Foundations of Sociology I: Soc 301-002
Winter 2014

CRN 45337
MWF 9-10:05
Neuberger Hall 237
Office Hours: Friday 10:15-11:15 & by appointment

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REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS: The Social Lens by Kenneth Allan. 3rd edition is preferred but older editions are acceptable. Social Theory by Charles Lemert. 5th edition is preferred but older editions are acceptable. A copy of each is on reserve at the PSU Library.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will provide students with an introduction to the Foundations of Sociological Theory, with a special emphasis on Classical Sociology. We will examine how sociological theories work as complex frameworks that sociologists use to explain and analyze social action, social processes, and social structures.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: This course is heavily dependant on reading. Students should complete the assigned readings prior to each class, bring the textbook to class and be prepared to engage in thoughtful discussion regarding the readings. Regular attendance will benefit the dedicated student since exams will cover lecture material not included in the texts. D2L will be a small component of this course, so make sure you can log in to your account at https://d2l.pdx.edu/

CLASS CONDUCT: In an effort to make this class a learning environment for everyone, please be considerate of the other students in class. Please try to get to class on time and refrain from leaving before class is done. Turn off all electronic devices. This includes iPods, phones, and laptops. If you want to have a chat with your classmates, do it outside. We will be discussing topics that may be controversial, so it is very important that we all maintain respect for the diversity of opinions represented in the class. This is an educational environment, so ideas may be questioned and critiqued but personal attacks will not be tolerated.

If you have a disability and are in need of academic accommodations, please notify me immediately to arrange needed supports.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic honesty is a cornerstone of meaningful education and a reflection of maturity and integrity. Portland State University is committed to the highest standards of academic honesty. The Student Conduct Code prohibits all forms of academic cheating, fraud, and dishonesty, but not limited to plagiarism, buying and selling of assignments for others, unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information and other practices understood to academically dishonor. Copies of the Student Conduct Code may be obtained by contacting 503-725-4422, or by visiting room 433 in Smith Memorial Center. Any assignment or exam found to be academically dishonest will receive no points for the whole exam/assignment and a referral to the appropriate authority.
CONTACT INFO: The best way to contact me is via email. Please be sure to put “Soc 301” in the subject line so I can find your email amidst the spam. If you do not put that in the subject line, I might not read your email. I have a great many students so don’t expect an instant reply.

EXAMS: There will be two exams. Students must take both exams in order to earn a passing grade. No early exams will be given. I reserve the right to implement anti-cheating measures during exams. The exams will be synthetic, in that you will be asked to make comparisons between theories & theorists. Exam 2 will be cumulative.

ASSIGNMENTS: There will be 4 scheduled assignments. Each will have both in-class and take-home components. Please be sure to be in class on assignment days. The assignments will ask you to apply theory to sociological problems. Each will involve a short writing component. Each assignment will focus on a particular theorists or type of theory. Each assignment will be due one week after it is handed out.

GRADES: Grades will be based on the following:
- Exam 1 = 80 points
- Exam 2 = 120 points
- In-class exercises = 80 points (20 points apiece)
- Participation = 20 points
Final grades will be based on the standard curve. You start the quarter with 0 points and accumulate them with each successful project.

READING SCHEDULE: (a work in progress, subject to change)
A= Allen, L=Lemert
WEEK 1: A p1-20; L p1-27, 266-268 (Mill’s Sociological Imagination); Marx & Engels, The Communist Manifesto (online at http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/, link available on course website)
WEEK 2: Marx (& Engels): A Ch3; L p28-53
WEEK 3: Marx, continued. Assignment 1 on Friday, 1/24 – No Class Monday
WEEK 4: Weber: A Ch 4, L p79-97
WEEK 5: Weber, continued. Assignment 2 on Friday, 2/7
WEEK 6: Exam 1 on Monday, 2/10; Durkheim: A Ch 5; L 56-78. Please skim A Ch 2 for Spencer, a strong influence on Durkheim.
WEEK 7: Durkheim, continued. L 174-182 (Robert Merton, influenced by Durkheim). Assignment 3 on Friday, 2/21
WEEK 8: Mead & Simmel: A Ch 6; L 122-125 (James), 139-141 (Simmel), 142 (Cooley), 161-164 (Mead)
WEEK 10: Loose Ends, Catch Up, and Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM IS TUESDAY, MARCH 18TH AT 8 AM.