

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
SOC 3050: Sociological Theory (3 credits)
Fall 2017; Blair 2103
MWF 11:00 – 11.50AM

Professor:	Dr. Vernon A. Woodley
Office:	3131 Blair Hall
Email:	vawoodley@eiu.edu
Office Hours:	MW: 8.30-10.00am; F: 8.45-9.45am, or by appointment

THIS IS A READING CLASS – YOU WILL NOT DO WELL IF YOU DO NOT READ. YOU SHOULD PLAN TO READ AN AVERAGE OF 20-30 MINUTES EACH DAY.

Course Description

This course is a “study of sociological theory from the classical founders through contemporary dialogue in the discipline. Special focus will be placed on major systems of sociological thought, primary contributors to the field, and current research applications of sociological theory to social phenomena” (EIU course catalogue). We will read original works from some of the most influential theorists in the history of sociology and discuss the major themes that emerge, set against the backdrop of important historical events. The course will orient around a key issue in classical sociological theory, the problem of social order and social change -- how is organized society possible? Beyond conversational familiarity with the work of theorists from each tradition, students will be expected to analyze and compare the work of two or more theorists. Emphasis will also be placed on the relevance of classical sociological theory for present-day social phenomena.

Course Objectives

After completing all of the requirements for this course, you should:

- Demonstrate significant knowledge of the themes and components of each theory and the theorist covered
- Demonstrate the ability to think and write theoretically and sociologically
- Demonstrate the ability to synthesize and analyze the sociological theories covered
- Demonstrate the ability to apply classical and contemporary sociological theories to current social phenomena

Textbook and Online Resources

- Appelrouth, Scott and Laura Desfor Eldes. 2016. *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory* (CCST). Thousand Oaks, Ca: Pine Forge Press.
- Supplementary course material on d2l

Desire2Learn. This course uses Desire2Learn (D2L) for communication and course management purposes. You can access your courses in D2L using your Panther ID and password.

Evaluation Criteria

Your course grade comprises three exams, including a comprehensive final exam, one 4-6 page essay, quizzes, discussion responses, and group work.

Exams. Exam questions will assess your ability to recall, comprehend, analyze and apply important sociological concepts and ideas. Exams will consist of multiple choice and true and false questions.

Essay. You are required to write one critical analytic essay. The essay should demonstrate knowledge of major theoretical arguments from the assigned readings, as well as an understanding of how they apply to major social concerns today. You will also be expected to compare arguments from different national traditions covered throughout the course. on an assigned topic due at the end of the course.

Quizzes. There will be 9-10, 10-point quizzes given throughout the semester. Quizzes are designed to encourage students to keep up with the assigned readings, and may or may not be announced in advance. Only the 8 highest quiz scores given will count towards your course grade.

Group Work. Group work may take the form of a written discussion responses or group projects applying sociological theories to current hot topics in the media. You may be asked to bring news articles or stories from the media that relates to the theme of the assigned readings. You will then analyze the articles in your groups from the perspective of the theory being discussed. Similar to the quizzes, only the 8 highest group scores will count towards your grade. *Group members could choose to award points based on group members' performance.*

Exam 1	40 pts
Exam 2	40 pts
Final Exam	80 pts
Essay	40 pts
Quizzes	80 pts
<u>Group work</u>	<u>80 pts</u>
Course total	360 pts

Grading scale: A=100-90 (360-323pts), B=89-80 (322-287ts), C=79-70 (286--251pts), D=69-60 (250-215), F=59-0% (214-0pts).

Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance and active class participation are important. By active class participation, I mean asking questions, giving suggestions and contributing to group discussions. Students who attend class regularly and who take an active role in their learning typically earn higher grades.

I will pass around a sign-in sheet at the start of each class period and I will also do a physical count of all students present. You are not permitted to sign in for anyone but yourself; doing so is in violation of EIU Student Conduct Code and subject to disciplinary action.

At the end of the semester, I will award 5 bonus points to students who have no more than 1 unexcused absence, notable in-class participation, and are within 1.5 percentage

points of a higher letter grade to move you into the higher letter grade. For example, a student with 88.5% (B) who has excellent attendance and class participation will be bumped to 90% (A). At my discretion, I may award additional points to a student who had *exceptional* class participation and attendance.

Punctuality

We have just 50 minutes per class period. It is important that we begin on time. ***If you are late for class, you will be counted as absent.*** If you expect to be late due to circumstances beyond your control, then you should let me know in advance.

Missed Exam or Assignment Policy

Students will only be permitted to make up examinations or assignments missed due to an ***excusable absence***. Excused absences include illness, family emergencies, and athletic or other university-sponsored travel. Leaving campus early for a scheduled BREAK is NOT an excusable absence. Also, absence to attend court proceedings stemming from your violation of the law is not an excusable absence since you made the choice to violate the law. You must provide documentation to validate an excused absence. ***It is the student's responsibility to contact me about making up missed assignments.*** Please contact me prior to missing an assignment, if possible, or immediately after. A missed exam must be made up within ONE WEEK of the exam date. ***Assignments missed for any other reason will be penalized 20% on the first day missed, and 2% each day thereafter.*** I will **not** allow you to make-up in-class assignments missed due to non-excusable absences.

Academic Fraud

Plagiarism and cheating are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter, and will ***result in an automatic F in the course***, in addition to being ***reported to the Student Standards Board*** for further disciplinary action. For more information, refer the "Student Conduct Code" <http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

Severe Weather/Tornadoes

In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

Fire Statement

In case of fire, activate the fire alarm & exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building & cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north & south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north & south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used.

Student Classroom Behavior

The ability to learn is lessened when students engage in inappropriate classroom behavior, distracting others. When disruptive activity occurs, a University instructor has the authority to request that a student exit the classroom for the remainder of the period.

Turn off or silent all cell-phones, pagers, or other electronic devices before the start of class. There will NO texting or e-mailing during class. Cell-phone should not be visible during class.

Each time I have to tell someone to put away a phone, is valuable time lost from covering course material. I am adopting a card system to discourage electronic media distractions in the class room. If you are caught texting, tweeting or surfing the internet during class, you receive a warning. The second time, will result in a 5pt grade deduction. The third time, you will receive a 10pt grade deduction. Each time after the third offense will result in an additional 5pt grade deduction.

I encourage spirited classroom discussions of the readings and related material. You are not required to agree with me or anyone else as I welcome a variety of opinions. However, personal attacks will not be tolerated. We can respectfully disagree without being disagreeable.

Course Schedule

Week 1	Aug. 21- Aug. 25	Introduction to Sociological Theory CCST Chapter 1
Week 2	Aug. 28- Sep. 01	Karl Marx CCST Chapter 2, pp.23-82
Week 3	Sep. 04	LABOR DAY - - NO CLASS
	Sep. 06- Sep. 08	Karl Marx cont'd CCST Chapter 2, pp. 22-82
Week 4	Sep. 11- Sep. 15	Emile Durkheim cont'd CCST Chapter 3, pp. 83-138
Week 5	Sep. 18- Sep 22	Emile Durkheim cont'd CCST Chapter 3, pp. 83-138
Week 6	Sep. 25- Sep 29	Max Weber CCST Chapter 4, pp. 139-199
Week 7	Oct. 02- Oct. 06	Max Weber cont'd CCST. Chapter 4, pp. 139-199 EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-4)

Week 8	Oct. 09- Oct. 11	Georg Simmel CCST. Chapter 6, pp. 239-276
	Oct. 13	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
Week 9	Oct. 16- Oct. 20	George Simmel cont'd CCST Chapter 6, pp.239-276
Week 10	Oct. 23- Oct. 27	Charlotte Perkins Gilman CCST Chapter 5, pp. 202-238
Week 11	Oct. 30- Nov. 03	W.E.B. Du Bois CCST Chapter 7, pp. 277-311
Week 12	Nov. 06	EXAM 2 (Chapters 5-7)
	Nov. 08- Nov. 10	G.H. Mead CCST Chapter 8, pp. 312-345
Week 13	Nov. 13- Nov. 17	Symbolic Interactionism CCST Chapter 12, pp. 533-589
Week 14	Nov.20-24	<i>THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS</i>
Week 15	Nov. 27- Dec. 01	Symbolic Interactionism cont'd CCST Chapter 12, pp. 533-589
	Dec. 01	Exchange and Rational Choice CCST Chapter 11, pp. 483-532
Week 16	Dec. 04- Dec. 08	Exchange and Rational Choice CCST Chapter 11, pp. 483-532
Week 17	Dec. 13	Final Exam @ 10:15-12:15 AM