

Soci 3220. Development of Sociological Theory  
Dr. James J. Dowd  
[weberian@uga.edu](mailto:weberian@uga.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:30 - 5:00.  
Baldwin Hall, Rm. 320  
Phone: 542-3231/2421

## Course Syllabus<sup>1</sup> Spring 2008

Our focus in this course will be on the lives and work of some of the major contributors to the body of ideas and explanations known as *sociological theory*. Every sociologist is, of course, a theorist in the sense that all sociologists ask theoretical questions of their data. We will be less concerned in this course with such research-oriented theory than we will be with more general theories such as Marxism, interactionism, exchange theory, critical theory, functionalism, dramaturgy, feminist theory, and so on. There is certainly a connection between these more general theories (which we can call, *Theory*) and the specific theories that all good researchers use to make sense of their empirical findings. Without a good grounding in Theory, ideas are harder to come by and creative questions less likely to be asked. Without Theory, in other words, sociology would be diminished.

The approach we will take in this course will be largely chronological. We'll begin with the major sociologists of the classical period, Marx, Weber, and Durkheim, and then shift our attention to theoretical developments in the United States during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will meet up with such figures as George Herbert Mead and other members of the Chicago School; Talcott Parsons, perhaps America's greatest sociologist; the irascible George C. Homans, developer of exchange theory; the German emigres to the U.S. who fashioned the neo-Marxist cultural ideas known as Critical Theory; and a number of important contemporary theorists, including Jürgen Habermas and Pierre Bourdieu, among others.

### Required Text

Laura D. Edles and Scott Appelrouth. 2005. Sociological Theory in the Classical Era: Text and Readings. Pine Forge Press.

### Other Required Readings.

See the list at the end of the syllabus.

### Getting Started

In order to get off on the right foot in this course, it is important that you complete each of the following tasks:

Explore the WebCT page set up for this course. This website will serve as the definitive source of information about the course. Please refer to its pages for the most up-to-date information, links to assignments, supplementary material, and much more.

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<sup>1</sup> University regulations require that I remind you that a course syllabus is a flexible document. According to our Vice President for Instruction, the syllabus "is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary."

Buy the course text. Sociological Theory in the Classical Era is available at the university bookstore but you might find a cheaper copy on amazon.com or another internet book store.

Get the Readings. All of the readings are available in paper and electronic format (e-reserve through GIL) either from the reserve desk in the main library or, in a few cases, from the internet. You are free to get the readings any way you wish, but please note that computer problems are not an excuse for not reading. If you are having trouble getting the readings in electronic format please go to the reserve desk where you can get a hard copy or contact one of your classmates who may already have printed out a copy. Since we won't be using any of these readings until a few weeks into the course, you have some time on this. The password for e-reserve is

### **Course Requirements.**

The most essential requirement for this course is to be in class every meeting prepared to discuss the issues raised by the required reading. My approach to our classroom sessions is to integrate lectures with discussion. I will present ideas and information that will introduce and supplement material covered in our texts but also material on subjects not covered in our required texts. It is essential that you come to class ready to take part in these discussions. Although I have not included class attendance and participation as a specific component of the overall grade, I should emphasize that I consider class attendance to be the single most important aspect of the student role. If your attendance is sporadic, your grade will suffer. Recognizing, however, that we all get sick now and again, you may occasionally need to miss a class. Knowing this, *I do not need to see excuses for class absences.*

### *Tests and Quizzes*

There will be two tests in this course, in addition to a final exam. The tests will include both short-answers and essay questions. The first test is tentatively scheduled for Monday, Sept. 18th and the second test for Wednesday, Oct.25th. Our final exam is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-6:30. Each test is worth 20% of the final course grade; the final exam counts 35% of the grade.

We will also have a series of six short reaction papers, each 300-500 words in length. Each paper is worth five points. The lowest grade will be dropped, making this writing portion of the grade worth 25 points in all.

### *Grades*

Final grades for the course are based on the following scale:

A = 93-100	C+ = 77-79
A- = 90-92	C = 73-76
B+ = 87-89	C- = 70-72
B = 83-86	D = 60-69
B- = 80-82	F = 59 and below.

### Miscellaneous Policies

1. Academic Honesty. All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. Everything you do in this class must be done within the letter and spirit of the UGA academic honesty policy. In particular, I expect everyone to abide by the student honor code (section 7 of the honesty policy). Cheating or assisting someone who cheats is serious; penalties are severe, and ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

2. Disabilities. If you have a disability and would like to request classroom accommodations, please see me after class or make an appointment during office hours.

3. Grievances. Any student who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner should follow the Department of Sociology grievance procedures, the first step of which is to discuss the matter with the professor.

#### 4. Classroom Behavior.

Please be in your seat prior to the start of class. More important, **if you come to class stay until the end**. It is distracting for everyone when individuals leave class while it is still in progress. Use common sense in this regard. If you become suddenly ill, by all means leave the room.

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices during class. This prohibition applies to laptop computers as well.

### Course Calendar

Tuesday	Thursday
Tues. Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup> <b>Welcome!</b> Course Overview.	Thurs. Jan. 10 <sup>th</sup> . <i>The Problems of Order and Action</i> . Reading: <u>Sociological Theory in the Classical Era</u> (STCE). Pp. 1-16.
Tues. Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup> . <i>Marx and Marxism</i> . Reading: STCE, pp. 17-39.	Thurs. Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> . <i>Marx's Writings</i> . Reading: STCE, pp. 40-49; pp.64-78.
Tues. Jan. 22 <sup>th</sup> . <i>Durkheim and Liberal Sociology</i> . Reading: STCE, pp. 79-105.	Thurs. Jan. 24 <sup>th</sup> . <i>Durkheim's Writings: Suicide; Religion</i> Reading: STCE, pp. 105-134.

<p>Tues. Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. <i>Max Weber and His Times</i>. Reading: STCE, pp. 135-147.</p>	<p>Thurs. Jan. 31<sup>th</sup>. <i>Weber's Writings: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i>. Reading: STCE, pp. 147-160.</p>
<p>Tues. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. <i>Weber's Writings: On Politics and Economics</i>. Reading: STCE, pp. 161-191.</p>	<p>Thurs. Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. Test #1.</p>
<p>Tues. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. <i>Georg Simmel and the Forms of Social Life</i>. Reading: STCE, pp. 241-251; pp. 262-275..</p>	<p>Thurs. Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. <i>Simmel's Writings and his Influence Today</i>: The Stranger (STCE, pp. 275-279) and J. Alexander's thoughts on "Rethinking strangeness"(GIL).</p>
<p>Tues. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>. <i>The Chicago School and Social Behaviorism</i>: George Herbert Mead. Reading: STCE, pp. 347-355.</p> <p><i>Mead's Writings: Mind, Self, and Society</i>. Reading: STCE, pp. 356-391.</p>	<p>Thurs. Feb. 21<sup>th</sup>. <i>Theorizing Gender Inequality</i>: Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Reading: STCE, pp. 193-240</p> <p><i>Theorizing Racism</i>: W.E.B. Du Bois. Reading: STCE, pp. 301-345.</p>
<p>Tues. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. <i>The Development of Symbolic Interactionism</i> Reading: Herbert Blumer. "Sociological Implications of the Thought of George Herbert Mead," <u>GIL</u></p>	<p>Thurs. Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>. <i>Further Development of S.I.</i>: Erving Goffman. Reading:</p>
<p>Tues. Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>. <i>The Rise of Talcott Parsons and Functionalism</i>. Reading: George Ritzer. 2007. "Structural functionalism." <u>GIL</u>.</p>	<p>Thurs. Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>. <i>The Rational Alternative</i>: George C. Homans and Exchange Theory.</p>
<p>Tues. Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>. Spring break.</p>	<p>Thurs. Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>. Spring break.</p>
<p>Tues. Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>. Exchange Theory (cont.) Reading: Richard Emerson. 1962. "Power-dependence relations." <u>GIL</u>.</p>	<p>Thurs. Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>. <b>Test Two</b>.</p>
<p>Tues. Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>. <i>Intellectual Descendants of Marx and Weber</i>: The Frankfurt School.</p>	<p>Thurs. Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>. <i>Critical Theory and the Culture Industry</i>. Readings: George Ritzer. 2007. "Critical theory and the emergence of the culture industry." Theodor W. Adorno. 1991. "Culture industry reconsidered."</p>

Tues. April 1 <sup>st</sup> . <i>Michel Foucault</i> Reading: Roberta Garner. 2004. "Michel Foucault (1926-1984); "The Body of the Condemned;" and "Panopticon."	Thurs. Apr. 3 <sup>rd</sup> . <i>Pierre Bourdieu</i> . Reading: Roberta Garner. 2004. "Pierre Bourdieu (1930 - 2002)" and "Sociology in question."
Tues. Apr. 8 <sup>th</sup> . <i>Postmodernism</i> Reading: Kurzman, et al. 2007. "Celebrity status."	Thurs. Apr. 10 <sup>th</sup> . <i>Feminist Theory</i> . Reading: Terry Lovell. "Feminisms of the second wave."
Tues. Apr. 15 <sup>th</sup> . <i>Globalization</i> Reading: Douglas Kellner. "Theorizing Globalization."	Thurs. Apr. 17 <sup>th</sup> . <i>Globalization of Consumption</i> . Reading: George Ritzer 2003. "Rethinking Globalization: Glocalization/ Grobalization and Something/Nothing."
Tues. Apr. 22 <sup>st</sup> . <i>Theorizing 9/11</i> . Reading: Collins, Randall. "Rituals of solidarity and security in the wake of terrorist attack."	Thurs. Apr. 24 <sup>rd</sup> Last class. <i>Theorizing 9/11</i> . Reading: Jeffrey C. Alexander (2004). "From the Depths of Despair: Performance and Counter- Performance on September 11th."
	Thurs. May 1 <sup>st</sup> Final Exam. 3:30 – 6:30.

### Other Required Readings

Andrew Abbott. 2007. "Against narrative: A preface to lyrical sociology." Sociological Theory. 25 (March): 67-99.

Theodor W. Adorno. 1991. "Culture industry reconsidered." Pp. 85-92 in J. M. Bernstein (ed.) The Culture Industry: Selected Essays on Mass Culture. London: Routledge.

Jeffrey C. Alexander (2004). "From the Depths of Despair: Performance and Counter-Performance on September 11th," Sociological Theory, 22 (1): 88-105.

Randall Collins. 2004. "Rituals of solidarity and security in the wake of terrorist attack." Sociological Theory. Vol. 22 (March 2004): 53-87.

Randall Collins. 1997. "A sociological guilt trip: Comment on Connell." American Journal of Sociology. 102 (May): 1558-1564.

R.W. Connell. 1997. "Why is classical theory classical." American Journal of Sociology. 102 (May): 1511-1557.

- Nick Crossley. 2005. "Sociology and the body." Pp. 442-456 in C. Calhoun, C. Rojek, and Bryan Turner (eds.) The Sage Handbook of Sociology. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Richard Emerson. 1962. "Power-dependence relations." American Sociological Review. 27 (1962): 31-40
- Roberta Garner. 2004. "Michel Foucault (1926-1984); "The Body of the Condemned;" and "Panopticon." Pp. 190-206 in Social Theory, Vol. II: Power and Identity in a Global Era. Broadview Press.
- Roberta Garner. 2004. "Pierre Bourdieu (1930 - )" and "Sociology in question." Pp. 132-141 in Social Theory, Vol. II: Power and Identity in a Global Era. Broadview Press.
- Steven Hitlin and Glen H. Elder, Jr. 2007. "Time, self, and the curiously abstract concept of agency." Sociological Theory. 25 (June): 170-191.
- Nedim Karakayali. 2006. "The uses of the stranger: Circulation, arbitration, secrecy, and dirt." Sociological Theory. 24 (Dec.): 312-330.
- Terry Lovell. "Feminisms of the second wave." Pp. 299-324 in The Blackwell Companion to Social Theory. Blackwell Publishers.
- Philip Manning. 2005. "An uncertain place: Freud in American sociology." Pp. 1-34 in Freud and American Sociology. Polity Press.
- Philip Manning. 2005. "Parsons' Freud: The convergence with symbolic interactionism.." Pp. 96-116 in Freud and American Sociology. Polity Press.
- John Levi Martin and Matt George. 2006. "Theories of sexual stratification: Toward an analytics of the sexual field and a theory of sexual capital." Sociological Theory. 24 (June): 107-132.
- Claus Offe. 2005. "Theodor W. Adorno: 'Culture Industry' and other views of the 'American Century'." Pp. 69-92 in Reflections on America. Polity Press.
- Fred C. Pampel. 2006. "Socioeconomic Distinction, Cultural Tastes, and Cigarette Smoking." Social Science Quarterly. 87 (March): 19-35.
- George Ritzer. 2007. "Critical theory and the emergence of the culture industry." Pp. 103-111 in Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). N.Y.: McGraw-Hill.
- George Ritzer 2003. "Rethinking Globalization: Glocalization/ Grobalization and Something/Nothing" Sociological Theory 21: 193-209

George Ritzer. 2007. "Structural functionalism." Pp. 64-85 in Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). N.Y.: McGraw-Hill.