Foundations of Sociology 2
Soc. 302 Spring 2017
Tuesday Thursday 2:00-3:00 CH 269
Instructor: Julius McGee (cjulius@pdx.edu)
Office Hours Cramer 217O (Monday Wednesday 1:00-2:00)
TA: Kyla Tompkins (kto2@pdx.edu)
Office hours by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course, you will learn about contemporary sociological theories that have contributed to the development of sociology as a discipline. These theories will build on the foundational theories in sociology discussed in Foundations of Sociology 1. The goal of this course is to help students develop a lens for understanding the social world that builds on the core themes of sociology. By the end of this course students should have a broad understanding on how social theory creates a unique understanding of the social world and structures sociological research.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

- Kenneth Allan. *The Social Lens: An Invitation to Social and Sociological Theory*

**Graded Assignments:**

**In class writing response (30%):** Once a week you will be asked to write a short response essay about the week’s readings. The prompts are not meant to be challenging, but you will need to have done the reading before class to adequately address the question. Questions will usually require you to define one or two concepts from the readings and apply/analyze them. There is no right or wrong way to apply or analyze the concepts, so don’t be afraid to get creative. These responses are intended to help spark a fruitful discussion about a particular theory or theorist, and serve as notes for your essay assignments. Your two lowest writing response grades will be dropped at the end of the quarter. Thus if you are absent for one or two classes your writing response grades for those classes will be dropped and your grade will not suffer. As a result of this policy, there is no way to make up missed writing responses (Note: there will be no exceptions to this rule).

**Essays (70%):** You are required to complete two essays (minimum 1500 words) (each worth 35% of your grade) during the term, an “Analysis” essay, and an “Application” essay. The details of each assignment are spelled out on separate sheets posted to D2L. It doesn’t matter which essay prompt you respond to first. The essays must deal with entirely different readings and topics. The first of the two essays is due Thursday at the beginning of class in week 5. The second of the two essays will be due Thursday at the beginning of class in week 10. You are welcome to turn the essays in as early as you like. Essays must be submitted both on D2L and in
hard copy in class. If you receive a grade below an 85% on your essay you will be given the opportunity to revise your essay and resubmit it for a higher grade. If you decide to do this, you will be required to include additional one page paper outlining how you addressed each comment and concern raised in regards to your essay. Note: resubmitting your essay will not automatically result in a higher grade. The maximum grade a resubmitted essay can receive is an 85%.

Calendar of Topics and Readings:

**WEEK 1: April 4th/6th**
Discussion Topic: The next wave of Marxist theories
Required Readings: Boggs “Marxism as the Philosophy of Praxis” (D2L) Lukacs “What is Orthodox Marxism?” (first 13 pages of PDF on D2L)

**WEEK 2: April 11th/13th**
Discussion Topic: The next wave of Marxist theories cont.
Required Readings: Held (D2L) (D2L) Allan pages 421-435

**WEEK 3: April 18th/20th**
Discussion Topic: Social Class
Required Readings: Allan pages 289-295 & 305-319

**WEEK 4: April 25th/27th**
Discussion Topic: Symbolic interaction
Required Readings: Allan pages 385-396; Excerpts from *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (D2L)

**WEEK 5: May 2nd/4th**
Discussion Topic: Jean Baudrillard
Required Readings: Allan Pages 503-520
**FIRST PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS THURSDAY.**

**WEEK 6: May 9th/11th**
Discussion Topic: Michel Foucault
Required Readings: Allan Pages 483-502 *Discipline and Punish: “A Gentle way to Punish”* (D2L)

**WEEK 7: May 16th/18th**
Discussion Topic: Gender as a performance
Required Readings: “Doing Gender” (D2L) Butler “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory” (D2L)

**WEEK 8: May 23rd/25th**
Discussion Topic: Race
Required Readings: Allan Pages 548-568 Silva; “Rethinking Racism” (D2L)
WEEK 9: May 30th/June 1st
Discussion Topic: Patricia Hill Collins
Required Readings: Allan pages 540-547; “Learning From the Outsider Within”

WEEK 10: June 6th/June 8th
Discussion Topic: Environmental Sociology
Required Reading: York “Metatheoretical Foundations of Post-normal Prediction” (D2L) Foster “Marx's Theory of Metabolic Rift: Classical Foundations for Environmental Sociology” (D2L)
SECOND PAPER DUE THURSDAY

*** Disclaimer***

Syllabus is subject to change.