



Karl Marx



Gloria Anzaldúa



W.E.B. Du Bois



Patricia Hill Collins



Max Weber



Dorothy Smith

Course description: This course explores the fundamental assumptions underlying classical sociological perspectives—such as those offered by the early founders of sociology, Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber—and works of contemporary social theorists, such as Gloria Anzaldúa and Patricia Hill Collins. In keeping with SFSU's theme, "Making a Difference in a Diverse Society: Leadership for a New Millennium," the course will emphasize how we can apply the insights of these pioneering thinkers to understanding and changing our social world.

Prerequisites: SOC 105, SOC 300, completion of GE Segment I requirements including ENG 214 or equivalent, passing JEPET or concurrent enrollment in ENG 414, and upper division standing.

Course Materials: The following required texts should be available for purchase in the university bookstore:

*George Ritzer, *Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots: The Basics*. McGraw Hill, 2003.

*Roberta Garner (ed.), *Social Theory: Continuity and Confrontation. A Reader*. Broadview Press, 2001.

Additional readings will be available on-line through **Blackboard**. *Please note that the instructor will be using **Blackboard** to provide information about assignments and schedule on line.*

Learning Objectives: This course is designed to help develop students'

*Appreciation for the discipline of sociology and its role in contributing to our understanding of social reality.

*Understanding of how core sociological concepts relate to the development of theories.

*Understanding of the historical context of the development of sociological theories.

*Knowledge of major classical and contemporary theoretical paradigms.

*Ability to apply and evaluate various theoretical paradigms to particular social phenomena.

*Ability to think critically about the social world.

*Ability to identify and think critically about one's own position and the position of others on social justice issues.

Assignments and Computation of Final Grade: You can earn a total of 100 points in this class, which are distributed as follows among the required assignments:

10 Quizzes @ 2.5 points	= 25 points
Mid-Term Exam	= 20 points
Final Exam	= 20 points
11 Electronic Journal entries @ 2.5 (only 10 entries with highest core counted)	= 25 points
Small group presentation on an assigned reading	= 10 points

Grading Scale*	93-100=A	77-79=C+	60-62=D-
	90-92=A-	73-76=C	<60=F
	87-89=B+	70-72=C-	
	83-86=B	67-69=D+	
	80-82=B-	63-66=D	

***Note regarding participation:** Active and thoughtful participation in class discussions is an important part of the learning experience for everyone in the class. Your participation will be taken into account in determining your final grade. Specifically, in cases where a student's grade is borderline between one letter grade and the next (e.g., a score of 79 is just short of a B-), the instructor may award the student the higher grade if that student has a strong record of participation in class discussions.

Attendance policy: While there is no official "penalty" for missing class, please be aware that it will be very difficult for you to do well in this course if you do not attend and participate regularly.

Make-up exams and quizzes: Make-up exams and quizzes will NOT be given unless the student has made timely arrangements with the professor prior to the date of the exam or quiz.

Late work policy: Unless the student has made timely prior arrangements with the professor to turn an assignment in after the due date, one point will be deducted from your score on that assignment for each day it is late.

Cheating and Plagiarism: *Cheating* is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term "cheating" not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include

any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. *Plagiarism* is a specific form of cheating. Plagiarism is defined in *The Sociology Student Writer's Manual* by W.A. Johnson, Jr., R.P. Rettig, G.M. Scott, and S.M. Garrison (Prentice Hall, 1998: p. 111) as "the using of someone else's words or ideas without giving that person credit." The authors go on to explain:

While some plagiarism is deliberate, produced by writers who understand that they are guilty of a kind of academic thievery, much of it is unconscious, committed by writers who are not aware of the varieties of plagiarism or who are careless in recording their borrowings from sources. Plagiarism includes:

- quoting directly without acknowledging the source.
- paraphrasing without acknowledging the source.
- constructing a paraphrase that closely resembles the original in language and syntax.

Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from 0 or F on a particular assignment, through an F for the course, to expulsion from the university. For more information on the University's policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the University Catalog ("Policies and Regulations").

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodation: The University is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodation to students with disabilities. The Disability Programs and Resources Center provides university academic support service and specialized assistance to students with disabilities. Individuals with physical, perceptual, or learning disabilities as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Services for Students with Disabilities for information regarding accommodations. Please notify your instructor so that reasonable efforts can be made to accommodate you. If you expect Accommodation through the Act, you must make a formal request through Disability Programs and Resource Center in SSB 110 (telephone 338-2472).

Syllabus is subject to change: This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you were absent.

Course Outline

I. Introduction to Theories of Society

W 8/24: Introduction to class

M 8/29-W 8/31: Theory: What and Why? (Lecture/discussion)

Required readings:

1. Gloria E. Anzaldúa, "now let us shift . . . the path of *conocimiento* . . . inner work, public acts" (excerpt, pp. 540-543 [*available on Blackboard*])
2. George Ritzer, "Preface" (pp. xi-xiv) and "Introduction" (pp. 1-12)
3. Roberta Gamer, "Reading Theory: A General Introduction" (pp. xiii-xv)

Quiz # 1: Wed. 8/31

Electronic Journal Entry # 1 due Wed. 8/31 (submit using Digital Drop Box on Blackboard)

M 9/5: Labor Day Holiday (no class)

II. Classical Grand Theories

W 9/7-M 9/12: Emile Durkheim (lecture/discussion)

Required readings:

1. Ritzer, pp. 13-19
2. Gamer, pp. 25-26, 64-87

Quiz # 2: Mon. 9/12

Electronic Journal Entry # 2 due Mon. 9/12 (submit on Blackboard)

W 9/14-W 9/21: Karl Marx (lecture/discussion)

Required readings:

1. Ritzer, pp. 20-26
2. Garner, pp. 27-63

Quiz # 3: Wed. 9/21

Electronic Journal Entry # 3 due Wed. 9/21 (submit on Blackboard)

M 9/26-M 10/3: Max Weber (lecture/discussion)

Required readings:

1. Ritzer, pp. 26-34
2. Garner, pp. 88-134

Quiz # 4: Mon. 10/3

Electronic Journal Entry # 4 due Mon. 10/3 (submit on Blackboard)

W 10/5-W 10/12: W.E.B. Du Bois, Georg Simmel, and Thorstein Veblen (lecture/discussion)

Required readings:

1. Garner, pp. 198-208
2. Ritzer, pp. 34-41
2. Garner, pp. 135-168

Quiz # 5: Wed. 10/12

Electronic Journal Entry # 5 due Wed. 10/12 (submit on Blackboard)

M 10/17: Mid-Term Exam

III. Classical Theories of Everyday Life

W 10/19-M 10/24: Social Action, Association, Behaviorism, Symbolic Interaction (lecture/discussion)

Required readings:

1. Ritzer, pp. 42-74
2. Garner, pp. 177-183

Quiz # 6: Mon. 10/24

Electronic Journal Entry # 6 due Wed. 10/24 (submit on Blackboard)

IV. Contemporary Theoretical Portraits of the Social World

W 10/26-W 11/2: Structural Functionalism and Conflict Theory (lecture/discussion)

Required readings:

1. Ritzer, pp. 75-113
2. Garner, pp. 307-330

Quiz # 7: Wed. 11/2

Electronic Journal Entry #7 due on Wed. 11/2 (submit on Blackboard)

V. Contemporary Grand Theories

M 11/7-M 11/14: Neo-Marxism, Modernity, and Globalization (lecture/discussion)

Required readings:

1. Ritzer, pp. 114-145
2. Garner, pp. 367-373, 384-390, 528-535, 558-572

Quiz # 8: Mon. 11/14

Electronic Journal Entry #8 due Mon. 11/14 (submit on Blackboard)

VI. Contemporary Feminist Theories

W 11/16-W 11/23: Gender Difference and Inequality in theories of the Micro-Social Order and in Integrated Theories (lecture/discussions)

Required readings:

1. Lengermann and Niebrugge in Ritzer, pp. 169-177, 197-202, 203-231
2. Garner, 473-485

Quiz # 9: Wed. 11/23

Electronic Journal Entry # 9 due Wed. 11/23 (submit on Blackboard)

VII. Postmodern Grand Theories

M 11/28-M 12/5: Postindustrial postmodernity (lecture/discussions)

Required readings:

1. Ritzer, pp. 232-268
2. Garner, pp. 432-449, 536-557

Quiz # 10: Mon. 12/5

Electronic Journal Entry #10 due Mon. 12/5

NOTE: WED. 11/30 IS ADVISING DAY (CLASS WILL NOT MEET)

W 12/7: Last class: concluding thoughts: revisiting Gloria Anzaldúa

Required reading:

1. Gloria E. Anzaldúa, "now let us shift . . . the path of conocimiento . . . inner work, public acts" (available on Blackboard—read entire essay)

Final Journal Entry # 11 (on Anzaldúa) due Friday 12/9 (submit on Blackboard)

M 12/12 **FINAL EXAM (1:30-4:00)**