Classical Theory
Soc. 301 Winter 2018
Tuesdays 5:30-9:10 ASRC 001
Instructor: Julius McGee (cjulius@pdx.edu)
Office Hours Cramer 217O (hours Tuesday 2:00-4:00)
TA: Tasha Lane (ltasha@pdx.edu)
Office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course you will learn about core theoretical perspectives in sociology. These include theories developed by Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, W.E.B. Dubois, and Joan Acker. The goal of this course is to provide students with a general background of the core ideas that helped develop sociology as an academic discipline, and of the prevailing themes that exist in sociology today.

Course Policies:

D2L: The instructor will post the syllabus on D2L. Students will submit response papers via D2L. The instructor will also post comments on response papers and grades for all assignments on D2L.

Email: The instructor regularly communicates with the class via PSU email so be sure that you are receiving my emails. It is your responsibility to check your email daily during the school week and respond in a timely manner. In emails to the instructor, please put the title of the course in the subject line and sign your emails using your first and last name. Use the email addresses on the first page of the syllabus. The instructor 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 plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported.

Plagiarism: If you use a direct quote (i.e. someone else’s words), you must include it in quotation marks and cite the source, including author(s) name(s), the date of publication, and the page number. If you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source, including author(s) name(s) and the date of publication. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment and will be reported.

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, they 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.

Late assignments: Response papers will be penalized at 10% per weekday late and late assignments will not be accepted after 5 weekdays. No assignments will be accepted after 5:00pm Tuesday of finals week.
Access and inclusion for students with disabilities: If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the DRC to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, http://www.pdx.edu/drc. If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and to discuss your accommodations.

Title IX reporting: As a member of the university community, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672.
REQUIRED TEXTS

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

Graded Assignments:

**In class writing response (30%)**: At the beginning of each class 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 Tuesday at the beginning of class in week 6. The second of the two essays will be due Tuesday 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: January 9th**
Discussion Topic: What is Social Theory
Required Readings: Allan Chapter 1

**WEEK 2: January 16th**
Discussion Topic: Marx
Required Readings: Allan chapter 3; Foster “How to Read Karl Marx” (D2L)

**WEEK 3: January 23rd**
Discussion Topic: Marx Continued
Required Readings: Excerpts from Capital (D2L); Piketty “Introduction to Capital in the Twenty-First Century” (D2L)

WEEK 4: January 30th
Discussion Topic: Max Weber
Required Readings: Allan Pages 83-118; Excerpts from The Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism; Luzer, “The Protestant Work Ethic is Real” (D2L)

WEEK 5: FEBURARY 6th
Discussion Topic: Emile Durkheim
Required Readings: Allan Pages 121-152

WEEK 6: February 13th
Discussion Topic: George Herbert Mead
Required Readings: Allan Pages 155-168

FIRST PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.

WEEK 7: February 20th
Discussion Topic: Georg Simmel
Required Readings: Allan Pages 169-182

WEEK 8: February 27th
Discussion Topic: W E B Dubois
Required Readings: Allan Pages 198-108 Dubois The Souls of Black Folk (excerpt D2L)

WEEK 9: MARCH 6th
Discussion Topic: W E B Dubois cont.
Required Readings: Dubois “The Souls of White Folk” (D2L) Ta-Nehisi Coates “The first white president” (excerpts D2L)

WEEK 10: MARCH 13th
Discussion Topic: Feminist theory
Required Readings: Acker “Feminist Theorizing Class – Issues and Arguments” (D2L)
SECOND PAPER DUE

*** Disclaimer***
Syllabus is subject to change.