

HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

SOCI 455/855

PROFESSOR MARY JO DEEGAN

Fall 2014 — University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Classroom: 209 Oldfather Hall
Class Meeting Time: 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Office: 704 Oldfather Hall
Office Hours: Mon: 1:30 pm – 3:55 pm
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Classroom Format:

Lectures, discussions, and student presentations.

Focus and General Requirements of the Course:

Sociologists today base their ideas on a variety of theorists who were engaged in founding the discipline from 1850 to 1920. It is impossible to fully understand contemporary theoretical debates without having a thorough grasp of the pioneering theorists on which today's theory disputes are fundamentally grounded. We focus on the following major theorists in this course: Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, W.E.B. Du Bois, Karl Marx, George H. Mead, Jane Addams, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman. This course covers writings by and about the above listed theorists, their major books, and their central ideas— as well as related scholars and discussions of their era.

Learning sociological theory involves engaged, thoughtful reading of books by theorists and then writing about and talking about what you have read in a mature, logical, and careful manner. Thus, all students must make written notes on the assigned readings, engage in class discussions, and write and present a term paper using the above theorists (or a select group of other classical sociological theorists as may be approved by the instructor).

Required Texts (available in the UNL Bookstore):

- Weber, Max. 1921. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Introduction by Anthony Giddens). (Read the introduction and Weber per se, but **not** the extra essays by other authors.)
- Durkheim, Emile. 1913/1938/1964. *The Rules of Sociological Method*, 8th ed., translated by Sarah A. Solovay and John H. Mueller, and edited by George E. G. Catlin. New York: Free Press. (Introduction by Steven Lukes).
- Du Bois, W.E.B.. 1903. *The Souls of Black Folk*.. (Depending on the edition obtained by the Bookstore, it may or may not have an introduction).
- Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. 1898. *Women and Economics*. Dover.
- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1848/1932. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, edited and annotated by Friedrich Engels. New York: International Publishers. [Note well: **Undergraduates** are *not* required to read Marx].
- Addams, Jane. 1909/2001. *The Long Road of Woman's Memory*. Reprint: University of Illinois Press.
- Deegan, Mary Jo. 2008. *Self, War, and Society: George Herbert Mead's Macrosociology*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers. [Note well: **Undergraduates** are only required to read *one-half* of this book].

Class Attendance is Required — The Serious Consequences of Unexcused Absences:

You are expected to attend every class. If you accrue more than one week's worth of unexcused absences, your final grade for the course is lowered one-half grade. If you miss more than two weeks of classes without an acceptable excuse and acceptable supporting documentation, your final grade is lowered one grade. If you miss more than three weeks of classes, you will not pass the course. *So, please be careful:* because this class meets only once a week, *if you miss just one class meeting*, you will have missed a full week's worth of class.

Computation of Course Grade:

Requirement	Percent
Reading Notes	25%
Weekly one-page handouts	10%
Final Paper	65%
Total	100%

Reading Notes:

- Reading sociological theory requires diligent, thoughtful, active reading. You will be reading approximately one book per week. Thus, every student is required to take careful notes while reading the assigned books. As you begin each reading, be sure to read *all* introductory essays (i.e., introductions) in the assigned books.
- With regard to the reading notes, my expectations in terms of detail and length are higher for graduate students than for undergraduates.
- Reading notes on all assigned readings are collected twice during the semester. Taken together, the reading notes account for 25% of your grade.
- **Late reading notes:** Your notes are due on the day noted in the Course Calendar, below. If one day late, your grade is lowered one-half. If you are one week late, you have missed the deadline entirely and will receive an F for that set of notes due to non-completion.

Weekly One-Page Handouts:

- Every student will prepare one-page analyses of each assigned reading and distribute copies to all classmates and the instructor. For due dates, see the Course Calendar, below.
- The weekly one-page handouts, taken together, account for 10% of your grade.
- Late handouts will not be accepted.

Final Paper:

- For **graduate students**, a fifteen to twenty-page final paper is required together with an oral in-class presentation of the paper and distribution of a one-page hand-out. Please prepare sufficient copies of the handout so that you can distribute one to each student and the instructor. The one-page handout will contain your thesis statement and at least three clearly defined concepts. The complete final paper is *due on the date of the oral presentation*. The paper, the presentation, and the handout together account for 65% of your course grade.
- For **undergraduates**, the requirement is the same as above, *except* that papers need be only eight to ten pages in length.
- **Late papers** will *not* be accepted. *However*, I will re-grade re-written papers up to two weeks before the end of the semester. Thus, students who choose to present earlier in the semester have the potential advantage of rewriting and improving their papers. Conversely, students who choose to present later in the semester have the advantage of a longer time in which to write their papers.
- **Note Carefully:** Failure to give your oral presentation at the scheduled time results in an automatic “F”.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

If you submit any work (including reading notes) as your own that is not original with you, you are cheating. This is intolerable behavior for a student. You will receive an “F” for this course and submission of your name to the Student Judicial Affairs Office. Procedures regarding student cheating are detailed in the UNL Student Code of Conduct.

Electronic Devices Are Prohibited in the Classroom:

You may *not* use electronic equipment in the classroom—Please turn off your cellphone and/or smartphone. *No* iPods or variants thereof; *no* audio or visual recording devices; *no* computer tablets, notebooks, laptops, etc.

THE COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Date	Lectures & Presentations	Readings and One-Page Weekly Handouts Due	Other
1	August 25	Introduction to the course; Presentation of the syllabus; Discussion presentation specifics; Lecture on Weber		
2	September 1	No Class (Labor Day)		
3	September 8	Durkheim	Weber (short analysis due)	Sign-up for presentations
4	September 15	Marx	Durkheim (short analysis due)	
5	September 22	Gilman	Graduate Students Only: Marx (short analysis due)	Hand-in Reading Notes on Weber, Durkheim & Marx (Undergraduates: Weber & Durkheim only)
6	September 29	DuBois	Gilman (short analysis due)	
7	October 6	Addams	DuBois (short analysis due)	
8	October 13	Deegan on Mead; Discussion of Term Paper Specifics	Addams (short analysis due)	
9	October 20	No Class (Fall Break)		

10	October 27	Writing Theory Papers	Mead (short analysis due). Note: Graduate students read <i>all</i> of Deegan on Mead; Undergraduates read only <i>one-half</i> of this book.	All Reading Notes Due
11	November 3	My Favorite Theory Books		
12	November 10	Graduate Student Oral Paper Presentations		Written versions of presented papers due
13	November 17	Graduate Student Oral Paper Presentations		Written versions of presented papers due
14	November 24	Graduate & Undergraduate Student Oral Paper Presentations		Written versions of presented papers due
15	December 1	Course Summary		All re-written papers due
16	December 8	Class Potluck Dinner		