

Social Theory

SOCI 101

Fall 2025 Section 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/04/2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. William Armaline

Office Location: DMH 216

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Course Information

Class Days/Time

Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30 - 5:45 pm

Classroom

DMH 163

Course Description and Requisites

Comparative analysis of micro and macro sociological theories and their origins, including, but not limited to, conflict theories, consensus theories, structural functionalism, symbolic interaction and recent theoretical developments. Required for majors.

Prerequisite(s): SOCI 1 (or equivalent) and upper division standing. Allowed Declared Majors: Sociology and Behavioral Studies only. All other majors must have instructor consent.

Pre/Corequisite(s): SOCI 100W.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

- 1) This course depends on participation and interaction. Students are expected to be on time to class out of respect for your colleagues and instructor.
- 2) All classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages the participation of others (be respectful to one another, do not insult or intimidate others, and so forth).
- 3) Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
- 4) Students are responsible for any and all notes and materials missed in their absence.

☰ Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

📊 Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

(CL01) Identify and describe the traditionally central bodies of sociological theory and many of their founding scholars

(CL02) Demonstrate an understanding of the role of theory in scholarship and research.

(CL03) Demonstrate a substantive familiarity with specific bodies of political and sociological theory as they apply to contemporary debates and social problems.

(CL04) Demonstrate the ability to engage with complex theories in conversation with intellectual peers.

☰ Course Materials

Garner, Roberta & Blackhawk Hancock. (2014). *Social Theory: Continuity and Confrontation—A Reader* [3rd edition]. Toronto, Canada: U. of Toronto Press.

ISBN: 978-1442606487

All assigned readings/materials beyond the required text above will be provided by the instructor via email (links and PDF files). Should you have any problems obtaining reading materials throughout the course, please check the "files" link on Canvas or email the instructor for assistance.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Readings

Students are expected to complete readings by the class session indicated on the course schedule. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings so that we can engage the material together. Though readings are not a graded assignment, students are required to draw from them and other course materials to complete both exams.

Classroom Activities and Discussion

Though not graded, this course requires a great deal of classroom discussion and classroom activity. Discussions and classroom activities are designed to help students successfully achieve all learning objectives and to prepare students for exams.

Exams

The only graded material in this course (other than extra credit) will be a take home Midterm and Final Exam, each worth 50% of the final course grade. Students will receive the exams well in advance, and there will be an in-class review session for each (see course schedule). Both exams require students to define and apply several core theoretical concepts, and to compare/contrast the work of various theorists in order to build a sample theoretical framework.

Students are encouraged to form study groups in class to tackle readings together and to assist each other in preparing their exams. We will discuss acceptable strategies for doing so in class.

Extra Credit

Students may submit an unlimited amount of extra credit in this course. The typical written assignment should be split into three sections: summary, analysis, and critique. Assignments may be on any subject matter, and may be in any format/media (written, video, audio, artwork, etc.), but MUST apply a sociological analysis drawing on course content. The instructor will provide some EC opportunities where/when available, but students are encouraged to come up with their own ideas, and should take advantage of this opportunity to examine content of their choice for credit.

Extra credit can be submitted at any time to the instructor via email (or however appropriate). However, all EC assignments must be submitted by the last day of class (12/08/25).

Grading Information

Final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical "100 point scale":

A+ 98-100%

A 94-97

A- 90-93

B+ 88-89

B 84-87

B- 80-83

C+ 78-79

C 74-77

C- 70-73

D+ 68-69

D 64-67

D- 60-63

F <60%

Assignment Percentage of Final Grade:

Midterm 50%

Final Exam 50%

TOTAL 100%

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
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When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 1 - Wednesday 08/20/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Introduction to Course, Review Syllabus, What is theory?	Please note that we will skip Part I in the textbook on Classic Political Theory of the late Western Enlightenment. Instead, please make sure to <i>view the assigned videos on the Enlightenment period and political theorists</i> (check "files" link on Canvas and/or your email).
Lecture Week 2 - Monday 08/25/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	The Western Enlightenment and "Core Theory" in Sociology	<i>Read Part II Introduction in text.</i>
Lecture Week 2 - Wednesday 08/27/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Part I	<i>Read Chapter 2.1</i>
Lecture Week 3 - Monday 09/01/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	NO CLASS - LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
Lecture Week 3 - Wednesday 09/03/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Marx and Engels, Part II	

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 4 - Monday 09/08/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Readings in Detail - Communist Manifesto, German Ideology, and Capital Vol. 1	
Lecture Week 4 - Wednesday 09/10/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Legacies of Marxism and forms of Socialism	<i>Read Chapter 2.2</i>
Lecture Week 5 - Monday 09/15/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Emile Durkheim (Functionalism)	<i>Read Chapter 3.1</i>
Lecture Week 5 - Wednesday 09/17/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Durkheim Continued	
Lecture Week 6 - Monday 09/22/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Legacies of Functionalism - Robert Merton	<i>Read Chapter 3.2</i>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 6 - Wednesday 09/24/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Max Weber	<i>Read Chapter 4.1</i>
Lecture Week 7 - Monday 09/29/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Max Weber Continued	
Lecture Week 7 - Wednesday 10/01/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Legacies of Weber - George Ritzer and Theda Skocpol	<i>Read Chapter 4.2</i>
Lecture Week 8 - Monday 10/06/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	TBA (catch up day)	
Lecture Week 8 - Wednesday 10/08/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Midterm Exam Review	Make sure to bring all of your notes/materials/drafts to class!

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 9 - Monday 10/13/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	TBA	<i>MIDTERM EXAM DUE VIA EMAIL TO INSTRUCTOR BY 11:59 PM</i>
Lecture Week 9 - Wednesday 10/15/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Cooley, Mead, and the Adlers - The Social Self	<i>Read Chapter 6.1 - 6.2</i>
Lecture Week 10 - Monday 10/20/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	WEB DuBois	<i>Read Chapter 6.3</i>
Lecture Week 10 - Wednesday 10/22/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	WEB DuBois Continued	
Lecture Week 11 - Monday 10/27/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	The Frankfurt School, Gramsci, and Neo-Marxism	<i>Read Chapter 7 Introduction, 7.3, and 7.4</i>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 11 - Wednesday 10/29/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Neo-Marxism Continued	
Lecture Week 12 - Monday 11/03/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	CW Mills and more Critical Theory/Neo-Marxism	<i>Read Chapter 8 Introduction, 8.2, 8.4, and 8.5</i>
Lecture Week 12 - Wednesday 11/05/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Howard Becker, Symbolic Interactionism, and the Study of Deviance	<i>Read Chapter 8.3</i>
Lecture Week 13 - Monday 11/10/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Foucault and Post Modernism	<i>Read Chapter 10 (all)</i>
Lecture Week 13 - Wednesday 11/12/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Foucault Continued	

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 14 - Monday 11/17/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Stuart Hall and Critical Cultural Studies	<i>Read Chapter 12 (all)</i>
Lecture Week 14 - Wednesday 11/19/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Post Colonial Theory	<i>Read Chapter 13 Introduction, 13.1, and 13.2</i>
Lecture Week 15 - Monday 11/24/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Lecture Week 15 - Wednesday 11/26/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Lecture Week 16 - Monday 12/01/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Race, the Racialization Process, and "Whiteness"	<i>Read Chapter 13.3 and 13.4</i>

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 16 - Wednesday 12/03/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Gender, Sexualities, and Feminist Theory	<i>Read Chapter 14 (all)</i>
Lecture Week 17 - Monday 12/08/2025 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM DMH 163	Final Exam Review	Make sure to bring all of your notes/materials/drafts to class!
Friday, December 12th	FINAL EXAM DUE VIA EMAIL	Please note that YOUR TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM IS DUE BY 11:59 PM ON FRIDAY 12/12/25 via email to the instructor.