SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCES
SPRING 2014

INSTRUCTOR: Peter Chua, Ph.D.
EMAIL: Use Canvas <Inbox> for all communication
OFFICE: Dudley Moorhead Hall (DHM) 223
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:15 a.m. & 4:30-5:45 p.m. and by appt.

SOCI 101-02
SOCIAL THEORY

CLASS MEETING: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11:45am, DMH 231
COURSE WEBSITE: https://sjsu.instructure.com
PREREQUISITE: SOCI 1 Introduction to Sociology and junior-level standing
CO-REQUISITE: SOCI 100w Writing Workshop
RECOMMENDATION: Completion of at least one other sociology courses to appreciate fully the issues and debates discussed in this course.

ACCESSING THE COURSE WEBSITE
The SJSU eCampus department operates the web-based “Canvas by Instructure” learning management software. This course uses Canvas as the course website to distribute reading materials, selected handouts and assignments, and other instructional materials and to submit short assignments.

Make sure you have an appropriate and dependable web browser and software settings for your computer to access and use Canvas. To familiarize yourself with the login process and security, go to http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/index.html.

To log-in, use:
- Your 9-digit SJSU ID number as the username.
- Your SJSUOne password as the password.

To reset your password, go to https://sjsuone.sjsu.edu/sjsuone/resetpassword/

Technical Support
Go to https://isupport.sjsu.edu/ecampus/ContentPages/Home.aspx. Contact me if you have course-specific questions.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This upper-division course provides an introduction to the major perspectives and debates in social and sociological theories.

We will examine the debates related to deterministic arguments related to biology, psychology, and culture, theoretical perspectives on social identities, power inequalities, social change, and social inquiries, and the varying use of these perspectives.

We will read, in their own words, some of the pathbreaking theorists who have shaped professional sociology. Thus this course offers you the opportunity to hone your skills in reading, analyzing, comparing, and critically evaluating major social theories. That is, we will be asked to develop your skills of critical analysis and self-expression by synthesizing and applying these thinkers’ ideas, and presenting clear written arguments about our social surroundings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Course Content Learning Outcomes (LOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

LO1: Understand—in a comparative manner—the major theoretical concepts and approaches in sociology, such as drawing from the legacies of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim

LO2: Discuss major themes and debates in sociologists and social theories and take particular stand on these debates

LO3: Relate theoretical positions with research questions and evidence

LO4: Deepen your recognition of how sociology differs from non-sociological inquiries

READINGS AND MATERIALS

Required Readings


- *Sociology 101: Social Theory Readings, Spring 2014*. Readings available at the Canvas site in PDF format for course participants.

Other Materials

- A dependable personal computer with capacity to access the Canvas site, library databases, and relevant websites.

- An office software suite with basic word-processing capacities as such Google Docs (available free at https://docs.google.com or https://drive.google.com), LibreOffice (available free at http://www.libreoffice.org), or Microsoft Office.

- Class handouts to be distributed during the semester.
PROMOTION OF CARING, ACCESSIBLE, ENRICHING AND MUTUALLY RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

My pedagogical values...

- I have high expectations for your performance in class and on assignments and for every student to be competent sociologists. I believe you can do the work, and I will coach you though the process. I demand a lot from you because I seek to develop you further academically and professionally.
- I think learning should be fun, exciting, and challenging.
- I am interested in your academic development and personal well-being.
- I think that learning and teaching are complex, endlessly fascinating collaborations.

As the instructor, I expect myself...

- To work hard to help you succeed in the course
- To be available if you need extra help
- To share my knowledge, training, and professional experiences and show how to make use of course content
- To model professional skills, ethics, and values
- To treat all students fairly, justly, and reasonable, particularly related to grading
- To provide meaningful feedback on your work
- To take lead in maintaining a positive, challenging learning environment

As students, you are expected...

- To be motivated and have a positive attitude to learn the course materials
- To commit a reasonable amount of effort to complete the readings and assignments, persevere, and have fun in learning the materials and to grow from mistakes
- **To be prepared and participate verbally** every class session. This means that you are familiar with the assigned readings and are able to raise thoughtful questions that encourage an interactive-learning and student-centered discussion. We will seek to improve your participation skills during this course. The prerequisite for such active participation is attendance.
- **To complete required readings and assignments on time** — that is, **before coming to class**. Written work should be proofread and edited. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. There will substantial loss of credit for late work. Do NOT email them to me. Do NOT turn them in to the general sociology office; this is a College of Social Sciences policy. Do NOT submit them in my office.
- To be responsible in your learning and conduct yourself professionally by:
  - Attending class regularly. If you missed class, talk with your peers to learn what happened and get notes. After talking to classmates, if you have additional questions, talk with me in person.
  - Not disrupting the learning environment and the learning by your peers
- To contribute in maintaining a positive, respectful, and challenging learning environment and ensure a thoughtful and respectful engagement with the subject matter
- To cooperate and collaborate with your peers in teams, in class, and outside of class
- **To practice academic integrity and owned your intellectual work.**

Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating violates university regulation. It will not be tolerated. Do give proper acknowledge to ideas, facts, and arguments that you did not initially construct or demonstrate. This applies to in-class discussions
and all written work. Notwithstanding this warning, you are strongly encouraged to
discuss the class readings with students in or out of class, but acknowledge the ideas
you received from others regardless of how casually you come to such ideas.

- To prevent class disruption and student inattentiveness resulting from the personal
  use of cell phones, smart phones, laptop computers, and other mobile communication
devices during the class. Please leave the classroom to send and read text messages
and make personal phone calls.
- To use laptop computers during class for note-taking and other class-related
  work only. Those using computers during class for work not related to that class must
  leave the classroom.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation Principles

Your final grade derives from multiple methods of evaluation and several opportunities
for practice, improvement, and learning with on meaningful feedback. Evaluation is fair
and just, reflecting your effort and learning based on clear directions and criteria.

Assignments

The satisfactory completion of the following requirements determines your overall grade:

20%  Active participation & analytical creativity during reading discussion and in-class activities
25%  Skill-practice assignments
30%  Two in-class exams (15% each)
15%  Final report, due May 13
10%  Report presentation, starting May 1

Active class participation: Required readings and in-class activities provide introductory
insights and important details on social theorists and their theories. Take good notes
on your questions. Please bring your questions and the readings to class so we can
discuss them closely. If you do not understand specific readings, I urge you strongly to
meet with me in my office so we can discuss them more thoroughly. Quizzes on the
readings will assess your preparation and understanding on the assigned readings. Mini-
lectures focus on substantive materials and analysis and expand on the materials
introduce in the readings. The lectures relate to but not necessarily cover every important
aspects of the readings. Make sure not to form improper habits of passive listening,
passive notetaking, and regurgitation.

Evaluation of class participation and analytical creativity based on the following criteria:
raising open-ended questions you based on the readings, your attention to details in the
readings, your ability to synthesize discussions, and your overall contribution to the
discussion. Factors that aid in your participation include completing the assigned work
before class, arriving to class on time and staying for the whole time, paying attention,
and actively and respectively listening to the discussion. Factors that may limit your full
participation include digital and mobile distractions (checking your phone, messages,
emails, or online websites), reading any materials not related to the discussion, and not
staying awake. You will not earn any credit related to participation if you miss ten class
sessions.
Skill-practice assignments: You are expected to complete several short skill-practice assignments. The assignments ask you to apply and synthesize the assigned readings and aim to deepen your grasp of theoretical positions and debates. Your lowest grade will be dropped. Directions will be provided during the semester.

In-class exams: The exams, which consists of short-answer and essay questions, evaluate your understanding of theoretical concepts, approaches, and applications.

Final report and presentation: The final essay and presentation expand on issues raised in the readings and mini-lectures and allow for the sharpening of your analytical, speaking, and argumentative abilities. You will be asked to write an eight-page argumentative essay. Learning to write well can be developed only through persistence and hard work. In addition to my specific suggestions and encouragement, there are university resources available to help you foster these skills. Details given later will address the specific organization and content for the assignment.

Grading Criteria (Adapted from Dr. Susan Murray)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100</td>
<td>An “A” demonstrates originality, addresses the tasks effectively and uniquely, shows effective organization and logical argumentation, uses clear, appropriate and accurate examples and a high level of writing competence and knowledge. Completes the task and consistently does extra work that is self-initiated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-97</td>
<td>A “B” may show a good level of competence and may even reflect exactly what was discussed in class and texts, but does not contribute original knowledge. It shows uneven development of tasks. It may be generally well organized, uses appropriate examples, displays facility, with a few gaps in argumentation, and demonstrates a good level of writing and knowledge. Completes the task as assigned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A “C” may show a fair level of competence, but may be uneven. It addresses the task adequately, but only with parts of the task. It is adequately organized and may occasionally use examples. Argumentation may be inconsistent and writing and knowledge competence may be unclear. Language may be inappropriately informal in parts of assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
<td>A “D” demonstrates poor competence with inadequate organization, task, and argumentation language and inappropriate examples. It displays difficulty in using adequate academic language and errors in knowledge will be in evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
<td>F 59 &amp; below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>A failure only occurs if no effort is made to address academic performance problems.</td>
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</table>

Request For An “Incomplete” Grade

To receive an incomplete for the course, you must inform the instructor in person seven-days before the last day of instruction. A grade of incomplete will only be considered for students who are (a) passing the course with a C or better, (b) present a legitimate, non-academic reason to the instructor, and (c) have only one major assignment left to finish.
UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Student Workload Expectation Policy

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.” (SJSU Policy S12-3)

Dropping and Adding Policy

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, and so on. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Academic Integrity Policy

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Note: Your written work in this course may be evaluated for plagiarism using Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service contracted by SJSU.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/drc/ to establish a record of their disability.
CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the first floor of Clark Hall and on the second floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/.

The SJSU Library and Our Library Liaison

The library provides online tutorials on using the library and academic integrity (see http://library.sjsu.edu/online-tutorials/). To get online access to library databases, see http://library.sjsu.edu/get-library-card/my-library-account-pin-management. Kathryn Blackmer Reyes (Kathryn.BlackmerReyes@sjsu.edu), the Library Liaison to sociology, is available by appointment and for consultation.
**SOCI 101 SPRING 2014 SCHEDULE**

This is the tentative schedule, subject to change with fair notice through in-class announcements. Short readings are posted on the Canvas site.

1: JANUARY 23, COURSE INTRODUCTION

2: JANUARY 28, SOCIOLOGY versus BIOLOGICAL DETERMINISM

READ BEFORE CLASS:


3: JANUARY 30, APPLYING THEORIES: SOCIOLOGY versus BIOLOGICAL DETERMINISM

READ BEFORE CLASS:


4: FEBRUARY 4, SOCIOLOGY versus BEHAVIORAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGIES

READ BEFORE CLASS:


5: FEBRUARY 6, APPLYING THEORIES: SOCIOLOGY versus BEHAVIORAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGIES

READ BEFORE CLASS:

6: FEBRUARY 11, SOCIOLOGY versus CULTURAL DETERMINISM

READ BEFORE CLASS:


OPTIONALLY READ FOR CLASS:


7: FEBRUARY 13: APPLYING THEORIES: SOCIOLOGY versus CULTURAL DETERMINISM

READ BEFORE CLASS:

Chandler, Daniel. 1995. “Technological or Media Determinism.” [Canvas]


OPTIONALLY READ FOR CLASS:


8: FEBRUARY 18, SOCIAL IDENTITY THEORIES

READ BEFORE CLASS:


OPTIONALLY READ FOR CLASS:


Durkheim, Emile. 1897 [1951]. “Suicide.” [Canvas]

9: FEBRUARY 20, SOCIAL IDENTITY THEORIES (con’t)

READ BEFORE CLASS:


10: FEBRUARY 25, SOCIAL IDENTITY THEORIES (con’t)

READ BEFORE CLASS:


11: FEBRUARY 27, SOCIAL IDENTITY THEORIES (con’t)

READ BEFORE CLASS:


Marx, Karl (with Friedrich Engels). 1844-1859. “Selected Key Marx’s Concepts.” [Canvas]


12: MARCH 4, APPLICATIONS: SOCIAL IDENTITY THEORIES

READ BEFORE CLASS:


13: MARCH 6, REVIEW

REVIEW BEFORE CLASS:


14: MARCH 11, MID-TERM EXAM

15: MARCH 13, INEQUALITY AND POWER

READ BEFORE CLASS:


16: MARCH 18, INEQUALITY AND POWER (con’t)
READ BEFORE CLASS:

17: MARCH 20, INEQUALITY AND POWER (con’t)
READ BEFORE CLASS:
    New York: National Committee to Defend Negro Leadership. [Canvas]

18: APRIL 1, INEQUALITY AND POWER (con’t)
READ BEFORE CLASS:

OPTIONAL READINGS FOR YOUR REFERENCE:

19: APRIL 3, SOCIAL CHANGE

20: APRIL 8, SOCIAL CHANGE (con’t)
READ BEFORE CLASS:
    Marx. "Historical Materialism” [Canvas]

21: APRIL 10, SOCIAL CHANGE (con’t)
READ BEFORE CLASS:

OPTIONAL READINGS FOR YOUR REFERENCE:
    London: Contiuum International Publishing. [Canvas]
22: APRIL 15, SOCIAL CHANGE (con’t)

READ BEFORE CLASS:


OPTIONAL READINGS FOR YOUR REFERENCE:


23: APRIL 17, SOCIAL CHANGE (con’t)

READ BEFORE CLASS:


24: APRIL 22, SOCIAL CHANGE (con’t)

READ BEFORE CLASS:


25: APRIL 24, METHODS AND PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIOLOGY

READ BEFORE CLASS:


Durkheim, Emile. “What is a Social Fact?” [Canvas]

26: APRIL 29, METHODS AND PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIOLOGY (con’t)

READ BEFORE CLASS:

Smith, Dorothy. 1974. “Knowing a Society From Within: A Women’s Standpoint.” [Canvas]

27: MAY 1, PRESENTATIONS

28: MAY 6, PRESENTATIONS

29: MAY 8, CLOSING REMARKS

READ BEFORE CLASS:

Miles, Sheila. "How to Present Your Sociological Education to the Labor Market" [Canvas]

Hammond, Osbourne & Patel. “Viewpoints from Three Sociology Graduates” [Canvas]

Freeland, Kay. “A Sociology Graduate in Employment” [Canvas]

White, Tracia Lain. “Being a Sociologist Employed in Public Agencies” [Canvas]

30: MAY 13, REVIEW

ASSIGNMENT DUE:

Final Report

MAY 16 (Friday, 9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.), FINAL EXAM
Fires, Earthquakes and Other Disasters

- Call 9-1-1 or use a blue light telephone to summon University Police assistance for any campus police, fire, or medical emergencies. Give your name, the nature of the emergency, and your specific location. Stay on the line until the University Police Dispatcher tells you to hang up.
- Use extinguishers for minor fires. If a fire appears uncontrollable, close all room doors to confine the fire, pull the building fire alarm lever, evacuate the area or building, and then call 9-1-1.
- Remain calm during an earthquake. “Duck, cover and hold” under a desk or table, or stand in a doorway or against an interior wall. Wait at least two minutes after shaking stops before leaving a building. Move to a clear area well away from structures or overhead hazards such as trees or power lines.
- Help disabled persons evacuate the building. Follow instructions of Building Emergency Team members and University Police. Do not use elevators.
- Tune to radio station KSJS 90.5 FM for campus information. A campus information line will be set up as soon as possible after a major emergency -- call 924-SJSU (924-7578) for instructions, information, and updates.

Medical Emergencies

- Call 9-1-1. Give your name, the nature of the emergency, and your specific location. Tell the University Police Dispatcher what assistance you need (ambulance, paramedics, etc.).
- Assist the victim until help arrives. If you, or someone in the area, are trained in CPR, perform CPR if necessary. Stop bleeding with direct pressure to the wound. Do not move a victim unless his or her life is in immediate danger. Do not leave victims unattended. Be careful about contaminating yourself and others if hazardous materials may be involved.
- For minor first aid, report in person to the Student Health Center weekdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. or call University Police at 924-2222.

Building Evacuation

- Leave by the nearest safe exit when you hear the building emergency alarm (fire alarm), or if you are told to do so by University Police or a Building Emergency Team member.
- Take keys, books, wallets, prescription medicines and important personal belongings with you in case you cannot re-enter immediately. Move at least 150 feet away from all structures. Do not smoke.
- Use the stairs. Do not use elevators--in case of fire or earthquake, many elevators stop in place and you may be trapped or exposed to deadly smoke.
- Re-enter a building only after University Police or Building Emergency Team members tell you that it is safe to do so.

POLICE - FIRE - MEDICAL EMERGENCY
DIAL
9 – 1 – 1

For further information visit the University Police Web site at:
http://www.sjsu.edu/police/