Sociology SOC:2130:0AAA, Sociological Theory
Spring 2020, TuTh, 9:30-10:20am
107 English-Philosophy Building (EPB)

NOTE: Changes after COVID-19 are made in red.

Instructor:	Erik Westlund
Office:	Seashore Hall, W515
Email:	erik-westlund@uiowa.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday: 11:00am-12:30pm
	Thursday: 12:15pm-1:45pm
	By appointment (don't be shy if the above hours don't work for you.)
Phone:	319-467-1240

TA:	Daniel Knipp
Office:	Seashore Hall, W505
Email:	daniel-knipp@uiowa.edu
Office Hours:	Thursday: 10:30am-12:00pm
	Friday: 10:30am-12:00pm
	Post-Spring Break: Virtually through Zoom. Email to schedule.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND EXPECTATIONS

The purpose of this course is to learn how to use theories to understand the social world. The course is organized around eight themes:

(1) Social Structure, Rationalization, and Division of Labor
(2) Social Structure, Power, and Inequality
(3) Social Structure, Ideology, and Culture
(4) Social Control and Discipline
(5) Social Cohesion, Rituals, and Values
(6) Social Construction and Reality
(7) Social Interaction and Meaning
(8) Social Structure, Truth, and Knowledge

For each, we will first explore how classical sociological theorists (namely, Marx, Weber, and Durkheim) thought about (or ignored) the theme. We will then discuss how sociologists today have changed and expanded our understanding of the theme.

The bulk of this course's work involves reading primary source material and working through them together in class. As such, readings should be completed by the day they are listed on the schedule.

Beyond learning theory, this course aims to help students communicate their ideas more effectively, both as speakers and writers. This is done through class discussion and writing. As

such, this course requires interaction and discussion. You have a responsibility to help create a classroom environment where all may learn and participate. This means respecting the other members of the class and the instructors. Disagreement is fine; personal attacks are not.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The below texts will be available at the University Book Store. Readings that are not in the above texts will be made available through ICON (https://icon.uiowa.edu/).

Classical Sociological Theory (Third Edition). Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk (eds.). 2012. Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN# 978-0470655672

The majority of our readings come from this volume; **you must get a physical copy**.

OPTIONAL TEXTS

Contemporary Sociological Theory (Third Edition). Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk (eds.). 2012. Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN# 978-0470655665*

Purchase is not required. This is a companion to the required text on classical sociological theory. We will read several readings from this volume, but they will be posted to ICON.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Participation (10%)

The TA and professor will assign participation grades from section at the end of the semester. Points will be rewarded for attendance and regular, constructive participation in class.

Post-Spring Break: Your participation after the COVID-19 virtual instruction transition will be based upon you making two separate one paragraph responses to students' discussion questions. See the newly posted Discussion Questions document. Please email us with any questions you have.

If you miss class for an officially excusable absence (e.g., jury duty), please provide us with the documentation, when required. Short-term illnesses such as flu or colds do not require documentation. Please visit the Sociology Department webpage for the specific Absence Policy Addendum for our department.

Lecture/Discussion (Post-Spring Break) Questions (10% total; 2% each)

Five times throughout the semester (on assigned days by last name; see schedule) students will post questions they have about readings/course material to ICON. We will use these questions in two ways. First, we will pick out the most common questions and areas of confusion and address them in lecture. Second, we will use these questions to guide instruction and discussions in section. All questions must be related to the content of the assigned readings, but can otherwise take any form (e.g., about the specifics of a passage or about how the ideas might relate to a specific current event).

Post-Spring Break: After the COVID-19 virtual instruction transition, you will post your questions in the Discussions section in ICON, under the correctly labeled question.

Exams (45% total; 20% midterm, 25% final)

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. The mid-term will be worth 20% of your final grade. The final will be worth 25% of your final grade. The final will not be cumulative.

The Final Exam will be a take-home examination.

Paper Project (35%)

~~Students will be required to write a minimum 10-page comparative analysis of a contemporary social issue from the perspectives of at least two theorists. Students will write this paper in two parts.~~ About one-third of the way through the course, an initial paper will be due. This paper (minimum four pages) will cover the first theorist and is worth 15% of your final grade. ~~The final paper will be due two weeks before the end of the course and is worth 20% of your final grade. This paper (minimum 10 pages) will cover the second theorist. It will then compare and contrast the ideas of both theorists, explaining the strengths and weaknesses of each theorist in answering the chosen question.~~

The Final Paper is a 6-page version of the original paper. Students can answer the same question as for their first paper or choose a new one. See the new assignment prompt posted to ICON for details.

A detailed description of this assignment's requirements and grading criteria has been posted to ICON. It is crucial that you read this assignment in detail before and during writing.

GRADING

We will work to grade your papers and exams in a reasonable amount of time. All grades will be entered into ICON. We encourage you to promptly contact us with any questions you have about your grades.

Final grades will be assigned using the following scale:

A+	99-100	B+	87.5-89.49	C+	77.5-79.49	D+	67.5-69.49	F	≤ 59.99
A	92-98.99	B	82-87.49	C	72-77.49	D	62-67.49		

A-	89.5-91.99	B-	79.5-81.99	C-	69.5-71.99	D-	60-61.99

"Round-ups" are already incorporated into the grading scale, so your final grade in ICON will be programmatically translated into your final course grade.

All work will be graded using letter grades (I do not trust our judgment to discern between, for example, an 84 and an 86). The following letter grades will correspond to the following scores in the gradebook:

A+	100	B+	89	C+	79	D+	69	F	55
A	95	B	85	C	75	D	65		
A-	91	B-	81	C-	71	D-	61		

Missed work will receive a 0.

LATE WORK

Late work is accepted up to one week after the due date but will receive only half credit. Exceptions to the half-credit rule will be made for illness and personal/family emergencies. We also understand that sometimes students have multiple assignments due at the same time across their course load. We will make reasonable (1-3 day) extensions in cases like these, but only when students ask in writing in advance of the assignment due date.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. We will use email to send out course announcements. You are responsible for checking your email on a regular basis. Readings may change as the course progresses and it is your responsibility to keep apprised of these changes by checking your email.

2. Students are responsible for material when they miss class. Notes are posted to ICON.

3. The use of electronic devices (e.g., laptops, tablets, or phones) is allowed in class *for taking notes.*

4. Students requiring academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with us to discuss necessary arrangements.

5. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are unsure about how to cite the work of others, please contact us.

6. The papers must be completed on one's own. You should not get outside help on the papers from anyone but the instructors. Exceptions include helps from the Writing Center and any outside help approved by us. If you are unsure about any help you receive, contact us.

7. All deadlines for this class are firm. Grading for late work will be handled according to the “Late Work” section above.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Social Structure, Rationalization, and Division of Labor

1/21 What is theory?

1/23 Smith, "The Wealth of Nations" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 55-66

1/28 Marx, "Classes" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 190-192

1/30 Weber, "Bureaucracy" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 328-338

Social Structure, Power, and Inequality

2/4 Marx, "Wage-Labour and Capital" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 182-189
Marx, "Capital," pp. 364-367 (ICON)

2/6 Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 146-155

2/11 Weber, "The Distribution of Power within the Political Community: Class, Status, and Party" in in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 310-319

2/13 Weber, "The Types of Legitimate Domination" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 320-327
Weber, "The Sociology of Charismatic Authority," pp. 245-252 (ICON)

2/18 Weber, "Open and Closed Social Relationships, " pp. 43-46 (ICON)
Tilly, Durable Inequality, Ch. 1, pp. 1-40

2/20 Du Bois, "The Souls of Black Folk" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 404-410
Fanon, "Black Skin, White Masks" in Calhoun (Contemporary), pp. 417-425

Social Structure, Ideology, and Culture

2/25 Marx & Engels, "The German Ideology" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 142-145

2/27 Weber, "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 291-309

3/2 Paper 1 due

3/3 Bourdieu, "Forms of Capital" (ICON)

3/5 Connell and Messerschmidt, "Hegemonic Masculinity," pp. 829-854 (ICON)

3/10 Mid-term Exam

Social Cohesion, Rituals, and Values

3/12 Durkheim, "The Division of Labor in Society," in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 220-241

Spring Break-COVID-19 Recess

3/31 Merton, "Manifest and Latent Functions" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 523-530

4/2 Durkheim, "The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 243-254
Healy, Rituals of Childhood (ICON)

4/7 Durkheim, "Suicide" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 255-264
Merton, "Social Structure and Anomie," pp. 672-682 (ICON)

~~4/7 Meyer & Rowan, Institutionalized Organizations: Formal Structure as Myth & Ceremony (ICON)~~ Removed after COVID-19

Social Control and Discipline

4/9 Durkheim, "The Rules of Sociological Method" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 201-219

4/14 Weber, "The Meaning of Discipline," pp. 253-255 (ICON)
Durkheim, "Moral Education," pp. 138-141 (ICON)

4/16 Foucault, "Discipline and Punish" in Calhoun (Contemporary), pp. 314-322

Social Construction and Reality

4/21 Berger and Luckmann, "The Social Construction of Reality," pp. 43-51 (ICON)
Searle, "The Construction of Social Reality" (ICON)

Social Interaction and Meaning

4/23 Goffman, "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life" in Calhoun (Contemporary), pp. 46-61

4/26 Final Paper due (extensions are automatically granted, but aim for this day.)

4/28 West and Zimmerman, "Doing Gender," pp. 125-151 (ICON)

Social Structure, Truth, and Knowledge

4/30 Weber, "Basic Sociological Terms" in Calhoun (Classical), pp. 280-290

5/5 Foucault, "The History of Sexuality" in Calhoun (Contemporary), pp. 295-304
Foucault, "Truth and Power" in Calhoun (Contemporary), pp. 305-313

5/7 Collins, "Black Feminist Epistemology" in Calhoun (Contemporary), pp. 407-416

Take Home Final Exam Due During Finals Week

Addendum – The Department of Sociology and Criminology – Spring 2020

Department Office: W140 Seashore Hall
Department Director (DEO): Jennifer Glanville
DEO e-mail: Jennifer-glanville@uiowa.edu
Department Phone: 319-335-2502
DEO Office: W125 SSH
DEO Phone: 319-335-2498

Absences and Attendance

Students are responsible for attending class and for contributing to the learning environment of a course. Students are also responsible for knowing their course absence policies, which will vary by instructor. All absence policies, however, must uphold the UI policy related to student illness, mandatory religious obligations, including Holy Day obligations, unavoidable circumstances, or University authorized activities (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences). Students may use this absence form to aid communication; the instructor will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused (https://clas.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/ABSENCE%20EXPLANATION%20FORM2019.pdf).

Academic Integrity

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address (https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code).

Accommodations for Disabilities

UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student is then responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. More information is at https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/.

Administrative Home of the Course

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and related policies. Other colleges may have different policies. CLAS policies may be found here: https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook.

Communication and the Required Use of UI Email

Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to the UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI (Operations Manual, III.15.2).

Complaints

Students with a complaint about a course should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the Chair of the department or program offering the course; students may next bring the issue to CLAS in 120 Schaeffer Hall. For more information,
see https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities.

Final Examination Policies

The final exam schedule is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals.
Visit https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-scheduling-policies.

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom

UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (diversity.uiowa.edu).

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, please see https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/.