SOCIOLOGY 301 - FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY I - Fall 2013

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Syllabus, Reading, and Course Schedule

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

Required Reading Materials:


(2) A Packet of Selected Readings, available from Smart Copy, 1915 SW 6th Avenue (next to Hot Lips Pizza)

KEY: Those materials marked with a ► reference The Social Lens or The Packet and are required for the course. (Please note that we will read the chapters in a slightly different sequence.) Those materials marked with an  are available through the course website. These are also required and you will find them especially helpful.

I would also direct your attention to additional relevant material not listed here but that is available online via direct links on the course website; you are strongly 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 or a learning limitation and are in need of academic accommodations, please notify me (the instructor) immediately to arrange needed supports.
WORKING SCHEDULE

UNIT I: Introduction: October 1, 3, 8
► All the materials listed for the first week on the course website
  ► Sociology, Theory, and the Modern Agenda  Allan: Chapter 1
  ► Society and Illusion  Collins & Makowsky
  ► A Partial Introduction to Sociology  Michael Toth
  ► The Social Construction of Reality  Peter Berger

UNIT II: MARX: October 10, 15, 17
► Karl Marx  Allan: Chapter 3
  ► Marx's Masterpiece at 150  Steven Marcus
  () Karl Marx - The Person & A Summary of Ideas  Lewis Coser
  ● Karl Marx in Main Currents in Sociological Thought I, pp. 145-236  Raymond Aron

UNIT III: DURKHEIM: October 22, 24, 29
► Emile Durkheim  Allan: Chapter 5
  () Emile Durkheim - The Person & A Summary of Ideas  Lewis Coser
  ● Emile Durkheim in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 1-117  Raymond Aron

UNIT IV: WEBER: October 31, November 5, 7
► Max Weber  Allan: Chapter 4
  ► Why Work?  Elizabeth Kolbert
  () Max Weber - The Person & A Summary of Ideas  Lewis Coser
  ● Max Weber in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 219-317  Raymond Aron

Discussion Assignment for November 12:
Max Weber, Selections from Politics as a Vocation
UNIT V (in Three Parts):
(a) SIMMEL: November 12
  ► Georg Simmel:
  ① Georg Simmel - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#simmel)
  ► Why Sociology is Difficult: Emergence, Structure, and
  the Peculiar Location of Self-Consciousness in Nature
  Michael Toth

(b) THE CHICAGO SCHOOL: November 14
  ► Chicago Sociology from 1892 to 1935
  George Ritzer
  ① Robert Park - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#park)
  ② William Isaac Thomas - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#thomas)
  ③ Charles H. Cooley - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#cooley)

(c) MEAD: November 19
  ► George H. Mead:
  ● Sociological Implications of the Thought of George Herbert Mead
  Herbert Blumer
  ① George Herbert Mead - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#mead)

  • Discussion Assignment for November 19
  Why Sociology is Difficult

UNIT VI: PARSONS & MERTON: November 21, 26
  ► Talcott Parsons & Robert K. Merton
  Allan: Chapter 8
  ► Robert K. Merton
  Alan Sica
  ► The Role Set: Problems in Sociological Theory
  Robert Merton

  • Discussion Assignment for December 3
  The University ala Functionalism

UNIT VII: SCHUTZ: December 3, 5
  ► Alfred Schutz
  (Allan: Chapter 9)
  ► Introduction to Schutz
  Maurice Natanson
  ① Multiple Realities in Medicine
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#dubois)

  • Discussion Assignment for December 5
  Schutz and Social Research
# Sociology 301: Foundations of Sociology I
## Fall 2013 - Working Schedule

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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<td>Oct 1a</td>
<td>Intro: Orientation</td>
<td></td>
<td>UNIT 1 In-class Quiz - Oct 8 Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Oct 15</td>
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<td>Oct 1b</td>
<td>Intro: Emergence</td>
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<td>Oct 3a</td>
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<td>Oct 8a</td>
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<td>Intro: Spencer</td>
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<td>Oct 10a</td>
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<td>The Sacred Canopy, Chap 1</td>
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<td>Oct 10b</td>
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<td>UNIT 2 In-class Quiz - Oct 17 Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Oct 24</td>
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<td>Oct 15a</td>
<td>Marx</td>
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<td>Oct 17a</td>
<td>Marx</td>
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<td>Marx</td>
<td>Unit 2 Quiz</td>
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<td>Oct 22a</td>
<td>Marx Discussion</td>
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<td>Oct 22b</td>
<td>Durkheim</td>
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<td>UNIT 3 In-class Quiz - Oct 29 Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Nov 5</td>
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<td>Oct 24a</td>
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<td>Oct 29b</td>
<td>Durkheim</td>
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<td>Oct 31a</td>
<td>Durkheim Discussion</td>
<td>Elementary Form of Religious Life</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Oct 31b</td>
<td>Weber</td>
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<td>UNIT 4 In-class Quiz - Nov 7 Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Nov 14</td>
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<td>Weber</td>
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<td>Nov 7a</td>
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<td>Nov 12a</td>
<td>Weber Discussion</td>
<td>Politics as a Vocation</td>
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<td>Nov 12b</td>
<td>Simmel</td>
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<td>UNIT 5 Combined Quiz and Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Nov 21</td>
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<td>Nov 14a</td>
<td>Simmel/Chicago</td>
<td>Unit 4 Essay &amp; Core Ideas Due</td>
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<td>Nov 14b</td>
<td>Chicago/Mead</td>
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<td>Nov 19a</td>
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<td>Nov 19b</td>
<td>Simmel/Chi/Mead Disc</td>
<td>Why Sociology is Difficult</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Nov 21a</td>
<td>Spencer/Parsons</td>
<td>Unit 5 Quiz/Essay &amp; Core Ideas Due</td>
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<td>Nov 21b</td>
<td>Parsons</td>
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<td>Nov 26a</td>
<td>Parsons/Merton</td>
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<td>Nov 26b</td>
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<td>Nov 28</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dec 3a</td>
<td>Parsons/Merton Disc</td>
<td>The University a la Functionalism</td>
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<td>Dec 3b</td>
<td>Schutz</td>
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<td>UNIT 7 Combined Quiz and Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Dec 5</td>
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<td>Dec 5a</td>
<td>Schutz</td>
<td>Unit 6 Quiz/Essay &amp; Core Ideas Due</td>
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<td>Dec 5b</td>
<td>Schutz Discussion</td>
<td>Schutz &amp; Social Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM and UNIT 7 Assignments due no later than 4:30pm</td>
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COURSE ACTIVITY & READING SCHEDULE

Tues/Thur 10:00 – 11:50 am
SRTC 155

After today’s class (10/1/13) we will meet 19 more times. During these meetings we will address a number of theorists, making passing acquaintance with August Comte and Herbert Spencer, paying closer attention to Peter Berger, Robert Park, W.I. Thomas, and Charles Cooley, but most importantly emphasizing the work of these major theorists –

1) October 10 - 22: Karl Marx
2) January October 22 - 31: Emile Durkheim
3) October 31 – November 12: Max Weber
4) November 12 - 14: Georg Simmel
5) November 14 - 19: the Chicago School and George H. Mead
6) November 21 – December 3: Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton
7) December 3 – 5: Alfred Schutz

Note that the following assignments attach primarily (but are not limited) to the major theorists identified above:

#1) QUIZZES: At some point toward the end of each of the first four units I will ask you to complete a “quick check on your reading quiz” of approximately 5 questions which will be returned to you at a subsequent class session (with the exception of the last class). In the last three units this quiz will be combined with the take-home essay questions.

#2) ESSAY QUESTIONS: At the end of specified class sessions I will hand out one (or more) brief essay question(s) to be completed and turned in at the beginning of a designated class session (at least several days later). For the last class session this essay question (or questions) will be turned in with the FINAL assignment.

#3) CORE IDEAS: As you read and reflect on the course material, you should identify least 3 to 5 major points that you believe capture the theorist’s essential insights, key ideas, or core learnings that you will take from that work – what you see as distinctive contributions to the conceptual toolbox of sociological theory. In the manner of the Sociological Imagination, at least one of these should express how it helps you make sense of something that is relevant to your own life (and should be so identified). These points should be presented in paragraph form and accompanied by a brief statement explaining in what way(s) each one makes a significant contribution to sociological understanding. They will be turned in and reviewed at the end of each Unit. Credit will be given for appropriate completion.

#4) DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS: For each Unit there will be an assigned reading or collective activity in order to give you an opportunity to discuss the course ideas in depth with your fellow students. These assignments will be presented in class as appropriate along with accompanying instructions at the time.
#5) FINAL ESSAYS & SUMMARY ASSIGNMENTS: At the end of the last class of the term I will hand out a FINAL exam which will consist of a short set of essay questions. In addition, there will be two summary assignments that will call on you to review and apply what you have learned about the various theories throughout the course. Plan to turn in the required essay questions for the last Unit (7) together with these FINAL assignments. They will all be due in my department office mailbox no later than 4:30 pm on December 10th, the date scheduled for the final exam. There will be no in-class final otherwise scheduled.

Tracking This Work:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment (#)</th>
<th>Per pts Possible</th>
<th>Max pts Possible</th>
<th>Total pts Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 QUIZ (7)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30*</td>
<td>30*</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2 ESSAY QUESTIONS (7)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>135</td>
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<td>#3 CORE IDEAS (7)</td>
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<td>84</td>
<td>219</td>
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<td>#4 DISCUSSIONS (7)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>289</td>
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<tr>
<td>#5 FINAL ESSAYS &amp; TWO SUMMARY ASSIGNMENTS</td>
<td>30/30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Complete: 399

*This total reflects the fact that one quiz may be missed or the lowest score dropped.

The likely grade distribution:
A, from 399 to 359 pts
B, from 358 to 319 pts
C, from 318 to 279 pts
D, let’s hope we don’t have to go here...

Plus and minus grades will be assigned as distributions indicate; extra credit options may be discussed toward the end of the term, but are increasingly discouraged.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES!

• Quizzes given in class may be made up after the date they are given must be completed within two days for half credit. No quizzes given in class will be otherwise accepted.
• One quiz may be missed or the lowest score of the four in-class quizzes taken will be dropped.
• Essay Questions (and those quizzes which are given as take-home assignments) must be completed within three days after their scheduled due date with a 20% penalty.
• Core Ideas may be turned in up to three days after their scheduled due date with a 20% penalty.
• Discussion Assignments may not be made up except under exceptional circumstances and only by special arrangement and with the permission of the instructor.
• Quizzes and Essay Questions will be posted on the course website shortly after they have been scheduled in class.

NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THESE DEADLINES!
COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Conduct:
You are expected to demonstrate appropriate respect for your peers and for the instructor and TA. Behaviors that are distracting to your peers and to the instructor are not acceptable. These include arriving late, packing up or leaving early, using cell phones, and having side conversations. When you come into the classroom fill in the seats from the front of the room first; there should be no empty seats in front of you. Do not necessarily expect to sit in the same seat during every class.

Laptops/tablets/e-readers:
If you need to use an electronic device to take notes during class, you must request permission from the instructor or TA. Other uses are not acceptable.

Email:
The instructor and TA may communicate with the class via PSU email so be sure that you are receiving the emails. If you prefer, you can arrange to have your PSU email forwarded to another email address. It is your responsibility to check your email on a regular basis. In emails to the instructor or TA, be sure to put the title of the course in the subject line and sign your emails using your first and last name. Instructor and TA email addresses are on the syllabus. The instructor and TA will generally respond to email within 24 hours. (Emails sent after 5:00pm on Friday will generally be answered by 5:00pm on Monday.)

Academic Honesty:
You are expected to demonstrate complete academic honesty. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code for more detailed information on PSU policies. Cheating or plagiarizing will result in failing the assignment or the course and will be reported.

Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities or learning difficulties who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the PSU Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) and the instructor at the beginning of the term to arrange accommodations. The DRC is located in 435 Smith and can be contacted at 725-4150 or by email at drc@pdx.edu. Visit their site at www.pdx.edu/uasc/drc.

Cancelled Classes:
In the case of inclement weather or other emergencies, please refer to the PSU web page: http://www.pdx.edu/. In the event that the instructor has to cancel class, he will email the class as soon as possible. If the instructor has not arrived to class 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, consider class cancelled for the day.

Absences:
In the event you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to ask a classmate for notes, announcements, and any other missed material. All assignments will be posted on the course website at appropriate times. If you have any questions after you have checked with a classmate and looked at the course website, please see the TA or the instructor before or after class or make an appointment to do so.