

Sociology 3101

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 578-1140

Sociological Theory

Course Description:

An examination of important founders of sociological theory: Herbert Spencer, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, WEB Du Bois, several early women sociologists, Georg Simmel, and George Herbert Mead. We will concentrate on their substantive analyses regarding the emergence of the modern world: the growth of industrialism, post-industrialism, and capitalism, the emergence of democracy and the modern nation state, and the new forms of social relations and value systems under these conditions. Our approach will be historical and comparative, relating the theories to concrete developments rather than only the history of social thought or philosophy. Certain methodological issues will also be discussed regarding theory construction and the nature of a sociological account.

LSU Description:

SOCL 3101 Sociological Theory (3). Prereq.: SOCL 2001 or equivalent. Open to sociology majors; open to others with permission of instructor. Dominant theorists and schools of thought in sociology.

Required Reading

- *Primary text:* George Ritzer and Jeffrey Stepnisky, Classical Sociological Theory, Eighth Edition, 2020, SAGE Publications, ISBN: 9781544354828
- *Secondary text:* Lewis A. Coser, Masters of Sociological Thought, Ideas in Historical and Social Context, Second Edition (Long Grove, IL, 1977) ISBN 978-1-57766-307-2 or 1-57766-307-1.
- *Suggested:* Randall Collins, Four Sociological Traditions, Rev edition (Oxford University Press, 1994), ISBN 9780195082081 or 978-0195082081.

Course Requirements:

Knowledge of class lectures, readings, 4 exams to be held in the classroom, and occasional unannounced attendance quizzes. There will be no "final exam" during finals week. You will be responsible for following all lectures, all readings, and assigned materials on the course web site, <http://www.rickweil.com/s3101/>, including any updates. The exams will be based primarily on my in-class lectures, with a much smaller percentage (maybe ca. one quarter) on

the readings. Grades will be based on the 4 exams, as shown on the class schedule below, with five percent from the average of the attendance quizzes. There may also be opportunities for extra credit work, which will be announced by email. I usually add points to all students' grades, but this is not guaranteed. This is not a curve; the same number of points are added to all student grades.

Class lecture notes are available on the class website: both my lectures (more important) and lecture notes from the textbook publisher (much less important). The most important thing you can do to get a good grade is to attend the lectures.

Updates to the syllabus and/or scheduling information will be posted on the class website: <http://www.rickweil.com/s3101/>. Students are responsible for staying informed of that information.

Grades can optionally be posted on the class website by the last six digits of your student number, but *only* if you give me permission to do so. If you want your grades posted on the class website by the last six digits of your student number, please send me an email stating, "Please post my grades on the class website by the last six digits of my student number." Grades will not be posted on Moodle, because I can't make the grade adjustments (noted above) there, and grades on Moodle would not be accurate.

Normal university-approved excuses will be accepted, work can be made up, and the instructor is happy to help students understand material they missed. Any disability accommodations will be handled according to guidelines established by the Office of Disabilities. In addition to the formal disability notifications, the instructor and the Graduate Assistant can help work with you according to your needs. If you miss a class, lecture notes are available on the class website, you can come to office hours, and you can request a meeting with the instructor or the Graduate Assistant.

In the spring semester of 2024, Covid-19 remains a factor in society. If you have needs or concerns due to Covid-19, please contact the instructor or the Graduate Assistant, and we will do our best to work with you, within University regulations, to help you safely complete the work of the class.

Scheduled office hours will be posted on the class webpage or the class Moodle page. The instructor and the Graduate Assistant will each hold office hours. If you want to speak with the instructor or the Graduate Assistant and can't meet during scheduled office hours, email and we will find a time to meet.

Grade Scale:

There will be four exams, as noted on the class schedule below, and as possibly updated on the online schedule at <https://fweil.com/s3101/s3101scheduleSpring24.htm>, plus unannounced attendance quizzes. Students are responsible for keeping up with the class schedule and any updates. Your grade will be an average of the exams at any given point, and up to five percent of your grade will also come from your average on unannounced attendance quizzes. There may also be opportunities for extra credit work, which will be announced by email. The grade scale is as follows:

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 & below	F

Note: A higher grade begins at the exact number. For instance, an A is 93.00 to 96.99, and an A- is 90.00 to 92.99.

Standard LSU Statements (as of 1/13/2024):

See <https://www.lsu.edu/academicaffairs/syllabus-statements/index.php>

Expectations

LSU's general policy states that for each credit hour, you (the student) should plan to spend at least two hours working on course related activities outside of class. Since this course is for three credit hours, you should expect to spend a minimum of six hours outside of class each week working on assignments for this course. [Visit the LSU Catalog](#) for more information regarding general information for courses.

LSU Student Code of Conduct

The LSU student code of conduct explains student rights and what is expected of student behavior. Students are expected to understand this code as described on the [Code of Conduct page](#). Any violations of the LSU student code will be duly reported to the Dean of Students.

Disabilities

Each course syllabus should contain a statement reflecting compliance with The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Section 504. This link contains four example statements: [Sample Syllabus Statements](#)

Academic Success

The primary ingredients of your academic success are attending class, managing your time efficiently, taking good notes, and developing good critical thinking and communication abilities. LSU has a number of excellent resources that will assist you in developing these skills. The place to begin is the [Center for Academic Success \(CAS\)](#). The CAS offers guidance on what learning strategies are best suited to your talents, tutoring in the basic subjects, and workshops on a variety of topics, from note taking to time management. [Communication Across the Curriculum](#) assist students in developing the

communication skills necessary for academic and professional success. Finally, with respect to professional success, the [LSU Olinde Career Center](#) can assist you in choosing a major and a profession that best suits your talents and passions and help you develop a four year career plan to ensure success when you graduate from LSU.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Statement

We believe diversity, equity, and inclusion enrich the educational experience of our students, faculty, and staff, and are necessary to prepare all people to thrive personally and professionally in a global society. Therefore, LSU is firmly committed to an environment that affords respect to all members of our community. We will work to eliminate barriers that any members of our community experience.

To make LSU a place where that can happen, we must recognize and reflect on the inglorious aspects of our history. We now acknowledge the need to confront the ways racism, sexism, ableism, ageism, classism, LGBTQ+ phobia, intolerance based on religion or on national origin, and all forms of bias and exploitation have shaped our everyday lives.

We accept personal and professional responsibility to eliminate bias and oppression wherever they are found. We understand our obligation to speak up when we see bias whether it be in our teaching, study, or daily work. Our community will educate themselves proactively and continuously about how to intervene and bring bias to the attention of others with commitment and compassion.

We will hold ourselves accountable for our actions and inactions, and for maintaining intentional, measurable, and meaningful efforts to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion, including through ongoing evaluation of our policies, practices, and procedures.

Nondiscrimination, Sexual Harassment, & Title IX

LSU provides equal opportunity for all qualified persons in admission to, participation in, or employment in the programs and activities which the university operates without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran's status. LSU has implemented a procedure to address complaints for those who believe they have been subjected to discrimination and/or harassment in violation of this policy. Please know that your instructors are here to support you and listen to your experience. We also want you to know that we are mandatory reporters and must report what we know to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. All LSU employees, with few exceptions, are required to report instances of sex- or gender-based harassment and discrimination, including sexual misconduct and power-based violence (e.g., sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual exploitation, retaliation, etc.) for which they may not be the victim, but of which they are aware. The Office of Civil Rights & Title IX is the LSU office responsible for investigating complaints regarding any type of discrimination, sexual harassment, or power-based violence. The Office of Civil Rights & Title IX is located in 118 Himes Hall and the phone number is 225-578-9000. If you are aware of an individual who has been victimized, you are encouraged to contact the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX or file an online report by visiting [LSU's Title IX](#) website and clicking the [Report an Incident](#) box. If you have been assaulted, harassed, or a victim of violence, we encourage you to contact the Office of Civil Rights & Title IX. Please reach out for help immediately. Some excellent resources available to Baton Rouge residents include:

- STAR (Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response; 24/7 hotline: 855-435-STAR (7827))
- IRIS Domestic Violence Center; 24/7 hotline: 800-541-9706
- The Lighthouse Program; 225-578-5718
- VIA LINK; 800-273-TALK (8255) [national line but answered from New Orleans]

National resources include:

- RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network); 24/7 hotline: 800-656-4673
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center

For additional information, visit www.lsu.edu/civil-rights the [Office of Civil Rights & Title IX](#) and review [PM-73](#) (Prohibiting Power-based Violence, including Sex- and Gender-based Harassment and Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct).

Sociology 3101: Sociological Theory

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

"Weeks" on this page are approximate. See next page for dates.
See <https://fweil.com/s3101/s3101scheduleSpring24.htm> for updates.

- Week 1. The Early Years of Theory. Read chapter 1 in Ritzer/Stepnisky. *Suggested:* Collins.
- Week 2. The Later Years of Theory. Read chapter 2 in Ritzer/Stepnisky. *Suggested:* Collins.
- Week 3. Herbert Spencer. Read chapters on Spencer in Ritzer/Stepnisky, and in Coser.
- Week 4. Karl Marx. Read chapters on Marx in Ritzer/Stepnisky, and in Coser.
- Week 5. Karl Marx. Read chapters on Marx in Ritzer/Stepnisky, and in Coser.
- Week 6. Max Weber. Read chapters on Weber in Ritzer/Stepnisky, and in Coser.
- Week 7. Max Weber. Read chapters on Weber in Ritzer/Stepnisky, and in Coser.
- Week 8. Max Weber. Read chapters on Weber in Ritzer/Stepnisky, and in Coser.
- Week 9. Emile Durkheim. Read chapters on Durkheim in Ritzer/Stepnisky, and in Coser.
- Week 10. WEB Du Bois. Read chapter on Du Bois in Ritzer/Stepnisky.
- Week 11. Early Women Sociologists. Read chapter on Early Women Sociologists in Ritzer/Stepnisky.
- Week 12. Georg Simmel. Read chapters on Simmel in Ritzer/Stepnisky, and in Coser.
- Week 13. George Herbert Mead. Read chapters on Mead in Ritzer/Stepnisky, and in Coser.

Sociology 3101 - Class & Exam Schedule - Spring '24

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
16-Jan No class (ML King Day)	17-Jan Class Introduction	19-Jan Introductory Lectures
22-Jan Introductory Lectures	24-Jan Introductory Lectures	26-Jan No Class
29-Jan No Class	31-Jan Introductory Lectures	2-Feb Introductory Lectures
5-Feb Introductory Lectures	7-Feb Discussion	9-Feb Exam 1
12-Feb Mardi Gras	14-Feb Mardi Gras	16-Feb Herbert Spencer
19-Feb Herbert Spencer	21-Feb Karl Marx	23-Feb Karl Marx
26-Feb Karl Marx	28-Feb Karl Marx	1-Mar Discussion
4-Mar Exam 2	6-Mar Max Weber	8-Mar Max Weber
11-Mar Spring Break	13-Mar Spring Break	15-Mar Spring Break
18-Mar Max Weber	20-Mar Max Weber	22-Mar Max Weber
25-Mar Max Weber	27-Mar Emile Durkheim	29-Mar Holiday
1-Apr Emile Durkheim	3-Apr Emile Durkheim	5-Apr Discussion
8-Apr Exam 3	10-Apr Du Bois	12-Apr Du Bois
15-Apr Women Sociologists	17-Apr Women Sociologists	19-Apr Georg Simmel
22-Apr Georg Simmel	24-Apr George Herbert Mead	26-Apr George Herbert Mead
29-Apr Discussion	1-May Exam 4	3-May (Flex time for make-ups)