

Participation requirement:

Some points to consider for class & group discussions.

Remember to respect your fellow students. Theorists often disagree, but they usually do so in a professional manner. We will always try to do so.

Your class participation grade will be based (see details below) on your contributions to class and group discussions such as asking and answering questions and general contributions to discussions such as being an active listener. This portion of your grade will NOT be based on how much you talk but rather on your contributions (both negative and positive) to the class. The following criteria, plus academic etiquette standards, will be used to evaluate the quality of your contributions.

Content: comments and answers demonstrate a thorough grasp of the material

Contribution to Discussion: clarifies a point for the class or makes a suggestion or observation pursued by others

Development: offers a central thesis and provides supporting evidence and/or arguments

Tests:

All tests are comprehensive. The tests will consist of multiple choice, matching, define & explain relevance, short answer, and refutes. The take home final is one question. The essay is to be no more than 6 pages.

Important Stuff

Academic Etiquette: Class begins on time. Do not be late. Please contact me if you must be late. Please resist the temptation to begin packing up to leave before the end of class. If you must leave early please let me know before class and cause as little disruption as possible when you leave. Academic etiquette also includes treating all class members with respect and resisting the desire to have private conversations with the people sitting near you. Even whispering is distracting to others, including the instructor.

It is also distracting when students carry on private conversations on a cell phone, use their headphones, read the paper, or *text message*. Cell phones, palm pilots, and music listening devices (iPods, etc.) must be left in your bags NOT ON THE TABLE AND NOT IN YOUR LAP in front of you. To date I have been unable to deter students' texting. Thus I decided to adopt a rigid and punitive policy. The following policy is based on Dr. Carmen Lugo Lugo's (WSU) syllabi.

Cellular Phones and other Communication/Electronic Devices: Turn your cell phones and communication devices off before coming to class (that includes laptop computers—even if your computer lacks an internet connection, blackberries and any other electronic device utilized to communicate with the world outside our classroom). Of course, iPods and other gadgets used for entertainment are also prohibited. The world can survive without getting a hold of you during a class. And you will also survive without knowing what's going on outside the classroom for a few minutes. Trust me, it will be ok. If, for a reason you forget to neutralize your communication device, and it does go off during class please turn it off immediately. Note: If I catch you "texting" during class, you will be required to stand up and share with your classmates why you were texting and who you were texting. You will also lose 50 participation points each time I catch you texting.

Academic Integrity & Misconduct: Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in failing the course. In addition to failing the course it is possible there will be other disciplinary action as I will report the incident. Cheating is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Forms of cheating include, but are not limited, to turning in a paper written for another course, having another student write your assignment, copying another student's assignment, and plagiarizing. Plagiarism comes in a lot of forms. The most common form of plagiarism used by students is failure to cite sources.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at:

<http://life.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>.

Reading: Learning about sociological theory involves lots of reading and thinking about what you have read. Some of the material will be difficult to read but it is imperative that you make every effort to read through it BEFORE class. This will give you a sense of what you do and don't understand. When you read it the second or third time you will be likely start to gain an understanding of the theory in question

About You: If you have needs that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know in person or on your written information sheet. By working together we will be able to make this class a positive experience for you. I am happy to make reasonable accommodations for any student who desires them. Please let me know as soon as possible what you require

Attendance: I will be taking attendance on a regular basis. Please note the format for this class is discussion and class exercise thus your attendance is very important. In fact, because this is a discussion rather than a lecture course each of us must be active participants, both as learners and as teachers. Please note that active participation **REQUIRES** attendance **AND** advance preparation.

Professor's Philosophy of Education

- The quality of the course is the reciprocal responsibility of teachers and students.
- Education requires active learning and practice in all types of communication skills (e.g. writing and speaking as well as reading and listening.)
- Grades should reflect achievement both in absolute terms and relative to other students.
- A course should truly be worth three semester credits at a very good, accredited institution.

This class will be oriented toward student participation: You are responsible for doing the reading, preparing comments/questions, and participating in class discussion. Class time will be spent discussing the material. **I will spend little time lecturing.**

If you want to spend your class time listening to an instructor this is not the class for you as I do not see students as vessels into which I put my knowledge; I see you as people with whom I am undertaking the study of classical social theory. If you are interested in engaging critically with the course material, the instructor and other students, and doing writing to apply what you have learned, this is a class for you.

COURSE OUTLINE

The schedule is *TENTATIVE and SUBJECT TO CHANGE*. If there are any changes they will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to be in class to hear about the changes. Reserve- See my sociology web page.

| Date | Topic & Important Dates | Reading |
|---|---|---|
| Week 1 Jan. 24 th – 28 th | What is sociology? What is theory? Karl Marx. | Allan: Chapters 1 & 3 |
| Week 2 Jan. 31 st – Feb. 4 th | No Class Monday A Radical Theorist: Karl Marx | Allan: Chapter 3 Reserve Reading: “Wage Labour and Capital” |
| Week 3 Feb. 7 th – Feb. 11 th | A Radical Theorist: Karl Marx | Allan: Chapter 3 Reserve Reading: “Wage Labour and Capital” |
| Week 4 Feb. 14 th –Feb. 18 th | Test 1: Monday, Feb. 14th A Conservative Theorist: Durkheim | Allan: Chapter 4 Reserve: “Division of Labor in Society” And “Elementary Forms of the Religious Life” |
| Week 5 Feb. 23 rd – 25 th No Class Monday | A Conservative Theorist: Durkheim | Allan: Chapter 4 Reserve: “Division of Labor in Society” And “Elementary Forms of the Religious Life” |
| Week 6 Feb. 28 th – Mar. 4 th | A Conservative Theorist: Durkheim Assign groups Fri | Allan: Chapter 4 Reserve: “Division of Labor in Society” And “Elementary Forms of the Religious Life” |
| Week 7 Mar. 7 th –Mar. 11 th | Theories of Complexity and Form: Weber | Allan: Chapter 5 Reserve: “Bureaucracy” and “Class, Status, Party.” |
| Week 8 Mar. 14 th – Mar.18 th | Theories of Complexity and Form: Weber | Allan: Chapter 5 Reserve: “Bureaucracy” and “Class, Status, Party.” |
| Week 9 Mar. 21 st – Mar. 25 th | Test 2: Mon. the 21st Theories of Complexity and Form: Simmel | Allan: Chapter 6 Reserve: “The Web of Group-Affiliations” |
| Week 10 Mar. 28 th – April 1 st | Theories of Complexity and Form: Simmel | Allan: Chapter 6 Reserve: “The Web of Group-Affiliations” |

| Spring Break- Enjoy | | |
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| Week 11 April 11 th – 15 th | Society, Self & Mind: Mead, Cooley & Blumer Annotated Bib due Monday the 11th Detail plan for Meet the Theorist due Friday, the 15th | Chapter 13: Self-Consciousness Reserve: “Herbert Blumer: Society as Symbolic Interaction” |
| Week 12 April 18 th – 22 nd | Society, Self & Mind: Mead, Cooley & Blumer <u>Test #3—Friday, April 18th</u> | Allan: Chapter 13 Reserve: “Herbert Blumer: Society as Symbolic Interaction” |
| Week 13 April 25 th – 29 th | Meet the theorists | Group Presentations |
| Week 14 May 2 nd – 6 th | Meet the theorists | Group Presentations |
| Finals Week | Take home final due no later than 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 10 th | |