

Spring 2012

**SOCIOLOGY 153**

**CSU FRESNO**

Social Theory Schedule # 30447 (3 Units)

MW 4:30-5:45 PM SS 209B

Professor: Dr. Andrew R. Jones  
Office Phone: 278-8806  
E-mail: anjones@csufresno.edu

Office: Social Science, Room 124  
Hours: 10-11am MWF; 2-3pm MWF

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to give the student an overview of the study of sociological theory. It will present views from classical perspectives (The Dead Sociologists Society) within sociology as well as some of the current perspectives within the discipline. The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to a variety of theoretical orientations, past and present, with an emphasis on the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. By analyzing a variety of theories, it is also hoped that the student will develop a theoretical view of one's own and a critical (i.e., analytical) orientation toward theory in particular and social interaction in general.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Prerequisites: Prior to enrolling in this course, students should have completed Tier One courses (SOC 1, 3, 25, and SOC 130W or UDWE). If you haven't completed these courses, you need to dis-enroll from this course immediately.

The primary objective of the course is to provide students with the tools to critically analyze these various theoretical paradigms and understand them within a broader social context.

**Myth, Science and Theory**

- Theory is working model that organizes our concepts of the world in a systematic way, to help us guide further research and analyze the findings. The strength of a theory is the skill in which it arranges information that can explain complex phenomena in manageable form.
- Myth is a non-rational and sacred or intact folk explanation or the origins or creation of natural, supernatural, or cultural phenomena. These explanations are a matter of faith and not subjected to scientific or empirical inquiry.
- Social Science is that application of the scientific method the people and society. The systematic pursuit of knowledge by recognizing a problem, and formulating the question in a way that can be verified or rejected.

**METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

The course will consist of two lectures per week and will include film presentations. Some lecture time will be devoted to discussion of concepts and topics brought up in lecture, from the readings, or from the films. Class sessions will be of a dialectical nature, meaning a high level of interaction between students and instructor, with in-depth discussion of concepts and issues. Such discussion will require adequate preparation on the part of students prior to the class session. Students are expected to have read the assigned materials before class.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

This course has one required text, listed below, and it is available at Kennel Bookstore.

Roberta Garner, ed (2007). *Social Theory: Continuity + Confrontation, second edition.*

Any additional required and/or supplemental reading materials, handouts, etc., will be posted on Blackboard. This course assumes a working knowledge of Blackboard, the Internet, and computers. Please access the resources on the Blackboard site, if you lack these skills, prior to asking for assistance. "Learn by doing" should be your mantra as a college student.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS**

There are five required components for this course, of which four will be assessed through grading:

1. Read the assigned text. Your performance in this class is contingent upon doing the readings prior to the week they are to be addressed in lecture.
2. First week in-class essay. This assignment may not be made up, and will count as a deficiency for anyone who misses the first class (including anyone who adds the course after the first week - no exceptions).
3. Primary Readings Questions. For each of the designated theorists, you will answer one or more questions pertaining to the theoretical paradigm he or she represents.
4. Random in class quizzes. On any given class day, you may be subject to a random quiz pertaining to the material being studied. Missed quizzes may NOT be made up.
5. Final Paper. Instructions will be delineated in a handout.

### **Writing assignment guidelines for typed essays:**

1. Always identify by your name, course number, and date at the upper right hand corner of the front page.
2. Use double spacing (Do NOT press "Return" twice between paragraphs - that's quadruple spacing).
3. Make sure you've included a reference list if you use resources other than the assigned materials for class.
4. Do NOT include a cover sheet or any form of binder for type-written papers.
5. Proofread your document thoroughly. Make sure to read through your document prior to submitting it. Ask yourself for each sentence, "Does this sentence make sense?"
6. For quotations: don't alter the material in direct citations unless you indicate that you have done so with ellipses and brackets. Use appropriate punctuation in the quotation. If you want to augment a quotation use ellipses . . . to cut material out of it and use brackets [ ] to insert material.
7. If you paraphrase you must include an in-text citation, even if you do not directly quote. Students can be accused of plagiarism if they do not cite the original author and/or if they try to pass other peoples' ideas off as their own. Try to get used to using citations and references in your writing as this is a crucial skill for success in college writing.

## **GRADING**

Grades will be based on the typical academic criteria of demonstrating understanding of the material through application and communication. Grades will be based on the standard university scale: 100 - 90 % = A; 89 - 80 % = B; etc.

NOTE: Class attendance will not be factored into grading. However, you will find it exceedingly difficult to pass the course and understand the material if you don't come to class. No extra credit assignments will be given. The grade you receive is the grade you've earned. Contestation of a grade on either an individual assignment or for the course must be presented to your instructor in writing, with an argument explaining why you think the grade should be changed.

NOTE: a re-examination of course work may result in further deduction of points, as a rigorous analysis may find flaws or mistakes in the course work that might have been missed in the initial grading. Do not assume that contesting a grade will result in gaining additional points or maintaining the existing grade.

## CLASS POLICIES

Since we all will have something to say, but may be saying vastly different, even contradictory things, the following guide-lines will be adhered to while in this course:

- Acknowledge that prejudice and discrimination based on race, class, sex, sexual orientation, age, and physical differences exist.
- Acknowledge that all of us have learned misinformation about our own group and about members of other groups, whether we belong to a majority or minority group, from the mass media and other sources.
- Assume that people in this class are doing the best they can do.
- Never demean, devalue, or in any way “put down” people for their experiences, back-grounds, or statements. This does not mean that you can't disagree, only that you do so with respect.
- Don't interrupt. Listen before speaking.

The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and intellectual growth. Therefore, the goals of the course will be met, in large part, by giving respect and consideration to all. This means that we will pay full attention to lecture, discussion, or workshop activity during class sessions. Reading and writing irrelevant material, talking about unrelated issues, sleeping, listening to head-sets, making or receiving phone calls, text-messaging on cell phones, web-surfing on a laptop, and any other distracting activities – including eating, gum popping, or chewing tobacco will not be tolerated. **THE USE OF WORD PROCESSING AND/OR TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES IN THIS CLASS IS PROHIBITED.** If you require the use of a laptop to take notes, you must provide documentation from Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to me, and then we will discuss the use of the device. Failure to comply with this policy for any of the above infractions will result in being removed from class for that day and a grade of zero for any assignment due for the week of the infraction.

I encourage you to speak, as class discussion is an effective way of exploring issues in this course, but please direct all your comments to the entire class. To help facilitate a safe and productive learning environment, we will adhere to the following policies:

- University policy on cheating and plagiarism will be observed (see the *Catalog* or the *Schedule of Courses* for description of policy).
- If you have any medical or learning disability that might affect your work in this course, it is your responsibility to inform Professor Jones and to contact the University's Service to Students with Disabilities in the Library at 278-2811 so that reasonable accommodations can be made.
- University policy on incomplete grades will be observed (see the *General Catalog* or the *Schedule of Courses* for description of policy).
- You are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you were away. Being absent does not excuse you from anything that was discussed or due in class. Lecture notes are not disseminated. When you have a serious and compelling medical condition or when a death or serious illness in the immediate family that prevents attending class, you are responsible for contacting Professor Jones as soon as possible after the missed class. You are also responsible for providing documentation of the reason for the absence upon returning to class.

- Students are expected to take examinations at the scheduled date and time. If you miss an exam, you will have the opportunity to make it up during “dead week” at the end of instruction.
- All assignments must be turned in on time and in paper copy form. Electronic transmission of papers will not be accepted, unless arrangement is made with Professor Jones. Late assignments will lose 5 points per day.
- If you need to leave early, please let Professor Jones know at the beginning of class that you will be doing so. Please do not just get up and leave.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

(Refer to University Catalog or Schedule of Courses for more information.)

**Honor Code:** Members of the California State University, Fresno academic community adhere to principles of academic integrity and mutual respect while engaged in university work and related activities. You should:

- understand or seek clarification about expectations for academic integrity in this course
- neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on examinations or other course work that is used by the instructor as the basis of grading.
- take responsibility to monitor academic dishonesty in any form and to report it to the instructor or other appropriate official for action.

**Cheating and Plagiarism.** Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating that consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of another by misrepresenting the material (i.e., their intellectual property) so used as one's own work? (University Catalog). In other words, do your own writing; when you use another person's ideas or words, reference the material. Possible penalties include but are not limited to failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and/or expulsion from the university. For more information on the University's policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the Class Schedule (Policy/Legal Statements) or the University Catalog (University policies).

**Disabilities.** If you have any medical or learning disability that might affect your work in this course, it is your responsibility to inform me and contact the University's Service to Students with Disabilities in the Library at 278-2811 so that reasonable accommodations can be made.

**Computers.** At California State University, Fresno, computers and communications links to remote resources are recognized as being integral to the education and research experience. Every student is required to have his/her own computer or have other personal access to a workstation (including a modem and a printer) with all the recommended software. Computer labs on campus are available (e.g., SS202, PHS107).

**Copyright policy:** Copyright laws and fair use policies protect the rights of those who have produced the material. The copy in this course has been provided for private study, scholarship, or research. Other uses may require permission from the copyright holder. The user of this work is responsible for adhering to copyright law of the U.S. (Title 17, U.S. Code). To help you familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit its copyright web page. Digital Campus course web sites contains material protected by copyrights held by the instructor, other individuals or institutions. Such material is used for educational purposes in accord with copyright law and/or with permission given by the owners of the original material. You may download one copy of the materials on any single computer for non-commercial, personal, or educational purposes only, provided that you (1) do not modify it, (2) use it only for the duration of this course, and (3) include both this notice and any copyright notice originally included with the material. Beyond this use, no material from the course web site may be copied, reproduced, re-published, uploaded, posted, transmitted, or distributed in any way without the permission of the original copyright holder. The instructor assumes no responsibility for individuals who improperly use copyrighted material placed on the web site.

## COURSE OUTLINE: LECTURE AND READINGS SCHEDULE

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic Outline / Readings / Assignment</u>
Week 1	Jan. 18	Introduction to the course In class writing assignment
		<i>Beginnings</i>
Week 2	Jan. 23 Jan. 25	Social theory as philosophy Readings: Garner, Chapter One, sections 1-4
Week 3	Jan. 30 Feb. 1	Classical Theory - Karl Marx Readings: Garner, Chapter Two, sections 5-7 Primary Reading Papers on Chapter Two Readings Due <b>Marx questions due</b>
Week 4	Feb. 6 Feb. 8	Classical Theory - Emile Durkheim Readings: Garner, Chapter Two, sections 8-9 Primary Reading Papers on Chapter Two Readings Due <b>Durkheim questions due</b>
Week 5	Feb. 13 Feb. 15	Classical Theory - Max Weber Readings: Garner, Chapter Two, sections 10-12 Primary Reading Papers on Chapter Two Readings Due <b>Weber questions due</b>
		<i>The Middle Years</i>
Week 6	Feb. 20 Feb. 22	NO CLASS (President's Day) Classical Theory - Charles Cooley and George Herbert Mead Readings: Garner, Chapter Three, sections 15-16 <b>Cooley and Mead questions due</b>
Week 7	Feb. 27 Feb. 29	Classical Theory - W. E. B. Du Bois Readings: Garner, Chapter Three, sections 17-19 <b>Du Bois questions due</b>
Week 8	Mar. 5 Mar. 7	Marxism in the inter-war period - Walter Benjamin and Antonio Gramsci Readings: Garner, Chapter Four, sections 20-22 <b>Gramsci questions due</b>
Week 9	Mar. 12 Mar. 14	Postwar Perspectives - Talcott Parsons and C. Wright Mills Readings: Garner, Chapter Five, sections 23-24 <b>Parsons questions due</b>

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic Outline / Readings / Assignment</u>
Week 10	Mar. 19 Mar. 21	Postwar Perspectives continued <b>Mills questions due</b>
Week 11	Mar. 26 Mar. 28	Postwar Perspectives - Symbolic Interaction, Dramaturgy, Structuralism Readings: Garner, Chapter Five, sections 25-27 <b>Goffman questions due</b>
Week 12	Apr. 2 Apr. 4	NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK) NO CLASS
Week 13	Apr. 9 Apr. 11	<i>Radiant Tomorrows</i> Modern European Theorists - Michel Foucault, Jurgen Habermas, Pierre Bourdieu Readings: Garner, Chapter Six, sections 28-30 <b>Bourdieu questions due</b>
Week 14	Apr. 16 Apr. 18	Gender and Sexuality - John D'Emilio and Dorothy Smith Readings: Garner, Chapter Seven, sections 31-33 <b>D'Emilio and Smith questions due</b>
Week 15	Apr. 23 Apr. 25	Media and Culture - Marshall McLuhan and Stuart Hall Readings: Garner, Chapter Eight, sections 34-37 <b>McLuhan and Hall questions due</b>
Week 16	Apr. 30 May 2	Global Views - Immanuel Wallerstein and Stuart Hall Readings: Garner, Chapter Nine, sections 40-41 <b>Wallerstein questions due</b>
Week 17	May 7 May 9	Global Views - Arjun Appadurai and Saskia Sassen Readings: Garner, Chapter Nine, sections 42-43 Last Day of Class
Final		Monday, May 14, 5:45-7:45 pm