Sociological Theory
Spring 2015
SOCI 3370-001
M/W/F 8:00-8:55 AM
Business Building (BUS) 210

Professor: Dr. Rachel Head  
Email: rhead@uttyler.edu  (my preferred method of contact)  
Office: BUS 204  
Phone: (903) 565-5680  
Office Hours: M/W/F 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. or by appointment

DESCRIPTION
Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both. –C. Wright Mills

Some people see things that are and ask, Why? Some people dream of things that never were and ask, Why not? Some people have to go to work and don’t have time for all that. –George Carlin

This course is designed to introduce students to the development of sociological theory with an emphasis on contemporary ideas and trends. We will cover the major sociological theoretical paradigms (i.e., functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) as well as recent developments in sociological theory.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES
SOCI 3370 is designed to:
1. provide an opportunity for critical reflection and open discussion on the causes and consequences of human behavior.
2. use sociological theories and concepts to analyze and explain social problems, including the underlying origins of such problems;
3. help students move from memorizing concepts to making critically reasoned judgments grounded in the academic content of the course.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. distinguish between facts, ideas, and theories.
2. compare and contrast the major sociological theoretical paradigms.
3. apply sociological theories to current issues.
4. demonstrate one’s ability to comprehend, compare, evaluate, and synthesize current developments in sociological theory both orally and in writing.
5. demonstrate the link between sociological theory and research.

SYLLABUS POLICY
The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus, if necessary. The syllabus will only be altered to create a better learning environment for you. You will be informed of any changes.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND BLACKBOARD
There are two required books for this course:

Cost at UTT Bookstore:  
New: $96.65  
Used: $72.50  
Rent New: $62.80  
Rent Used: $43.50

Cost at UTT Bookstore:
- New: $75.95
- Used: $56.95
- Rent New: $49.35
- Rent Used: $34.20

The course website can be found at: [https://blackboard.uttymr.edu/webapps/login/](https://blackboard.uttymr.edu/webapps/login/) Use your UTT Username and Password to login. If you are officially enrolled in the course, you should have access to the course on Blackboard after you login. Contact IT Support if you encounter any problems with Blackboard (itsupport@patriots.uttymr.edu). In addition to required course readings, the course website contains instructions and submission links for the course assignments, grades for the course, various announcements, and other useful information.

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**GRADING**

Grades in this course will be based on attendance, critical thinking exercises, a prospectus and term paper, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

**Attendance (5 points):** Students are expected to attend classes regularly and to complete reading assignments. The lectures will integrate the readings with complementary material. Doing well on the exams, critical thinking exercises, and the term paper will depend on consistently attending lectures and keeping up with the course readings. After 3 unexcused absences, I will begin to dock students $\frac{1}{2}$ a point for each additional absence.

**Critical Thinking Exercises (30 points):** There are 5 critical-thinking exercises for the course. These exercises provide you with an opportunity to reflect upon the readings and concepts for the week. The critical-thinking exercises are intended to facilitate a dialogue between us about the course materials. The critical-thinking exercises are 30% of your grade and are available and due on Blackboard. I will not accept late critical thinking exercises except in the circumstances listed below under “Attendance and Make-up Work.”

**Prospectus and Term Paper (35 points):** There will be a prospectus and term paper due in this course. On February 23rd, you will submit a prospectus that describes the problem or question that you plan to address and shows why the question is (1) problematic and (2) significant. The prospectus will serve as a rough draft of the introduction of the term paper and will provide me the opportunity to guide you toward an appropriately delineated question and thesis. The prospectus is worth 10 points. On April 13th, you will submit your term paper. The term paper is worth 25 points. I have provided a handout for the term paper on Blackboard that details the task, formatting expectations, the process to be followed, and grading criteria.

**Exams (30 points):** There will be a midterm and final exam in this course. The midterm is worth 15 points and the final exam is worth 15 points. Each exam will cover the assigned readings, class discussions/activities, and lecture material.

**Extra Credit:** These are the only mechanisms through which you can earn points in this course. There will be no extra credit opportunities or projects.

**Incomplete Grades:** No grades of “I” (Incomplete) will be assigned in this course.
There are a total of 100 points in this class— 5 points for attendance, 30 points for the critical thinking exercises, 35 points for the prospectus and term paper, 15 points for the midterm, and 15 points for the final exam. Grades will be determined as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89.9</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 – 69.9</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>49 or fewer</td>
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UNIVERSITY & INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Attendance and Make-up Work
I will take attendance for each class period. To receive consideration for make-up work you must either have a sanctioned anticipated situation (e.g., participation in official University functions, court attendance, religious observances, or military duty) or a documented emergency situation (e.g., student illness, injury or death of immediate family member).

- Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.
- If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.
- Students with documented emergency situations must notify the instructor before the missed assignment date by email. The assignment must be made up within one week of the assignment due date. Failure to do so will result in a grade of 0 on the missed assignment.

Make-up work will be allowed only in situations where absences are excused.

Academic Integrity
Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this course. When you place your name on an assignment the instructor will interpret this as your statement that “I have received no unauthorized assistance on this assignment.” Unauthorized assistance includes, but is not limited to: cheating; submitting others’ work as your own work when it is not; submitting work that you submitted in another class, and plagiarism. Violations will be handled according to the UT Tyler Code of Student Conduct and may result in a grade of F. http://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/documents/8Student%20Conduct%20and%20Discipline.pdf

Mutual Respect
It is important that we treat one another with respect in this course. Although this class is designed to foster open debate, an atmosphere of mutual respect must also be maintained. Disrespectful behaviors include talking on one’s cell phone during class, arriving late or leaving class early on a consistent basis, text messaging during class, reading newspapers or materials from other courses, using laptops during class, etc. Such behavior will not be tolerated. Students may be asked to leave the class for engaging in such behaviors.

Harassment
Each of us deserves to be treated, and is obligated to treat others, with dignity and respect, regardless of our sex, race, lifestyle, or the beliefs and values that we hold. If anyone (including the professor or your peers) says or does anything in this class that you consider harassment, please contact me (in person or anonymously) or contact the Department of Social Sciences.

Reasonable Accommodations/Disability Services
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or
psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call (903) 566-7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu

Students’ Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:
- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Social Security and FERPA Statement
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12 - 16</td>
<td><strong>UNIT I. WHAT IS SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY?</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to the Course and Distinguishing between Facts, Ideas, and Theories</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>The course syllabus on the class website</td>
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<td>Jan 19</td>
<td><strong>No Class: MLK Jr. Holiday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Durkheim. 1895. “What is a Social Fact?” Pp. 44-49 in R&amp;B.</td>
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<td>Durkheim. 1897. “Anomic Suicide.” Pp. 50-56 in R&amp;B.</td>
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<td><strong>Assignments:</strong></td>
<td>Critical Thinking Exercise One: Operationalizing Theoretical Concepts due via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on January 21st</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Marx. 1844. “Alienated Labor.” Pp. 3-10 in R&amp;B.</td>
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<td><strong>Assignments:</strong></td>
<td>Critical Thinking Exercise Two: A Weberian Critique of Marxian Economic Determinism due via Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on February 4th</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>Merton, Robert K. “The Unanticipated Consequences of Social Action.” Pp. 197-204 in R&amp;B.</td>
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<td>Mills, C. Wright. “Culture and Politics.” Pp. 221-226 in R&amp;B.</td>
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<td><strong>Assignments:</strong></td>
<td>Critical Thinking Exercise Three: Marcuse and One-Dimensional Man due via Blackboard by 11:59 PM on February 18th</td>
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<td>Feb 23</td>
<td>Catch-up and Review for Midterm</td>
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<td><strong>Assignments:</strong></td>
<td>Prospectus due via Blackboard by 11:59 PM on February 23rd</td>
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<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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### UNIT III. WHO ARE YOU AND HOW DO YOU KNOW?

**Mar 02 – 06**  
**Simmel and Mead**  
**Readings:**  
Ritzer and Stepnisky. “George Herbert Mead: Social Behaviorism.” Pp. 57-64 in CST.  

**Mar 09 – 13**  
**No Classes: Spring Break**

**Mar 16 – 20**  
**Goffman and Garfinkel**  
**Readings:**  
Ritzer and Stepnisky. “Contemporary Theories of Everyday Life.” Pp. 139-172 in CST.  

### UNIT IV. HOW DO SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS AFFECT EVERYDAY LIFE?

**Mar 23**  
**Emerson and Bourdieu**  
**Readings:**  
**Assignments:**  
Critical Thinking Exercise Four: Defining Power due via Blackboard by 11:59 PM on March 23rd.

**Mar 25 – 27**  
**No Classes: Dr. Head Out of Town; use this time to work on your term paper**

### UNIT V. AND WHAT ABOUT RACE?

**Mar 30 – Apr 03**  
**W.E.B. Du Bois and Omi & Winant**  
**Readings:**  

### UNIT VI. AND WHAT ABOUT WOMEN?

**Apr 06 – 10**  
**West & Zimmerman and Connell**  
**Readings:**  
**Assignments:**  
Critical Thinking Exercise Five: The Man Box due via Blackboard by 11:59 PM on April 8th.

### UNIT VII. WHAT IS A POSTMODERN SOCIETY?

**Apr 13 – 17**  
**Michel Foucault and Jean Baudrillard**  
**Readings:**  
Ritzer and Stepnisky. “Postmodern Grand Theories.” Pp. 231-270 in CST.  
**Assignments:**  
Term Paper Due via Blackboard by 11:59 PM on April 13th.

### UNIT VIII. HOW IS GLOBALIZATION CHANGING SOCIETIES?

**Apr 20 – 24**  
**Giddens, Beck, Bauman, Huntington, Ritzer, Wallerstein, and Others**  
**Readings:**  

**Apr 28 – May 01**  
**Final Exam from # – # in our regularly scheduled classroom**