

July 2001,
SPRING 2005
BANDY

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
SOCY 2001
Spring 2005**

Instructor: Rachel Bandy
Office: Ketchum 35
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:50 AM-1:50 PM
Phone: 303.492.6637
Mailbox: Ketchum 219
Email: Rachel.Bandy@Colorado.edu (this is the best way to contact me outside of class)

Please note: this syllabus is subject to change, as is necessary.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will introduce students to some of the major theoretical perspectives in sociology during the 19th and 20th Century. Students will study primary and secondary readings in classical, modern, feminist, and post-modern sociological theory. As this is an introductory course, we cannot exhaustively consider social theory. What we can and will accomplish is an examination of important social thinkers and schools of thought. Through readings, assignments and class discussions students will learn what important theorists have had to say about the social world and why their theories still matter today. This class has three major objectives:

- To *introduce* students to major sociological theories and theorists. Theory is fundamental to any scientific study. By examining major sociological thinkers and their theoretical contributions to the field, students will be well-equipped to study the world around them.
- To prepare students to *apply* theoretical concepts and ideas to the social around them and, thereby, assess the theory's contemporary relevance.
- To *challenge* students to suspend commonly held assumptions about the way the world works and to consider perspectives different than their own. In turn, the student can expect to further develop their abilities to think, write, and analyze scholarship critically; skills which will serve them well in all educational and professional endeavors.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

The following text is available at the CU Bookstore:

- Adams, Bert N. and R.A. Sydnie. 2002. "Classical Sociological Theory." This will be referred to on the syllabus as (AS).

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING

In addition to reading the assigned texts, you will be required to read:

- Various readings held on electronic reserve. To access electronic reserve at CU go to the main Chinook menu, then to “Course Reserves.” From there, click on “Reserve Lists by Instructor.” Search by my last name, “Bandy,” and all material on reserve can be accessed. Electronic reserve readings will be referred to on the syllabus as (ER).

CLASSROOM DECORUM/PARTICIPATION

- Please arrive in the classroom and be prepared to begin class on time.
- Please stay for the entire class period.
- Turn off phones and beepers or switch to vibrate if you anticipate having a childcare issue or emergency situation.
- Please abstain from reading other materials and carrying on side conversations during class.
- Behavior that is disruptive, disrespectful, or otherwise a nuisance will not be tolerated. Any student that cannot conduct themselves as a responsible, mature adult will be asked to remove themselves from the classroom and may be expelled from the course.

Participation (in its many forms) is critical to your class experience. You will be expected to attend class prepared to discuss readings and other course material. I expect all students to participate in discussions even if that only means being an active listener. If you are uncomfortable speaking in large groups, consider regularly attending my office hours or sending me e-mails with your thoughts and ideas about the assigned readings. This will help you earn participation points while also helping with your comprehension of the material.

COURSE GRADE

- No late assignments/make-up assignments will be accepted.
- No make-up exams will be made available without written confirmation of a medical emergency or similar emergency situation.
- Please adhere to university policies regarding academic honesty. Any student caught cheating, plagiarizing, or engaging in academically dishonest behavior will automatically receive an F in this class.
- A student will earn points in this class through the following opportunities:

- 1) 4 exams, 100 points each=400 points
- 2) 4 in-class assignments, 15 points each= 60 points
- 3) Class participation, 0-15 point range=15 points
- 4) Class attendance, 0-25 point range=25 points

TOTAL=500 points

Final Grades will be determined as follows:

A: 470-500	B: 420-434	C: 370-384	D: 320-334
A-: 450-469	B-: 400-419	C-: 350-369	D-: 300-319
B+: 435-449	C+: 385-399	D+: 335-349	F: 299 and less

EXTRA CREDIT

I reserve the right to offer extra credit opportunities throughout the semester as I deem appropriate. Extra credit opportunities are NOT a guarantee of extra earned points.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know by the end of the first week of the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office in Willard 322 at 303.492.8671.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 10, First day of class
January 17, No Class
January 28, In-class assignment 1
February 4, Exam 1 review
February 7, Exam 1
February 25, In-class assignment 2
March 4, Exam 2 Review
March 7, Exam 2
March 21-25, No Class
April 1, In-class assignment 3
April 8, Exam 3 review
April 11, Exam 3
April 29, In-class assignment 4; Exam 4 review
May 3, Exam 4/Final Exam (non-cumulative)

COURSE CALENDAR (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

*readings should be completed by the beginning of class on the day listed!

Introduction to Course/Historical Context of Early Sociology

M, Jan 10: Class introductions; syllabus review
W, Jan 12: (AS) Note to Students, pgs. xxiii-xxiv, and Ch 1, pgs. 1-29
F, Jan 14: (AS) Ch 2, pgs. 31-55

Functionalist Perspective and Theories

- M, Jan 17: No Class: Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- W, Jan 19: Intro to functionalism; (AS) Ch 3, pgs. 59-81
- F, Jan 21: (AS) Ch 3 cont'd, pgs. 81-88
- M, Jan 24: (AS) Ch 4, pgs. 90-101
- W, Jan 26: (AS) Ch 4, cont'd 101-117
- F, Jan 28: (ER) Durkheim's "Division of Labor;" *In-class assignment #1*
- M, Jan 31: (ER) Merton's "Social Structure and Anomie"
- W, Feb 2: Functionalism Today: (ER) Gan's "The Uses of Poverty: The Poor Pay All"
- F, Feb 4: Functionalism Today: In-class video and discussion on "The Abercrombie and Fitch Lawsuit;" exam review
- M, Feb 7: EXAM #1: FUNCTIONALISM

Marxist Perspective and Modern Conflict Theories

- W, Feb 9: Intro to Marxism
- F, Feb 11: (AS) Ch 5, pgs. 121-143
- M, Feb 14: Marx, cont'd
- W, Feb 16: (ER) Marx's "Bourgeois and Proletarians," excerpted from The Communist Manifesto
- F, Feb 18: Marx, cont'd
- M, Feb 21: (AS) Ch 12, pgs. 291-307
- W, Feb 23: (ER) Coser's "The Function of Social Conflict"
- F, Feb 25: (ER) Mills' "The Power Elite, cont'd;" *in-class assignment #2*
- M, Feb 28: (ER) Collins' "The Basics of Conflict Theory"
- W, Mar 2: Marxism and Conflict Today: (ER) Taking Sides Issue 16: Is Street Crime More Harmful Than White-Collar Crime? In-class video and discussion on "Perceptions of White-Collar vs. Street Crime"
- F, Mar 4: Marxism and Conflict Today: In-class video and discussion on "Military Spending, Politics, and Halliburton;" exam review
- M, Mar 7: EXAM #2: MARXISM AND CONFLICT THEORIES

Symbolic Interactionist Perspectives and Theories

- W, Mar 9: Intro to Symbolic Interactionism
- F, Mar 11: (AS) Ch 7, pgs. 167-195
- M, Mar 14: Weber, cont'd
- W, Mar 16: (ER) Ritzer's "The McDonaldization of Society"
- F, Mar 18: (AS) Ch 8, pgs. 197-220
- March 21-25: No Class: Spring Break—Have Fun, Be Safe!
- M, Mar 28: (ER) Cooley's "The Looking Glass Self"
- W, Mar 30: (AS) Ch 13, pgs. 310-329 (skip section on Freud)
- F, Apr 1: (ER) Mead's "Mind, Self and Society;" *in-class assignment #3*
- M, Apr 4: (ER) Goffman's "Presentation of Self in Everyday Life" and "Impression Management"

- W, Apr 6: Symbolic Interaction Today: (ER) Henslin and Biggs' "Behavior in Public Places: The Sociology of the Vaginal Examination;" small group discussion
- F, Apr 8: Symbolic Interaction Today: (ER) Hick's "Your Name Could Turn-Off Employers;" small-group discussion; exam review
- M, Apr 11: EXAM # 3: SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

Feminist and Post-Modern Perspectives and Theories

- W, Apr 13: Intro to Feminist Theory
- F, Apr 15: (AS) Ch 11, pgs. 265-289
- M, Apr 18: (ER) Hill-Collins' "Black Feminist Thought"
- W, Apr 20: Feminist Theory Today: Business Week article, "Women's Pay: Why the Gap Remains a Chasm"
http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/04_24/b3887065.htm
small group discussion
- F, Apr 22: Intro to Post-Modern Theory
- M, Apr 25: (ER) Klages' "Post-Modernism;"
- W, Apr 27: Postmodernism Today: Is Reality TV Real? (ER) Hawk's essay on Baudrillard and the postmodern culture
- F, Apr 29: In-class assignment 4; exam 4 review
- M, May 2: Finals Week: No Class

Tuesday, May 3, 4:30-7:30 PM: FINAL EXAM/EXAM #4: FEMINISM AND POST-MODERNISM