons & Robert K. Merton: November 7, 9, 14
   - Functionalism (Talcott Parsons & Robert K. Merton)

-------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Georg Simmel November 16
   - Georg Simmel
     [Why Sociology is Difficult: Emergence, Structure, and the Peculiar Location of Self-Consciousness in Nature]
   Lewis Coser

-------------------------------------------------------------------
The Chicago School: November 21

NOTE: Required Readings on-line

1. Robert Park - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
   (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/iridener/DSS/#park)
2. William Isaac Thomas - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
   (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/iridener/DSS/#thomas)
3. Charles H. Cooley - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
   (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/iridener/DSS/#cooley)

W.E.B. Du Bois November 28

Farganis: Chapter 6

1. W.E.B. Du Bois - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
   (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/iridener/DSS/#dubois)

George H. Mead November 30

Allan: Chapter 6

George H. Mead

Farganis: Chapter 5

1. George Herbert Mead - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
   (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/iridener/DSS/#mead)
### Sociology 301
#### Foundations of Sociology I, Fall 2011
#### Working Schedule

**A=Allan’s The Social Lens**  
**F=Fargonis’ Readings in Social Theory**  
**Note the Additional Readings listed on the On-line Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Class Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 26</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td><strong>Introductory Materials</strong>&lt;br&gt;On-line&lt;br&gt;A: Chapter 1 &amp; 2&lt;br&gt;F: pp. 1-14, pp. 275-287</td>
<td>Quick Quiz #1&lt;br&gt;ESSAY QUESTION #1&lt;br&gt;CORE IDEAS #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 28</td>
<td>Berger, Spencer&lt;br&gt;(Comte, Martineau)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Karl Marx</td>
<td><strong>A: Chapter 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;F: pp. 29-50&lt;br&gt;additional materials on-line</td>
<td>Quick Quiz #2&lt;br&gt;ESSAY QUESTION #2&lt;br&gt;CORE IDEAS #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Emile Durkheim</td>
<td><strong>A: Chapter 5</strong>&lt;br&gt;F: pp. 51-71&lt;br&gt;additional materials on-line</td>
<td>Quick Quiz #3&lt;br&gt;ESSAY QUESTION #3&lt;br&gt;CORE IDEAS #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Max Weber</td>
<td><strong>A: Chapter 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;F: pp. 73-110&lt;br&gt;additional materials on-line</td>
<td>Quick Quiz #4&lt;br&gt;ESSAY QUESTION #4&lt;br&gt;CORE IDEAS #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Talcott Parsons&lt;br&gt;Robert K. Merton</td>
<td><strong>A: Chapter 8</strong>&lt;br&gt;F: pp. 157-159, pp. 167-192, pp. 159-167&lt;br&gt;additional materials on-line</td>
<td>Quick Quiz #5&lt;br&gt;ESSAY QUESTION #5&lt;br&gt;CORE IDEAS #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Georg Simmel</td>
<td><strong>A: Chapter 6</strong>&lt;br&gt;F: pp. 111-125&lt;br&gt;additional materials on-line</td>
<td>Quick Quiz #6&lt;br&gt;ESSAY QUESTION #6&lt;br&gt;CORE IDEAS #6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>The Chicago School</td>
<td>Primary materials on-line</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>W.E.B. Du Bois&lt;br&gt;George H. Mead</td>
<td><strong>A: Chapter 7, 6</strong>&lt;br&gt;F: pp. 139-154; 127-137,&lt;br&gt;additional materials on-line</td>
<td>Quick Quiz #7&lt;br&gt;ESSAY QUESTION #7&lt;br&gt;CORE IDEAS #7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6 4:30 pm</td>
<td>ALL FINAL MATERIALS DUE IN DEPARTMENT OFFICE&lt;br&gt;CRAMER HALL 217</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** all “additional materials on-line” are available at: [http://web.pdx.edu/~tothm/theory](http://web.pdx.edu/~tothm/theory)