

## **SOC 306: SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**

Winter 2012: T-Th 2:00-3:20 Frances Searle 2107

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TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The main emphasis in this course will be on how sociological theory informs social research. To examine this relationship we will critically read selections of classic sociological theory and then look at how various scholars have used that theory to help them analyze some aspect of society. We will continually move between theoretical statements and applications and refinements of that theory. We will also compare the content, strengths and weaknesses of the arguments that the various authors make. In addition to becoming familiar with important theoretical traditions in sociology, we want students will learn to think and read more critically, and to learn communicate your ideas more effectively, both as speakers and writers. This course requires a lot of reading, and some of the material is dense, so students are encouraged to take care in budgeting their time. It is essential that students come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material.

### **GRADES**

Grades for this course will be derived from three sources: seven short (2 page) papers that will be assigned each week, a final exam and class participation. The papers will not be given a letter grade; instead they will be graded as check or minus, for full credit or no-credit. Course papers count for 49% of the total course grade. In addition, each paper will be marked as strong, o.k., or weak. When final grades are calculated, the overall quality of papers will be evaluated according to an 11 point scale. Those who consistently wrote strong papers will receive an additional eleven points; those who consistently wrote weak papers will receive no additional points. These papers are designed to ensure that students keep up with the required reading and are prepared for class discussion; consequently, late papers will not be accepted. Please bring in one copy to class and submit another copy before class to Blackboard. . While papers for this class are idiosyncratic and hard to plagiarize, we will regularly check papers for plagiarism, using our own extensive files of past papers and as well as plagiarism detection software. If we suspect that you have committed plagiarism, your case will be sent to the Office of Studies. If you are found guilty of plagiarism you will be given an F for the course. The final exam will be cumulative and will comprise 30% of your grade. Class participation, evaluated by the quality as well as the frequency of your participation, will count for 10%.

**TEXTS** In addition to a course packet, the following books are required:

Anderson, Elijah. A Place on the Corner. University of Chicago Press.

Bosk, Charles. To Forgive and Remember. University of Chicago Press.

Espeland, Wendy. The Struggle for Water. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Burawoy, Michael. Manufacturing Consent. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Tucker, Robert C. The Marx-Engles Reader. 2nd Ed. New York: Norton & Co.

Pattilo, Mary. Black on the Block. University of Chicago Press.

Depending on demand, the course packet may be purchased at Quartet Copies. The books can be purchased at Norris.

The following is an approximate schedule that may be adjusted during the quarter the quarter:

#### WEEK ONE

1/5 Thurs: Introduction

#### WEEK TWO (Heavy reading week).

1/10 Tues: Anderson. All.

1/12 read (from the packet) Georg Simmel "Sociability", and "The Stranger," taken from *On Individuality and Social Forms*, ed Donald Levine) Erving Goffman "On Face Work" "The Women of Palm Beach".

#### **First paper due in class/BB.**

#### WEEK THREE

1/17 Tues: Read Karl Marx "Estranged Labor" pp. 70-81, and (from the packet) Arlie Hochschild "Feeling Management: From Private to Commercial Uses" taken from *The Managed Heart*.

1/19 Thur: Read Marx "Wage Labor and Capital" pp. 203-217 and "The Manifesto of the Communist Party " pp.469-491. Schlosser, *Junk Food Nation* excerpts.

#### **Second paper due.**

#### WEEK FOUR

1/24 -1/26 Read Burawoy Chapters 1-12, pp. 1-203.

#### **Third paper due on Thursday.**

#### WEEK FIVE

Tues 1/31 Read (from the packet) Max Weber "Author's Introduction"; "The Types of Legitimate Domination" [ch. III pp 212-245]; "Domination and Legitimation"; Epstein "Beyond the Standard Human".

2/2 Thurs. [Ch X] and "Bureaucracy" [Ch.XI] (pp.941-1005) taken from Economy and Society. Kapuscinski: Excerpt from "The Emperor" " re: feudalism" from the packet.  
**Fourth paper due.**

#### WEEK SIX

2/7-Tues Espeland Ch 1-3: iv-134

2/9 Thur. Espeland. Ch 4-6, pp 135-252. **Fifth paper due.**

#### WEEK SEVEN (heavy reading week)

2/14 Tues. read Emile Durkheim "Division of Labor in Society: Consequences", "The Division of Labor in Society: Conclusions",

2/16 Thurs Begin Bosk. **Sixth paper due.**

#### WEEK EIGHT

2/21 Tues. Complete Bosk. (heavy reading week)

Thur. 2/23 read Max Weber "Class, Status and Party" taken from Economy and Society. Begin Patillo, Black on the Block. **No paper this week.**

#### WEEK NINE

Tues. 2/28 Finish Patillo..

**NOTICE: LAST PAPER DUE TODAY.**

Thur: 3/1 Summary and Review

**Wednesday Mar 7 Reading Period Begins**

**Thursday March 15 Final Exam 12:00-2:00 pm same room.**

**Monday Mar 19 Spring Break Begins!**