San José State University
Department of Sociology
SOC 101, Social Theory, Fall 2016

Instructor: Preston Rudy, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10:20-11, Mon/Wed 20:45 -21:15, and by appointment
Class Days/Time: Wednesdays 18:00 – 20:45
Classroom: Hugh Gillis Hall 122
Prerequisites: SOCI 1 and SOCI 100W

Course Description

Catalog Description: Comparative analysis of micro and macro sociological theories and their origins, including, but not limited to, conflict theories, consensus theories, structural functionalism, symbolic interaction and recent theoretical developments. Required for majors.

Professor Rudy’s course: In this course we will study the development of sociological explanations about the social world. We will begin with a brief discussion of the European the discovery of the “social” as a result of the cataclysmic changes brought on by Western Europe’s colonial expansion, the growth of its cities and the Industrial Revolution. This period is notable for sociologists because of the important concepts and theories about the modern world developed by Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, and Max Weber. Following these three major theorists we will examine the developments of sociological theory in the United States, and in Europe, as new questions, problems and issues unfolded in the emerging debates that came out of these early analyses. As we begin to read theorists from the twentieth-century we will notice how the discipline of sociology divides up into a variety of important issues and explanations, no longer centrally concerned with capitalism and the development of grand theories.

In completing this course you will be asked to read short excerpts from these theorists, which will require dedicated reading time on your part. To fully appreciate, develop enthusiasm, and participate in the discussion you must complete the reading before class and have thought about what you read. Much of this work is abstract and we will do our best to use these theories to explain contemporary issues such as inequality of wealth and opportunity, immigration and globalization, race and gender, city life, crime and deviance, and popular culture. The success of the course will depend on your willingness to contribute to this discussion and to make these theories meaningful in your daily lives. As you read you should be thinking about how each one of these theories might help you understand and explain a particular issue or topic that is significant in your life. If you complete the reading and written assignments and participate in the discussion, this will be one of your most exciting classes which will transform how you think about yourself and society.
Textbook

Assignments and Grading Policy
To achieve an above average grade, you will need at a minimum to read all the assignments, attend class and take good notes, review your notes and the readings after lecture, participate in class discussion, and write clear and well-organized reflections and exams. I expect that you will do all the work necessary during this semester to complete this course with a grade you feel accurately reflects your capacities. If you are having any difficulties you are responsible for seeing me during my office hours to keep me informed about your progress and any difficulties you encounter. Your final grade is **FINAL** and I will not allow any additional work or revisions to change it.

As a three-credit course, you should expect to spend six hours each week outside of class reading, writing, discussing and thinking.

**ORAL PARTICIPATION & PRESENTATION — 16%**
**REFLECTION PAPERS & WRITING — 15%**
A minimum of two 2-page papers that are reflection on the theory readings.
Due dates 5 October, 9 November, and 7 December.
Everyone must turn in a paper on 5 October.

**THREE IN-CLASS ESSAY EXAMS — 23% each**

**GRADE SCALE:**
A+ ≥ 97 <100    B+  ≥ 87 < 90    C+  ≥ 77 < 80    D+  ≥ 67 < 70
A   ≥ 93 < 97          B   ≥ 83 < 87    C   ≥ 73 < 77    D   ≥ 63 < 67
A- ≥ 90 < 93  B-   ≥ 80 < 83    C-   ≥ 70 < 73    D-   ≥ 60 < 63

**SCHEDULE**
24 August — Introduction to social theory
31 Aug. and 7 Sept. — Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
14 Sept. and 21 Sept. — Emile Durkheim and Robert Merton
**21 Sept. — In-Class Exam**
28 Sept. and 5 Oct. — Max Weber and George Ritzer
12 Oct. — G.H. Mead and Patricia & Peter Adler
26 Oct. — Chicago School of Sociology
**26 Oct. — In-Class Exam**
2 Nov. — Antonio Gramsci and Jean Anyon
9 Nov. — C. Wright Mills and Howard Becker
16 Nov. — Michel Foucault
30 Nov. — Theories of Race: Frantz Fanon and Michael Omi & Howard Winant
7 Dec. — Gender Theories: Dorothy Smith, John D’Emilio
**14 December — Final Exam**