Sociology 302 – Winter 2013

FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY 2

What This Course Is All About

Important note: Sociology 302 is the continuation of Sociology 301. You need to complete Sociology 301 BEFORE taking Sociology 302. Dr. Toth is teaching it this quarter on Thursdays at noon.

Sociology is a house built on a theoretical foundation. To understand the vibrancy of the discipline one must understand some of the founding ideas. Those ideas are not just the words of “dead white guys” they are the living precepts that inform ongoing social analysis. Many twentieth century writings are even more relevant today, similarly, many contemporary ideas are instantly out of date. But all are a part of the ongoing sociological dialogue about how our world works.

This course is the second part of an overview of important sociological ideas about society. They are ideas about religion, family, culture and power. From the critical theory of Adorno to the deconstruction of Foucault, the theorists all seek to diagram social arrangements that are important in the understanding of social stability and social change. Some, like the “Chicago School” reinforce basic ideas about our way of life, others like the “Frankfurt School” are highly critical of the dominant institutions.

Much of the reading in this course builds on the cannon of sociological thought you studied in Sociology 301. Some of it can be dense and difficult but it is important for students to read as much of the original works as possible. Supplemental readings will help to put the scholars work into a 21st Century context. The course itself will follow a rough chronological pattern of theoretical development:

1) Building on Classic Theory
2) Contemporary American Theory
3) Critical Theory and Postmodernism

Within this chronology, certain themes, like gender and rationalization, will be revisited. It is acknowledged that it impossible to study, fully, these theorists in a ten-week course. Instead we will be familiarizing ourselves with the important highlights. Additionally, this quarter we will be focusing on the underappreciated contribution to theory made by Michael Kimmel.

We will do this by addressing these issues:

1) What was the historical setting that influenced the theorist's perspective?
2) What were the intellectual roots of the theorist's perspectives?
3) How was the theorist's work received and disseminated into paradigms or "schools"?
Required Reading Materials:
(S) *Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era* by Applerouth & Edles, available from the PSU Bookstore.
(G) *Guyland* by Michael Kimmel, available from the PSU Bookstore.
(H) Various handouts provided by professor.

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<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
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<td>Introduction (January 7, 9, )</td>
<td>S: Chapter 1</td>
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<td>What This Course is All About</td>
<td>G: Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Building on Soc 301</td>
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<td>The Structure of Social Theory</td>
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<td>Standing on the Shoulders of Giants (January 11, 14, 16, 18)</td>
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<td>Robert Merton</td>
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<td>Modern Conflict Theory</td>
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<td>C. Wright Mills</td>
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<td>Ralf Dahrendorf</td>
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<td>Randall Collins</td>
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<td>Happy Birthday, Dr. King (January 21)</td>
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<td>Symbolic Interactionism (January 23, 25)</td>
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<td>George Herbert Mead</td>
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<td>Herbert Blumer</td>
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<td>Erving Goffman</td>
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<td>Arlie Hochschild</td>
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<td>Exchange Theory and Ethnomethodology (January 28, 30, February 1)</td>
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George Homans
Peter Blau
Harold Garfinkel

**Phenomenology** (February 4, 6)
Edmund Husserl
Alfred Schutz
Peter Berger

**MID-TERM EXAM** (February 8)

**Feminist Theory** (February 11, 13, 15)
Dorothy E. Smith
Nancy Hartsock
Mary Daly
Susan Faludi

**Critical Theory** (February 18, 20, 21)
Frankfurt School
Herbert Marcuse
Jurgen Habermas

**Postmodern Theory** (Feb. 25, 27, Mar. 1)
Jacques Derrida
Jean-Fracois Lyotard
Jean Baudrillard
Frederic Jameson
Michel Foucault

**Post-PoMo Theory** (March 4, 6, 7)
George Ritzer
Pierre Bourdieu

**Guyland** (March 11, 13, 15)

**The Death of the Enlightenment**

**FINAL EXAM** (March 20, 10:15 am)

PLEASE NOTE:
If you have a disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please notify me (the instructor) immediately to arrange needed supports.
Sociology 302 – Winter 2013
Instructor: Randy Blazak, Ph.D., Office: 217K Cramer Hall,
Office Hours: 3:30 – 4:30, Mon & Weds
Office Phone: (503) 725-38502, email: blazakr@pdx.edu
Teaching Assistant: Dylan Waite, email: dtw@pdx.edu

COURSE ACTIVITY
MWF: 10:15-11:20
Neuberger Hall 341

Student Expectations

Soc 302 is designed for sociology majors. The format will be both lecture and discussion, which will require students to be well prepared and involved. Each hour and 5 minute session will have room for class discussion. Your actual grade will be based on these tasks:

Mid-Term Exam (30%) An exam will be given during class on February 8, covering the recent readings and lecture material.

Text review (20%) Students will read one outside work by a contemporary theorist discussed in class and write a 3-5 page sociological review.

Weekly write-ups (30%) Each week students will be given short 1-2 page writing assignments based on that week’s discussion.

Quote of the day (5%) Students will be randomly asked to present a quote from a theorist and explain its sociological relevance.

Roots and Fruits Diagram (10%) Students will be assigned a theorist to diagram in context.

Attendance (5%) A role will be passed around each class for you to sign. Your grade will be present the percentage of time you attended class.

Make-up tests and late papers Make-up tests must be scheduled in advance. They are generally more difficult than the original exam. Papers (worth 10 points) are marked down 1 point for each weekday they are late. Papers over a week late will not be accepted.

Incompletes We all have it rough at times. That’s why they call it the blues. Incompletes are no longer offered. If you cannot complete the course you can take the “F” and retake the course later. There are no exceptions, so don’t bother asking.
**Classroom etiquette** Coming to class late is rude and disruptive to students and the professor. Please be here on time and turn off cell phones, iPads, and laptops. This classroom is an open forum for all opinions and positions but sexist and bigoted comments will be snarled at.