

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology

Contemporary Sociological Theory

SOC 3390

3 Credit Hours

Spring 2007 - A01 (1st Term Intersession)

MTWThF - 10:45 – 12:45

VW Date – May 24, 2007

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Office Hours - by appointment or before class

Room 201 St. John's College

Contents and Purpose

This course is designed as a survey of contemporary sociological theorists and schools of thought. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the theories, concepts and writings of these theorists. The thread or focus of the course will be on the relation between the individual and society. We will start with a general discussion of theory and its origins and move through functionalism, interactionism, psychoanalysis, feminism, critical theory, structuralism, postmodernism, and risk analysis. Please note that since the class meets daily there will be significant pressure on students to keep up with the readings.

Texts

Required:

A. Harrington (ed.), *Modern Social Theory*, Oxford U.Press, 2005.

Recommended:

R. Stones (ed.) *Key Sociological Thinkers*, NYU Press, 1998.

P. Kivisto (ed.) *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*, Roxbury, 2003.

R.A. Wallace and A. Wolf, *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, Prentice Hall, 1999.

J. Faraganis (ed.), *Readings in Sociological Theory*, McGraw Hill, 2000.

R. Garner (ed.), *Social Theory*, Broadview Press, 2001.

G. Ritzer, *Contemporary Sociological Theory and its Classical Roots*, McGraw Hill, 2002.

C. Calhoun et al (eds.), *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, Blackwell, 2002.

A. Elliott (ed.), *The Blackwell Reader in Contemporary Social Theory*, Blackwell, 1999.

Course Requirements

The final grade in this course will be determined by the following evaluations:

Three Tests: (each worth 20%)	60%
Presentation	15%
Paper	20%
Participation	5%

Grade Distribution

A+	>90%	C+	66 – 70%
A	81 – 90%	C	61 - 65%
B+	76 – 80%	D	50 – 60%
B	71 – 75%	F	< 50%

Lectures

Lectures will form the basis of the course; these will be complemented with presentations on an assigned reading and a review of the concepts together with a discussion of possible test questions. Although attendance in this course is not mandatory it will be considered in your participation mark.

Tests

Each test will be in two parts and last for two hours. The first will test your knowledge of the concepts and the readings and the second will be a set of essay questions to test your understanding of the theories.

Presentations

Students are required to do an oral presentation to the class and lead a discussion on the assigned reading (these will be assigned during the second class). A written precis of this presentation is to be distributed to all members of the class.

Paper

Students are required to write a short five-page paper on a topic to be given out in class. These papers are due at the end of term (exact date to be decided at the start of the course) but can be handed in any time during the term. The essay question will be given out in the first week and due on the 29th of May.

Late papers will not be accepted.

All students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Examination: Personations' (pg 25) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (pg 26) found in the 2006-2007 Undergraduate Calendar.

OUTLINE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>
May 7	What is Theory?	Introduction
May 8	Functionalism	Chapter 4
May 9	Parsons	
May 10	Interpretation/Interactionism	Chapter 5
May 11	Goffman	
May 14	Test #1	
May 15	Western Marxism	Chapter 7
May 16	Habermas	
May 17	Psychoanalysis	Chapter 8
May 18	Feminism - Chodorow	
May 21	NO CLASS	
May 22	Test #2	
May 23	Structuralism/Post	Chapter 9
May 24	Foucault	
May 25	Structure/Agency	Chapter 10
May 18	Giddens	
May 29	Postmodernism	Chapter 12
May 30	Test #3	