San José State University
Sociology Department
SOC101-80 (Online) Social Theory Spring 2019

Instructor: Mitra Rokni
Office Location: DMH 222
Telephone: 408-924-5788
Email: mitra.rokni@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:00
Class Days/Time: Online (Read FULL Instructions in Canvas)
Classroom: Canvas
Prerequisites: SOCI 1 (or equivalent) and upper division standing.
Pre/corequisite: SOCI 100W

Faculty Web Page
Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus and additional Resources (articles, videos, and educational links) can be found on my faculty web page accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page (http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mitra.rokni/).

Course Description
Comparative analysis of micro and macro sociological theories and their origins, including conflict theories, consensus theories, structural functionalism, symbolic interaction, critical theory, post-structuralism, post-modernism, feminist theories, and recent theoretical development in globalization.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)
This course covers the influence of Enlightenment Era on classical social theorists and the importance of reason, science, capitalism, modernity, and 18th century revolutions on 19th and 20th century social thought. It will explore the basic assumptions of major sociological paradigms; structuralism, functionalism, interpretive, and radical humanism, about science, society, and human nature. The course starts with classical theorists such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, Georg Simmel, and W. E. B. Du Bois. It further explores major social theorists of conflict, consensus, symbolic interactionism, critical theory, post-structuralism, post-modernism, feminist theories, and globalization.

Course Requirements and Assignments
“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities... Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”
Required Texts/Readings:

Additional Resources/Links are available at my Webpage (under Courses).

Assignments and Grading Policy:
Weekly Discussions/Participation (56% of the Final Grade). Students must participate at least 2 separate days a week in this class. Students must respond to a minimum of 2 students’ posts each week and follow up on questions I ask for further clarification and/or enhancement of class dialogue. Responses to weekly Discussion Questions (DQs) must be a minimum of 300 words and reflect the weekly assigned readings in our Textbook and additional sources provided. All Responses to original DQs must reflect a balance between quotations and/or paraphrasing with proper in-text citations (Author, p. #) and your own voice and thought on materials covered. You must support your arguments and claims by using scholarly sources, utilizing sociological concepts and insights you are learning. It is crucial to go beyond what we already know, as experience and/or common sense knowledge, and develop a critical understanding of social issues, based on facts and evidence, at the structural and institutional levels within their historical contexts. The goal is to stimulate critical thinking by making rational arguments and asking relevant questions in order to enhance an ongoing dialogue in our virtual classroom.

Additional INSTRUCTIONS are Posted and Updated under Announcements in Canvas.

Midterm Exam (22% of the Final Grade)
Research Paper Topic (2% of the Final Grade)

1. Select a topic (narrow it to something manageable for our time frame)
2. Pose your research question(s)
3. Explain the importance of your research
4. Explain which theory/perspective(s) will be applied
5. Working thesis
6. List 3 scholarly books relevant to your research topic and question(s) in addition to 2 peer-reviewed articles.

Research Paper (20% of the Final Grade): The Research Paper will be 10 pages (not counting the cover and reference pages). The Final Paper must demonstrate research skills, an understanding of the subject matter under study, critical thinking, and scholarly analysis of the problematic under study. You must apply at least one theory to your subject matter (how would the chosen theory approach, analyze, and find solution(s) to the problematic in your research?). You must follow a recognized format (APA or ASA). The Research Paper must be based on at least 3 books (in addition to our textbooks) and 2 articles. All sources must be scholarly, peer-reviewed articles, and reliable websites for academic research.

Determination of Grades:
Weekly Discussions/Participation: 56% of the Final Grade.
Midterm Exam: 22% of the Final Grade.
Final Research Paper & Topic: 2% of the Final Grade.

Late Policy: Weekly Discussions and missed Participations will each lose 1 point (out of 4) for each day of the week. Late Exam and Paper will lose 5 points for each late day (up to set deadline).

Class Protocol: Classroom is our shared educational space for learning, understanding, discussing, and responding to one another as both students and teachers. To disregard the importance of an active engagement in this learning process could create an atmosphere of apathy, silence, and disrespect to the very spirit of educational process. It is crucial for students to take an active role in enhancing and creating an atmosphere of learning and civil dialogue on the most pressing issues of our time. Keep in mind, at all times, that you are here to develop an independent mind, learn the practical skills, and develop a sense of social responsibility towards others and individual responsibility for self-development.
University Policies: You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student
Course Requirements and Assignments
Accommodation to Students’ Religious Holidays
Dropping and Adding
Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material
Academic integrity
Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act
Student Technology Resources
SJSU Peer Connections
SJSU Writing Center
SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

1. “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
2. It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
3. In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
4. “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity
Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf 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/.

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) to establish a record of their disability.
**Student Technology Resources**
Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; 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 is 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.

**SJSU Counseling Services**
The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.

**SJSU CAMPUS EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:** See http://www.sjsu.edu/emergency/
POLICE - FIRE – MEDICAL EMERGENCY DIAL 9 – 1 – 1
For further information visit the University Police Web site at: http://www.sjsu.edu/police/
# Course Information

**Mitra Rokni**  
**Social Theory (SOC101-80 Online)**  
**Spring 2019**

**Email:** mitra.rokni@sjsu.edu  
**Office Hours:** DMH 222 (MW 1:30-3:00)

**Webpage:** [http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mitra.rokni/](http://www.sjsu.edu/people/mitra.rokni/)

*The schedule is subject to change with fair notice via regular classroom session and/or email.*

## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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| WK 1 | Jan   | Inventing the Lens  
C. Wright Mills/Sociological Imagination |
| WK 2 | Feb   | Karl Marx/Historical Materialism/Capitalism/Fetishism/Alienation/Religion  
G & H pp. 33-58  
Legacy of Karl Marx & Frederick Engels  
Stanley Aronowitz/William DeFazio/David Harvey/Neoliberalism |
| WK 3 | Mar   | Emile Durkheim/Social Facts/Division of Labor  
Religion/Moral Values/Anomie  
Legacy of Emile Durkheim/Jeffrey Alexander/Power of Symbols |
| WK 4 | Apr   | Max Weber/Verstehen/Ideal Types/Rationalization/Religion  
Capitalism/Bureaucracy and Iron Cage  
Legacy of Max Weber/Theda Skocpol/George Ritzer |
| WK 5 | May   | Georg Simmel/Social Interaction/Metropolis  
Symbolic Interactionism/George Herbert Mead/Erving Goffman |
|      |       | G & H pp. 123-144  
G & H pp. 173-181/339-363 |
| WK 6 |       | W.E.B. Du Bois/The Souls of Black Folk  
William Julius Wilson/Institutional Segregation & Joblessness |
| WK 7 |       | Frantz Fanon/Edward Said/ Colonial Divide /Orientalism  
Stuart Hall/Ideology/Production of Culture/Politics of Representation |
| WK 8 |       | Michel Foucault/Post Structuralism/Power/Control/Governmentality  
Panopticon Observation/State Surveillance  
Jurgen Habermas/Communicative Action/Legitimation Crisis |
|      |       | G & H pp. 365-388  
Lecture Notes  
G & H pp. 544-554 |

### Midterm Exams Due

- **WK 9**  
  Antonio Gramsci /Cultural Hegemony  
  Chantal Mouffe/Agonistic Politics & Multipolar Global Democracy  
  Lecture Notes

- **WK 10**  
  The Frankfurt School/Critical Theory/Herbert Marcuse/Theodore Adorno/Max Horkheimer  
  One Dimensional Man/Culture Industry  
  G & H pp. 235-248/311-318

- **WK 11**  
  Pierre Bourdieu/Habitus/Cultural Capital/Symbolic Violence  
  G & H pp. 389-418

- **WK 12**  
  Global Perspectives/Immanuel Wallerstein/Arjun Appadurai/Saskia Sassen/Nestor Garcia Canclini  
  Globalization/ Negri & Hradt/Manuel Castells/Empire/Multitude Network Society  
  Lecture Notes

- **WK 13**  
  Feminist Theories & Contributions to Equality/Liberal Feminism  
  Radical Feminism/Catherine MacKinnon/Andrea Dworkin  
  Lorber pp. 1-50  
  Lorber pp. 127-150

- **WK 14**  
  Standpoint/Multiracial-Multiethnic/Transnational Feminism  
  Patricia Hill Collins/Gloria Anzaldua/Chandra Talpade Mohanty  
  Psychoanalytic Feminism/Nancy Chodorow  
  Lorber pp. 183-202/231-252/90-122  
  G & H pp. 485-494/502-510  
  Lorber pp. 168-182

- **WK 15**  
  Postmodern Feminism  
  Queer Theory/Judith Butler/Performativity  
  Lorber & G & H pp. 284-303  
  Lorber & G & H pp. 494-502/517-526

### Research Papers Due

- **May 17**  
  Research Papers Due