

Sociology 304: Sociological Theory **WKU On Demand**

This course is a self-paced, WKU On Demand course. You MUST register through WKU On Demand. For information see www.wku.edu/ondemand, call 270-745-4158, or come by GCC 101. Advisors please do not override.

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Course Description:

In this course, we will examine the major theoretical traditions within the field of sociology, including conflict theory, functionalism, symbolic-interactionism, dramaturgy, phenomenology, ethnomethodology and postmodernism. We will also examine theoretical statements of gender and race as well as efforts toward theoretical integration. We will read classical and contemporary works in each these traditions, and we will utilize these theories to help us understand the heart of sociological thinking and social interaction. For each lesson, you will read the works of major theorists and watch lectures that I have recorded to help you to understand the material. As an online WKU On Demand course, you will be expected to do most of the work independently, but not without some guidance and help. The entire course will be administered via WKU's Blackboard System: <http://ecourses.wku.edu>. I have recorded lectures for a majority of the lessons in this course to help you understand and comprehend the material. You will be expected to complete the assigned reading in addition to watching the lectures. Your final grade in the course will be determined based on your performance on three take home examinations, three writing assignments, several short quizzes (based on the assigned reading), and a comprehensive final exam that must be completed in a proctored setting (for example, at a designated testing center). Students may post responses to discussion board questions for extra credit.

Text:

Charles Lemert (2010) *Social Theory*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press (4th edition) ISBN: 978-0813343921

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on the following components:

- Take Home Exam 1: 100 points (10% of final grade)
- Take Home Exam 2: 100 points (10% of final grade)
- Take Home Exam 3: 100 points (10% of final grade)
- Final Exam: 300 points (30% of final grade)
- Quizzes: 100 points (10% of final grade) - based on assigned reading
- Three Papers: 300 points (3 x 100 points each - 30% of final grade)

TOTAL: 1,000 points

The sum of these components will determine your final letter grade:

A = 900-1,000 points
C = 700-799 points

B = 800-899 points
D = 600-699 points

F = Below 600

Important Information:

Take-Home Exams: There will be three non-cumulative take-home exams in this course. Each exam will have a combination of multiple choice questions and essay questions. Each take home exam

represents 10% of your final grade in the course. Take home exam # 1 will measure your knowledge of the material presented in Lessons 1-4, Take Home Exam # 2 will measure your knowledge of the material presented in Lessons 5-9, and Take Home Exam # 3 will measure your knowledge of the material presented in Lessons 10-14. You may use your notes/book to complete these take home exams, but please keep in mind that you will only have 60 minutes to complete each of these exams.

Final Exam: Since this is an online course, students must complete at least one exam in a "proctored" setting so they may demonstrate they know the required material. Therefore, students will have two hours to complete one cumulative final exam in the course in a proctored location (i.e. testing center). This will NOT be a take home version and you will NOT be allowed to use notes or the book to complete this final exam. The exam will have a mixture of multiple choice and essay questions. The final exam is worth 300 points, or 30% of your final grade, so it is critical that you study the material throughout the summer session. The Final Exam will have a structure that is VERY similar to the three Take Home Exams discussed above, only the Final Exam will have more questions because it will be comprehensive.

Students will take this final exam at an authorized testing center. **All students MUST schedule their exam with the WKU testing center - you cannot simply show up at the WKU Testing Center or at any other testing center in the United States to take this exam.**

Writing Assignments: Students will submit three writing assignments. These writing assignments will require you to reflect on the readings completed in the course and the information contained in the lecture recordings and to construct an essay that responds to a question/issue. Please do not use additional resources when writing these papers. Students should be able to write all three of these papers using the material provided in the course itself and in any additional materials that I provide for completing the writing assignment. Students should write their papers in a word processing program on their personal computers first, and then copy and paste the text of their papers into the Blackboard Essay window provided for the submission of each writing assignment.

Quizzes: Students will complete a short multiple choice quiz for most of the lessons in the course. These quizzes will be based on the assigned reading for each lesson. These quizzes are designed to ensure that all students complete the assigned reading. Students will have one attempt over a certain period of time (about 15 minutes) to answer approximately 10 multiple choice questions for each quiz.

Assigned Readings: Sociological theory can be a confusing and difficult topic for many students. You will be reading the work of actual sociological theorists, and often this reading can be dense, difficult, and confusing. Sometimes, you may have to read an article several times in order to get a sense of what the author is trying to communicate. This is normal and to be expected. Most of the articles in the text are fairly short (3-5 pages), so reading an article a second (or third time) should not be overly burdensome.

Lecture Recordings: I have recorded lectures for a majority of the lessons in this course using WKU's Tegrity software, which runs directly inside of Blackboard. You will be able to access/view these lectures within each of the lessons in the course, and you should watch these lectures and take notes on the material presented. These lectures contain important information on the theories presented in the course and an overview of the required readings. All of the information presented in these lectures can appear on your take home exams and on the final exam in the course.

Grades: All of your grades will be posted on Blackboard: <http://ecourses.wku.edu>.

Questions: If you have questions about the material presented or the structure of the course, please send me an e-mail: jerry.daday@wku.edu

Academic Dishonesty: I will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, and copying the work of other students. Evidence of cheating on exams, writing assignments and quizzes will result in an "F" in the course.

The Learning Center (TLC): A great resources for students who are struggling with any course at WKU. TLC provides individual and group peer tutoring for WKU Students. Located in DUC A330; Phone: (270) 745-6254; Email: tlc@wku.edu

From the Office for Student Disability Services: In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Schedule of Lessons and Assignments

Lesson 1: Introduction - Overview of Sociological Theory

- Introduction: Social Theory – Its Uses and Pleasures (Lemert Text - p. 1-29)

Lesson 2: Classical Conflict Theory: Karl Marx

- Estranged Labor (p. 32-38)
- Class Struggle (p. 39-43)
- Labour-Power and Capital (p. 62-67)

Lesson 3: Classical Conflict Theory: Max Weber

- The Spirit of Capitalism and the Iron Cage (p. 103-108)
- The Bureaucratic Machine (p. 108-114)
- The Types of Legitimate Domination (p. 116-119)
- Class, Status, Party (p. 119-129)

Lesson 4: Modern Conflict Theory & Neo-Marxism

- Lukacs: The Irrational Chasm Between Subject and Object (p. 206-208)
- Horkheimer: Notes on Science and the Crisis (p. 208-211)
- Wallerstein: The Modern World-System (p. 398-405)
- Wallerstein: Geo-Political Cleavages of the Twenty-First Century (p. 597-602)

Assessments: should be completed after you finish the work associated with Lessons 1-4

- Take Home Exam # 1
- Writing Assignment # 1

Lesson 5: Emile Durkheim

- Anomie and the Modern Division of Labor (p. 77-78)
- Sociology and Social Facts (p. 78-81)
- Suicide and Modernity (p. 81-88)

Lesson 6: Structural-Functionalism

- Merton: Social Structure and Anomie (p. 229-241)
- Merton: Manifest and Latent Functions (p. 307-311)
- Davis and Moore: Some Principles of Stratification (article posted on Blackboard)
- Gans: The Positive Functions of Poverty (article posted on Blackboard)

Lesson 7: Symbolic Interactionism

- Cooley: The Looking Glass Self (p. 188)
- Mead: The Self, the I, and the Me (p. 224-229)

Lesson 8: Dramaturgy

- Goffman: On Face-Work (p. 338-342)

Lesson 9: Ethnomethodology and Phenomenology

- Garfinkle: Reflexive Properties of a Practical Sociology (p. 439-442)
- Berger and Luckmann: Society as a Human Product (p. 389-393)

Assessments: should be completed after you finish the work associated with Lessons 5-9

- Take Home Exam # 2
- Writing Assignment # 2

Lesson 10: Race and Sociological Theory

- DuBois: Black Reconstruction and the Racial Wage (p. 242-245)
- Myrdal: The Negro Problem as a Moral Issue (p. 248-251)
- Anzaldua: The New Mestiza (p. 552-558)
- Wilson: Limits of Race Relations Vision (p. 657-660)

Lesson 11: Feminist Theory

- Gilman: The Yellow Wallpaper (p. 173)
- Gilman: Women and Economics (p. 174-178)
- Friedan: The Problem that has No Name (p. 361-363)
- Smith: Knowing Society from Within - A Woman's Standpoint (p. 394-397)

Lesson 12: Postmodernism

- Lyotard: Postmodern Condition (p. 465-469)
- Baudrillard: Disneyland (p. 479-484)

Lesson 13: "Saving Modernity"

- Habermas: Emancipatory Knowledge (p. 386-387)
- Habermas: Social Analysis and Communicative Competence (p. 387-389)
- Chapter/Article from George Ritzer's Sociological Theory Book (Blackboard)

Lesson 14: Theoretical Advances

- Micro-Macro Integration and Agency-Structure Reconciliation
- Reading: TBD - Students will select three articles to read on their own; these articles will be used to complete Writing Assignment # 3

Assessments: should be completed after you finish the work associated with Lessons 5-9

- Take Home Exam # 3
- Writing Assignment # 3

Final Exam

- The final exam will be cumulative - and questions will be pooled from the three take home exams. Please read the instructions provided above for scheduling your final exam at a designated testing center. You will NOT be able to use your notes or text to complete this examination.