

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

SOCI 3300/001: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL THEORY

Spring 2016

Credit Hours: 3-0-3

Class time: M&W 9:30-10:45, Social Science Building 2025

Instructor: Dr. Ravi Ghadge
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Office: Room 4076, Social Science Building
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Course Description

This course provides a broad overview of social theories of 19th and 20th Century that has shaped the sociological tradition. These theories are “foundational” for the discipline of sociology for two reasons. First, they asked some “big questions” about society. The classical thinkers who developed these theories provided some incredibly creative answers to some of the biggest questions of their time. Questions such as:

- ~What keeps people in a society together?
- ~Can there be a world without economic inequality?
- ~What is more important conformity or individuality?
- ~Does modern technology emancipate us or enslave us?

Second, many of the ideas and empirical methods used by these classical thinkers have not only shaped the entire discipline of sociology, but also larger political systems, societies, and culture. Moreover, these theories continue to be relevant in understanding contemporary social realities directly. Therefore, along with studying the classical sociological theories we will also focus on their contemporary theoretical linkages. Although theory may be one of the most abstract things you will study in sociology, it plays a very important role in our everyday life. Simply put, social theory is a particular way of seeing and thinking about the world. Its particularity can only be understood in relation to the unique social, political, and economic circumstances that it speaks to. Therefore, we will examine the theories within the particular socio-historical contexts within which they were developed.

Course prerequisites: SOCI 2105 or SOCI 1101

Course Objectives

1. Evaluate social theories that form the classical sociological tradition within theorists’ unique personal, social, political, and economic environments.
2. Assess contemporary social theoretical developments and their ties to classical concerns.
3. Appraise the relevance of social theories in explaining contemporary social issues.

Required Reading Material

- Text Book: *The Discovery of Society* (8th Edition) by Randall Collins and Michael Makowski, McGraw Hill, 2010, ISBN: 9780073404196
- Additional readings are available on D2L

Course Guidelines

Course Technology: I will primarily use D2L to post the syllabus, additional readings, assignment rubrics, course resources, lecture outlines, and grades. Moreover, emails or announcements to the entire class will be sent via D2L, therefore you should also activate the mail forwarding option to your university account (if any) on D2L so that you don't miss them. Although I will try to inform you of announcements in class, it is your responsibility to check D2L frequently. But please send me emails only through your university account and not D2L.

Readings: You are expected to read all the assigned reading materials prior to each class and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Most of the readings will come from the assigned Collins and Makowski textbook. Please note that the book is relatively dense and intellectually demanding, therefore be prepared to spend sufficient time with the readings and do not rush through them at the last minute. While reading pay attention to following questions, as they will help you understand the reading better and to write effective reading summaries:

- What is the main issue discussed in the reading? What are the main conclusions drawn?
- How do the ideas discussed in the reading reflect the specific social, political, and economic environment?
- Do they relate to or explain contemporary social realities?
- What questions remain answered (also, make note of things you find difficult to grasp and want to ask the instructor)?

Again, remember you may not be able to fully comprehend every aspect of the reading, but that's fine, give it your best try.

Taking notes: Take good notes during class lectures and discussion. I may discuss things that may not be in the book, but are nonetheless important. I will post my lecture slides on D2L, but they may not contain detailed information, therefore taking good notes is essential.

Course Requirements

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| • Attendance & Active Participation | 5% |
| • In-Class Writing | 5% |
| • Reading Summaries | 20% |
| • Short Take-Home Essays (4@5% each) | 20% |
| • In-class Exams 1 & 2 (25% each) | 50% |

Total:	100%
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Attendance and Active Participation (5%): An important part of our class discussions involves raising questions about the reading(s). Don't hesitate to ask a question or to say, "I didn't understand what so and so thinker meant by...?" There will be others who are probably as clueless as you are.

In-Class Writing (5%): Occasionally, I will ask you to write a "quick reflection" based on a question or prompt related to a specific issue that we discuss in class. I may even call on you sometime to "present" what you have written (this counts as participation). These responses will be graded on a scale of 0-5, with 0 indicated no appreciable effort to answer the question and 5 indicating outstanding effort.

Reading Summaries (20%): Students will submit on D2L a short (not less than 150 words and no more than 500 words) summary of the reading(s) assigned for a particular class session the night prior to our class meeting by 9:00 pm. You will submit your summaries in the "Responses" folder for the appropriate class session. Your summaries will be graded as follows:

0	No indication of having done the reading (I am the sole judge of that)
1	Some indication of having done the reading
2	Full indication of having done the reading

Short Take-Home Essays: I will assign 4 short (1000 words) take-home essays during the semester that relate to specific issues discussed in the particular week. I will either provide a prompt or a question, or ask you to apply a theory to a contemporary article, podcast, or video. The essay should be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins in 12 point "Times New Roman" font. Your name and course name should be included in the header and not in the main body of the paper. The essays will be graded on a 0-10 scale with zero (0) indicating no appreciable effort in connecting the question to the assigned reading and ten (10) indicating an Outstanding level of effort in both comprehending and summarizing what the theorist said as well as connecting what the theorist said to the relevant question.

Exams (50%): I will assign two in-class exams, which will include both multiple-choice questions and short answers (approximately 30-40 questions). You will be allotted the regular class time of 75 minutes.

Final Grading Scale: The final grade for the class will be calculated as per the following scale:

90 % – 100 % = A
80 % – 89 % = B
70 % – 79 % = C
60 % – 69 % = D
Below 59 % = F

Course Policies

Contacting me: The best way to contact me is by email at rghadge@kennesaw.edu. Please include "SOC 3300" in the subject line, as this will help me identify your emails quickly. I will respond to your email in 1-3 business days. Please do not send emails through D2L/Brightspace.

Attendance and Tardiness: I will take attendance during every class. I appreciate your regular attendance and active participation in class. You get three (3) unexcused absences during the semester. I will dock half a letter grade for every additional unexcused expense. To be excused for an absence you must notify me in advance of the class and receive my approval OR document the absence in writing (a doctor's note, a letter from the dean's office, etc.). I strongly urge you to come to class on time. Note that if you are more than 15 minutes late, that will count as an absence. Tardiness is disruptive and unprofessional.

Grading: I will grade assignments and provide feedback in 7-14 business days from the time the assignment is due.

Late assignments and Exam Make-up policy: Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior approval is sought before the due date. There will be no make-up exams.

Class Protocol:

- Avoid walking in late or leaving early.
- Also, avoid stepping outside of the classroom while I am talking (please take of all your business before class).
- Please switch off your cell phones before coming to the class. You can use your computer to take notes, but internet surfing, emailing, messaging is strictly prohibited.
- I present material from a sociological perspective potentially challenging some of your own views and beliefs. Of course, you may disagree with them and are welcome to express your disagreement. But, your argument has to be supported with reason and evidence. If you continue to feel uncomfortable with the class material or discussion or have any other problems in class, please contact me.

I reserve the right to take action against consistently disruptive students according to legal and university guidelines.

Academic Honesty: You are required to adhere to the tenets of the Kennesaw State University Policy on Academic Honesty. This policy can be found at:
http://www.kennesaw.edu/academicaffairs/acadpubs/acadpub/ucat2006-07/x.General_Policies.pdf

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Definitions and consequences of plagiarism are posted on the KSU website: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/elearning/proseprep/plagiarism.html>. Please spend some time reviewing it. **If any portion of your work is plagiarized you will receive a 0 for the assignment, an F for the course, and disciplinary action will be taken.**

Accommodations: This course will be conducted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and also contact the ADA Compliance Officer for Students—Nastassia Sanabria, Assistant Director of Student Disability Services, Student Center, Suite 267, 470-578-6443.

Writing support: The KSU Writing Center helps students in all majors improve their writing. Experienced, friendly writing assistants help with topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and more. For more information or to make an appointment, visit writingcenter.kennesaw.edu or stop by English Building, Room 242 (Kennesaw campus) or Building A, Room 184 (Marietta campus). As this is a writing intensive course, I encourage you to use this valuable resource on campus to improve your written assignments.

Course Schedule and Readings

Tentative Calendar

Week	Topic	Readings (Complete prior to class)	Course Work
Wk1 1/11	Introduction	No readings	Self-introductions
1/13	The Sociological Imagination	Intro (pp. 1-14)	
Wk2 1/18	No class: MLK Day Holiday		
1/20	Saint-Simon and Comte	1. Ch. 1 (pp. 15-25)	
MODULE 1: THE PUZZLES OF SOCIAL ORDER			
Wk3 1/25	Classical Connections Emile Durkheim: The Division of Labor	1. Ch. 6 (pp. 91-100)	
1/27	Emile Durkheim: Suicide; Religion and Society	1. Ch. 6 (pp. 100-104) 2. Durkheim's <i>Suicide</i> (D2L) (important for upcoming essay)	
Wk4 2/1	Contemporary Extensions Pareto & Parsons: The Social System	1. Ch. 12 (pp. 183-196)	DUE on D2L: Essay # 1
2/3	Garfinkel: Ethnomethodology	1. Ch. 14 (pp. 225-228) 2. Garfinkel's article (D2L)	
MODULE 2: DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM			
Wk5 2/8	Classical Connections Karl Marx: Class Struggle	1. Ch. 2 (pp. 26-35) 2. Marx's <i>Communist Manifesto</i> (D2L)	
2/10	Karl Marx: Capital, Fetishism, and Alienation	1. Ch. 2 (pp. 35-42) 2. Marx's <i>Capital</i> (D2L) (important for upcoming essay)	

Wk6 2/15	Contemporary Extensions Engels: Gender Stratification; Bourdieu: Cultural Capital	1. Ch. 2 (pp. 42-47) 2. Ch. 15 (pp. 232-239)	DUE on D2L: <u>Essay # 2</u>
2/17	Skopkol: Theory of Revolutions; Wallerstein: The World System	1. Ch. 15 (240-251)	
MODULE 3: THE DARK SIDE OF MODERNITY			
Wk7 2/22	Classical Connections Max Weber: Stratification, Organization, and Politics	1. Ch. 7 (pp. 105-118)	
2/24	Max Weber: Rationalization of the World	1. Ch. 7 (pp. 118-126)	
Wk8 2/29	Contemporary Extensions: The Frankfurt School Marcuse: The One Dimensional Man	1. Marcuse (D2L)	
3/2	Habermas: Toward a Rational Society	1. Habermas (D2L)	
Wk9 3/7	Mid-semester Review		*Mid-term evaluations
3/9	Exam 1 (in-class)		
MODULE 4: SELF AND SOCIETY (MICROSOCIOLOGY)			
Wk10 3/14	Classical Connections Simmel and Cooley	1. Ch. 9 (pp. 142-152)	
3/16	No Class: Attending UAA Conference		
Wk11 3/21	Mead	1. Ch. 9 (pp. 152-159)	
3/23	Contemporary Extensions Goffman: Theater of Social Encounters	1. Ch. 14 (pp. 219-225; 228-231)	
MODULE 5: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES			
Wk12 3/28	The Evolutionary Perspective Spencer, Darwin, and Sociobiology	1. Ch. 5 (pp. 74-90)	DUE on D2L: <u>Essay # 3</u>
3/30	The Political Perspective Tocqueville: Democracy and Individualism	1. Ch. 3 (pp. 48-59)	
Wk13 4/11	The Psychological Perspective Nietzsche: Discovery of the Irrational	1. Ch. 4 (pp.60-73)	
4/13	Freud: The Human Unconsciousness	1. Ch. 8 (pp. 127-141)	
Wk14 4/18	Excluded Standpoints Dubois, Drake & Clayton: Critical Race Theory	1. Ch. 11 (pp. 169-182)	
4/20	Said: Orientalism, Postcolonial Theory	1. Said's <i>Orientalism</i> (D2L)	

Wk15 4/25	Beauvoir; Dorothy Smith: Feminist Viewpoint	1. Beauvoir's <i>The Second Sex</i> (D2L, only pp. xviii-xxxv) 2. Dorothy Smith (D2L)	
4/27	End-semester Review		
Wk16 5/2	Exam # 2 (in-class)		DUE on D2L: <u>Essay # 4</u>

Last day to drop/add courses is Jan 17. The last day to withdrawal without academic penalty is March 7.

The course syllabus presented in this document will be followed as closely as possible. However, it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor or in the event of extenuating circumstances. This includes the tentative calendar presented above.

By remaining enrolled in this class, you agree that you have read the syllabus, understand the syllabus (or have contacted the instructor for clarification), and agree to abide by the conditions of this syllabus