

Chaminade University of Honolulu

Winter / 03

AN/SO 302 ~ Theory in the Behavioral Sciences

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Course Description ~

Social theory is an interdepartmental offering that investigates the everyday assumptions that shape our lives, and reflects in a systematic and critical manner on the ways in which social life is organized and, sometimes, transformed. The course will introduce you to the major nineteenth and twentieth century thinkers who shaped the development of social science theory. From such theorists, sociology and anthropology developed in response to the rapid social changes that accompanied colonial expansion, and the democratic and industrial revolutions which have shaped modern life. While both disciplines concern themselves with the scientific study of the origins and social relationships of human beings, anthropology has generally looked outside the parameters of Euro-American culture, sociology inside. However, recent globalizing influences have muddled the waters of these distinctions, and created increasingly hybridized societies. Likewise, issues have arisen to confront the social sciences, including corporate colonization and planetary ecological destruction that challenge conventional theories. We will therefore cover a wide range of perspectives on how the "logic" of these rapid and varied changes have worked themselves out in modern society, and what prescriptive methods are (and can be) offered.

Course Objectives:

- * To introduce students to the major players and the significant debates in the social sciences.
- * To foster the ability to read and interpret social theory texts.
- * To recognize and apply sociological and anthropological concepts and theories in understanding and analyzing human interactions, institutions, and daily life situations.
- * To recognize the work that sociologists and anthropologists do, how they do it, and why they do it.
- * To question the basic structures and beliefs of our own culture and society, and foster a non-ethnocentric view of the world.

Format

Class will include lectures on material related to the day's assignment.

Each student will be responsible for:

1. A weekly summary of assigned readings. This is designed to show that you have read the assignment, and to exercise your ability to synthesize information.
2. A research report on any social problem. This report is to come from the perspective of (you as) a social physician. It is to be diagnostic and prescriptive, and articulate your own model of cultural health and illness – supported by references to the sociological/anthropological literature. It will be from 6-8 pages in length, and the subject must be approved. A short summary of your paper will be presented the last day of class.
3. The completion of a mid-term and final exam. These will be sequential rather than cumulative.

Grading

The following evaluation criteria is suggested: exams (50%), research report (25%), weekly summaries (15%); class attendance and participation (10%). The scale: 90-100 @ A; 80-90 @ B; 70-79 @ C; 60-69 @ D; 59-0 @ F

The following requirements will be considered in the grading:

- mandatory attendance
- be courteous and professional in class discussions; i.e. take turns in speaking, allowing others to express their ideas without interruption, communicate with positive, constructive verbal and nonverbal language.
- show respect and an open mind to different ideas and opinions of class members.
- complete assignments on time.

Learning Outcome Assessment; All student's work will be evaluated for:

- knowledge of the reading material, class lectures, discussion, videos, and resources from research.
- ability to provide relevant examples to support viewpoints.
- ability to apply the knowledge to understand current issues in society.
- clarity and logical presentation.
- demonstration of having an understanding of the subject matter objectively and from opposing viewpoints.
- demonstration of achieving the objectives of this class.
- ability to analyze, critically review, and compare the issues cross-culturally.

Required Text

Collins, Randall, and Michael Makowsky

1997 *The Discovery of Society*. Sixth ed. McGraw- Hill, NY

Glassner, Barry

1999 *The Culture of Fear*. Basic Books, NY

Schedule***January 14***

Intro – evolution, traditional worldviews, modernism, postmodernism, theories, paradigms, crises, opportunities, and transitions

January 21

Prophets of Paris; The last Gentleman

January 28

Sociology in the Underground; Nietzsche's Madness

February 4

Do-Gooders, Evolutionists, and Racists; Dreyfus' Empire

February 11

Review . . .

Sigmund Freud

February 18

Exam I

Max Weber

February 19

Hitler's Shadow; Mills; Foucault

February 25

Culture of Fear

March 4

Culture of Fear

March 11

Research papers due; Class presentations

Exam II