

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
Department of Sociology  
SOC 3200: Sociological Theory  
Fall, 2015, Life Bldg: Rm.419

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Office Hours: T/TR: 2:00-3:15  
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**I. Learning Objectives:**

- To gain knowledge of classical and contemporary social theorists and their explanations for social behavior at the macro and micro levels.
- To gain knowledge of the three theoretical paradigms: structure functionalism, conflict, and symbolic interaction

**II. Learning components**

**A. Readings:** To help meet the objectives, the following book is required reading:

**REQUIRED:**

1. Collins, Randall and Makowsky, Michael (2010). The Discovery of Society. Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.
2. A variety of readings/handouts will be provided. These are original works of various theorists and in some cases are somewhat difficult to read due to the theorists writing style/century written. Therefore, you will only be responsible for obtaining a general understanding of each particular article, i.e., What is the focus of the article? What is the subject? What are the main ideas?

**Class time:** We will not be using class time to review specific facts provided in the reading materials. You are responsible for reading and learning the facts. Class time will be used to think about and discuss the reading material.

### III. Course Policies

- A. **Class Attendance:** regular and punctual class attendance is expected. It will be difficult to master all the material if class is missed. If you need to come late or leave early, please let Dr. Yeatts know beforehand. Frequently coming into class late or leaving class early disrupts class and will reduce your final grade as will making a lot of disturbing noise during or at the end of a class. However, students will not be penalized for missing class. Students who miss a lot of class will be given no leeway in grading while students who miss no or only a few classes will be given much leeway in grading (e.g., an 88 might be moved up to a 90).
- B. **Academic integrity:** as the student guidebook points out, academic integrity is required. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failure and a report to the Dean.
- C. **Special Needs:** UNT's counseling center provides free career and personal counseling to UNT students (up to 8 sessions per year). Appointments can be made by calling 940-565-2741. For our class, appropriate adjustments and auxiliary aid are available for persons with disabilities. See Dr. Yeatts and/or call 817-565-2456 (TDD access 1-800-735-2989).
- D. **Cell Phones:** It is offensive to a professor to have a student continually "texting" while the professor is holding a discussion/lecturing. No cell phones may be used and must be turned off and put away during tests. A student will receive an "F" if found with a cell phone during a test.
- E. **Laptops:** Laptops may not be used during class unless sitting in the front row, middle of the classroom. Unfortunately, past experience has found that some students use the laptop for non-class activities that distract the student and others around the student from the class.
- F. **Acceptable Student Behavior:** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to

learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior (including continued texting during class) will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)

**G. Grading:** All paper and test scores will be posted on Professor Yeatts' web page. Final grades will be based on the following:

1. 2 one-page discussion papers 20%  
First Paper Due: September 10 (10% of grade)  
Second Paper Due: October 8 (10% of grade)  
Requirements for the papers are provided below. Each paper has a specific question(s) to address. Correct format must be followed.
  
2. Four tests (multiple choice) 80%  
(study guides can be found on Yeatts' website)  
  
Test 1: September 17  
Test 2: October 15  
Test 3: November 19  
Test 4: Exam day/time: December 8 (10:30-12:30)
  
3. Class Participation: Those who contribute meaningful, thoughtful, and knowledgeable comments/ideas will receive extra points added to their final grade if their final grade is close to the next higher grade. For example, an 88 could be raised to a 90. As noted above, perfect or near perfect attendance will also possibly result in extra points on your final grade.
  
4. Make-up Tests: may be allowed if the student notifies the professor before the test is given. However, the test score will be reduced by at least one letter grade unless there is documentation verifying an illness or other serious situation.

- H. **Test Policies**: You are responsible for using the restroom prior to the beginning of the test so **do not ask to use the restroom** in the middle of a test (unfortunately there are some students who would use this as an opportunity to review notes in the middle of taking the test). All cell phones must be turned off and be put away (otherwise, some would use them for cheating). If a cell phone is observed, the student will receive a zero.
- I. **Extra Credit Opportunities**: There are two ways to obtain extra credit. Please see syllabus below for details.
- J. **Course Continuity**: If continued face-to-face classes become unwise or impossible (such as due to flu epidemic), and if the university desires to proceed with course offerings for the remainder of the semester, the professor will continue to provide instruction through his website. The professor may also relay course lecture material and assignments via eagle connect or other e-mail services if required. (In these cases, students will be notified on how to access this service through the professor's webpage). It would be wise to have your UNT email address linked to an email address that you check regularly.

#### IV. **Topics to be Covered**

**(all Chapter assignments refer to the Collins book)**

Week 1 (August 25): Overview of class, read: Preface and Introduction of Collins book

Week 1 (August 27): Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1  
(Saint-Simon, Comte)

In-class project: applied vs theoretical sociology

Possible Movie: Overview of Sociological Theory (MV9397)

Possible Movie: A Bientot (MV9384, interviews workers in France in 70s about working conditions, unionization, strikes)

Week 2 (September 1): Chapter 2 (Marx)

Read Handout: Marx and Engels: Manifesto of the Communist Party

Possible movie: Karl Marx and Marxism, MV2935

Week 3 (September 8): Chapters 3 and 4 (Tocqueville, Nietzsche)

First Paper Due: Thursday, September 10

In-class: Nietzsche

Week 4 (September 15, Tuesday): Chapters 5 (Do-Gooders, Evolutionists, Racists)

Movie: Profit (MV 8102, show first 41 minutes)

**Test 1 on Preface, Introduction, Chapters 1-5, and class materials  
(Thursday, September 17)**

Week 5 (September 22): Chapter 6 (Durkheim)

Read Handout: Durkheim

In-class: Marx, Durkheim, Weber

Week 6 (September 29): Chapter 7 (Weber)

Read Handout: Weber

Possible Movie: Formal Organizations and Bureaucracy,  
MV9215

Second Paper Due: October 8

Week 7 (October 6): Chapter 8 (Freud)

Week 8 (October 13, Tuesday): Chapter 8 continued (Freud)

Possible Movie: Biography of Freud, MV9132

**Test 2 on chapters 6-8 and class materials (Thursday, October 15)**

Week 9 (October 20): Chapter 9 (Simmel, Cooley, Mead)

Read Handout: Mead:

Read Handout: Cooley:

In-class: Simmel, Cooley, Mead

Week 10 (October 27): Chapters 9 (continued) and 10 (Thomas, Park, Chicago School)

Week 11 (November 3): Chapter 11 (DuBois, Frazier, Drake, and Cayton)

Possible Movie: W.E.B. DuBois, MV 7620, show first 30 minutes  
Read Handout: DuBois

Week 12 (November 10): Chapter 12 (Pareto and Parsons)

Week 13 (November 17, Tuesday): Chapter 12 continued (Pareto and Parsons)

**Test 3 on chapters 9-12 and class materials (Thursday, November 19)**

Week 14 (November 24): Chapters 13 and 14 (Michels, Mannheim, Mills, Goffman)

In-Class: Michels and Mannheim

Read Handout: Mills

Possible Movie: Free Speech for Sale, MV 6515

Possible Movie: Global Trade Debate, MV 8560

Week 15 (December 1): Chapters 14 and 15 (Goffman, Bourdieu, Skocpol, Wallerstein)

Read Handout: Goffman:

In-class: Goffman

Possible Movie: Office

**Test 4 on chapters 13-15 and class materials will be given during exam week:  
December 8, Tuesday, 10:30 - 12:30**

### **Paper Assignments**

Two paper assignments will be given throughout the semester. These will be worth 10% each of your final grade. Therefore, the paper assignments will total 20% of your final grade with the 4 tests making up the remaining 80%. Save your papers to be sure that no mistakes are made in recording and averaging your grade.

Your goal for each paper assignment is to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the assigned materials. The keys to a good grade are to make it clear that you understand the theorist's (or theorists') point of view(s) and you

provide a thoughtful opinion on the topic.

**There are strict instructions that you must follow** (the grade will be reduced one letter grade if these instructions are not followed):

1. The paper cannot be longer than one page (if it is longer than one page then only the first page will be read).
2. The paper should be single spaced, use Comic Sans MS font, size 12 (I strain my eyes less with this font), and have 1 inch margins.
3. The paper topic should be typed at the top of the page along with your name.
4. The paper must use good grammar, complete sentences, and avoid vulgar language.

### **Paper Topics:**

#### Paper 1

What does Marx believe is the most basic determinant of one's behavior? Saint-Simon? Comte? Provide support for your answers. What do you believe is the most basic determinant of one's behavior?

#### Paper 2

From Durkheim's perspective what is the relationship between deviance, social solidarity, and collective conscience? What are the similarities and differences between Durkheim's "collective conscience" and Weber's "stratification"? What do YOU believe is the basis of social order?

### **Opportunities for Extra Credit**

1. Students will be given the opportunity to obtain extra credit points during class. For example, students may be asked to work in groups during class to solve one or more problems and then each student will turn in their own answer(s) before the end of class and one or more extra points will be added to the student's next test grade. Students who are absent, or come to class late, or leave class early will not be eligible for these extra points. A student who does not miss class will typically accumulate 5 - 6 points to be added to her/his next test grade.

2. Students can write a "library research" paper that must be turned in no later than Tuesday, November 24. The paper is worth up to three or four points added to your final grade, depending on the quality of the paper and whether you present it in class (you can get up to three points if it is not presented in class). You must use peer-reviewed research articles/books (say, at least 10) on your topic which must address some issue covered in class (you can use web-based journals and popular magazines such as Time but these should be no more than 10% of your citations/references). The paper should be 5 to 10 pages, double spaced, use comic sans font, and have one inch margins (the same requirements as provided above for the one-page papers). If you want to present your paper in class, you must turn your paper in prior to presenting it, receive permission (the paper must be well done in order to be presented in class), use powerpoint or another presentation software, and look for interesting ways to present the information.



SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY:  
STUDENT INFORMATION

1. Section number of class or time class meets: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
last name                                          first                                          middle

3. Provide a unique five digit number that can be used when posting your grades on the class website (not your social security number nor your student ID number)  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Email, address and phone number where you can be reached:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What degree (and emphasis) are you seeking?

6. How many hours have you completed toward your degree?

7. Why did you decide to take this course?