SOCIOLOGY 301 - FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY I - Winter 2014

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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 Φ 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: January 7, 9, 14
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

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

► Herbert Spencer
  Allan: Chapter 2
Herbert Spencer - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
  Lewis Coser
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#spencer)

*Discussion Assignment for January 16*
  Peter Berger, Chapter 1 from The Sacred Canopy

UNIT II: MARX: January 16, 21, 23
► Karl Marx
  Allan: Chapter 3
► Marx’s Masterpiece at 150
  Steven Marcus
Karl Marx - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
  Lewis Coser
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#marx)
  Karl Marx in Main Currents in Sociological Thought I, pp. 145-236
  Raymond Aron

*Discussion Assignment for January 28*
  Karl Marx, Selections from The Communist Manifesto

UNIT III: DURKHEIM: January 28, 30, February 4
► Emile Durkheim
  Allan: Chapter 5
Emile Durkheim - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
  Lewis Coser
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#durkheim)
  Emile Durkheim in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 1-117
  Raymond Aron

*Discussion Assignment for February 6*
  Emile Durkheim, Selections from Elementary Forms of Religious Life

UNIT IV: WEBER: February 6, 11, 13
► Max Weber
  Allan: Chapter 4
► Why Work?
  Elizabeth Kolbert
Max Weber - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
  Lewis Coser
  (http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#weber)
  Max Weber in Main Currents in Sociological Thought II, pp. 219-317
  Raymond Aron

*Discussion Assignment for February 18*
  Max Weber, Selections from The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
UNIT V (in Three Parts):

(a) SIMMEL: February 18, 20

► Georg Simmel: Allan: Chapter 6

 развитие 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

Lewis Coser

(b) THE CHICAGO SCHOOL: February 25

► Chicago Sociology from 1892 to 1935

George Ritzer

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

Lewis Coser

(c) MEAD: February 27

► George H. Mead: Allan: Chapter 6

► Sociological Implications of the Thought of George Herbert Mead

Herbert Blumer

► George Herbert Mead - The Person & A Summary of Ideas
(http://media.pfeiffer.edu/lridener/DSS/#mead)

Lewis Coser

• Discussion Assignment for March 4 •

Why Sociology is Difficult

UNIT VI: PARSONS & MERTON: March 6, 11

► 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 March 13 •

The Family as a Social System
Sociology 301: Foundations of Sociology I, Winter 2014

Table: Topic and Assignment Schedule

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<th>Unit</th>
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<td>Jan 7a</td>
<td>Intro: Orientation</td>
<td>See Working Schedule &amp; Announcements</td>
<td>UNIT 1 In-class Quiz – Jan 14 Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Jan 21 Quiz 1</td>
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<td>Jan 7b</td>
<td>Intro: Emergence</td>
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<td>Jan 9a</td>
<td>Intro: Emergence</td>
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<td>Jan 9b</td>
<td>Intro: Berger</td>
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<td>Jan 14a</td>
<td>Intro: Precedents</td>
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<td>Jan 14b</td>
<td>Intro: Spencer</td>
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<td>Jan 16a</td>
<td>Intro discussion</td>
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<td>UNIT 2 In-class Quiz – Jan 23 Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Feb 4 Quiz 2</td>
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<td>Jan 28a</td>
<td>Marx Discussion</td>
<td>The Communist Manifesto</td>
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<td>Jan 28b</td>
<td>Durkheim</td>
<td>See Working Schedule &amp; Announcements</td>
<td>UNIT 3 In-class Quiz – Feb 4 Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Feb 11 Quiz 3</td>
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<td>Jan 30a</td>
<td>Durkheim</td>
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<td>Weber</td>
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<td>Weber</td>
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<td>Feb 18a</td>
<td>Weber Discussion</td>
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<td>Feb 18b</td>
<td>Simmel</td>
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<td>UNIT 5 In-class Quiz – Mar 4 Essay Questions &amp; Core Ideas due Mar 11</td>
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<td>Feb 20b</td>
<td>Simmel</td>
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<td>Feb 25a</td>
<td>Chicago School</td>
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<td>Feb 25b</td>
<td>Chicago School</td>
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<td>Feb 27a</td>
<td>Mead</td>
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<td>Mar 4a</td>
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<td>Quiz 5 / Why Sociology is Difficult</td>
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<td>Mar 4b</td>
<td>Parsons</td>
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<td>UNIT 6 Combined Quiz and Essay Questions and Final Part 1 &amp; Part 2 All due Mar 20</td>
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<td>Mar 6a</td>
<td>Parsons</td>
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<td>Mar 6b</td>
<td>Parsons/Merton</td>
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<td>Mar 11a</td>
<td>Merton</td>
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<td>Mar 13a</td>
<td>Discussion 1</td>
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<td>Mar 13b</td>
<td>Discussion 2</td>
<td>What I Learned in 301</td>
<td>Mar 20 FINAL EXAM and UNIT 6 Assignments due no later than 4:30pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
COURSE ACTIVITY & READING SCHEDULE

Tues/Thur 12:00 - 1:50 pm
CH 382

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) January 16 - 23: Karl Marx
2) January 28 – February 4: Emile Durkheim
3) February 6 - 13: Max Weber
4) February 18 - 20: Georg Simmel
5) February 25 - 27: the Chicago School and George H. Mead
6) March 6 - 11: Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton

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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<thead>
<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 (6)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25*</td>
<td>25*</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2 ESSAY QUESTIONs (6)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>#3 CORE IDEAS (6)</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<td>#4 DISCUSSIONS (6)</td>
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<td>#5 FINAL ESSAY QUESTIONs &amp; TWO SUMMARY ASSIGNMENTS</td>
<td>20/30</td>
<td>20/60</td>
<td>267/327</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete:</td>
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<td>327</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

The likely grade distribution:

- **A**, from 327 to 294 pts
- **B**, from 293 to 261 pts
- **C**, from 260 to 228 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.