



蘇州大學
Soochow University

SOC 307 Sociological Theory

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to explore the foundational concepts and key thinkers in the development of sociological theory. Through an examination of primary texts and critical analysis, students will engage with the works of classical sociologists such as Marx, Durkheim, and Weber, as well as lesser-known theorists who have contributed significantly to the field. By delving into their ideas and debates, students will gain a deeper understanding of fundamental sociological concepts, including but not limited to inequality, racism, gender dynamics, sexuality, and identity. Through discussions, readings, and assignments, students will critically analyze the relevance of these theories to contemporary social issues.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the foundational texts and key concepts of classical sociological theory;
2. Foster critical thinking and analytical skills through engagement with primary texts and secondary literature;
3. Develop an understanding of the historical context and intellectual debates surrounding major sociological theories;
4. Apply theoretical frameworks to contemporary social issues and phenomena;
5. Cultivate written and oral communication skills through class discussions, presentations, and written assignments.

PREREQUISITES

None.



GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Class Participation	5 Points
2 Papers	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm Exam	25 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

1. George Ritzer, Jeffrey N. Stepnisky, *Classical Sociological Theory*(8th ed), SAGE Publications, Inc.
2. Craig Calhoun , Joseph Gerteis , James Moody , Steven Pfaff, *Contemporary Sociological Theory*(3rd ed), Wiley-Blackwell.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
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Module 1	<p>Topics: Topic 1: Introduction to Social Theory: Historical Context and Key Concepts Topic 2: Karl Marx: Historical Materialism and the Critique of Capitalism Topic 3: Emile Durkheim: Social Solidarity and the Division of Labor Topic 4: Max Weber: Rationalization, Bureaucracy, and the Protestant Ethic</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz #1</p>
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Harriet Martineau: Sociology and Feminism Topic 6: W.E.B. Du Bois: Race, Class, and Double Consciousness Topic 7: Charlotte Perkins Gilman: Gender and the Social Construction of Motherhood Topic 8: Georg Simmel: Social Forms and Interactionism</p> <p>Assessments: Paper #1</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Jane Addams: Social Reform and the Progressive Era Topic 10: Antonio Gramsci: Hegemony and Cultural Marxism Topic 11: Pierre Bourdieu: Cultural Capital and Symbolic Violence Topic 12: Dorothy Smith: Standpoint Theory and Feminist Epistemology</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz #2 Midterm Exam</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Michel Foucault: Power, Knowledge, and Disciplinary Society Topic 14: Patricia Hill Collins: Intersectionality and Black Feminist Thought Topic 15: Stuart Hall: Cultural Studies and Representation Topic 16: Zygmunt Bauman: Liquid Modernity and the Globalized Self</p> <p>Assessments: Paper #2</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: bell hooks: Feminism and Intersectionality Topic 18: Anthony Giddens: Structuration Theory and Social Change Topic 19: Michel de Certeau: Everyday Practices and Resistance Topic 20: Donna Haraway: Cyborg Feminism and the Posthuman Condition</p> <p>Assessments: Final Exam</p>

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to



decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the



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academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.