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SBCS 342A  
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**Required textbook:**  

**Course Objectives:**  
The objectives of this course are to present an overview of classical and contemporary sociological theory in the historical context of its development, illustrate the links between theory and research, and foster a critical understanding of society. This means developing the ability to approach the social world in a deeper and more systematic way, using empirical evidence and logical assumptions in order to answer questions of sociological interest.

**Learning Outcomes:**  
By the end of this course, students should be able:  
1. To acquire an in-depth understanding of the major sociological theories and theorists.  
2. To be able to communicate the theory/methodology relationship.  
3. To further develop the ability to apply sociological theories to everyday life occurrences.  
4. To develop the ability to critically analyze the various sociological theory perspectives and construct your own social theory.

**Course Requirements:**  
1. This is a fully online course which means that 100% of the course content delivered online. The course is available via Blackboard. It means that students are required to be familiar with Blackboard prior to taking this course. Students are required to have access to features of the course contained within a Blackboard platform.  
2. All students are encouraged to use Discussion Board and Chat for interpersonal communication and collaboration. Communication amongst peers is crucial and extremely beneficial in conceptualizing the issues being addressed. Also keep in mind that communication should be conducted in a professional, academic manner. Reactions that do not reflect quality, critical and well thought out analysis will not receive credit. Please remember that this is an academic, professional learning environment and your participation should reflect such standards. Discussion etiquette should replicate that found within the traditional classroom environment. Please provide respect for your peers by offering articulate responses based in critical analysis.
Grading
Tests (six; each = 10%) 60 % 90-100 A
Final Exam 40 % 80-89 B
  70-79 C
  60-69 D
  <60 F

Grading Scale

Schedule (subject to change)

Week  Topic
(Chapter)
1-2  Introduction; Karl Marx; Test 1 is due (covers chapters 1-2)
3  Émile Durkheim
4  Max Weber; Test 2 is due (covers chapters 3-4)
5  Charlotte Perkins Gilman
6  Georg Simmel
7  W. E. B. Du Bois
8  George Herbert Mead; Test 3 is due (covers chapters 5-8)
9  Structural Functionalism
10  Critical Theory
11  Exchange and Rational Choice Theories; Test 4 is due (covers chapters 9-11)
12  Symbolic Interactionism and Dramaturgy
13  Phenomenology
14  Feminist and Gender Theories; Test 5 is due (covers chapters 12-14)
15  Poststructural and Postmodern Theories
16  Contemporary Theoretical Syntheses
17  The Global Society; Test 6 is due (covers chapters 15-17)
18  FINAL EXAM

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at http://my.utrgv.edu at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for Spring 2018 include:

January 16  First day of classes
January 19  Last day to add a course or register for spring 2019
March 12 – 17  SPRING BREAK – NO classes
March 30 – 31  EASTER HOLIDAY – NO classes
April 12  Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
May 2  Last day of classes
May 3  Study Day – NO class
May 4 – 10  Spring 2018 Final Exams
May 11 - 12  Commencement Ceremonies
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD: Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

Spring 2018 (full semester) April 11 – May 2

Important Notes:

- Only Faculty can see students’ written comments and responses to optional questions.
- Students may customize their course evaluations until the evaluation window opens, after which point no changes can be made.
- Evaluations from any student who completed an evaluation and then dropped the course will be swept from the system and enrollment numbers adjusted after the drop deadline.
- Evaluations may NOT be reset in any circumstance. Individual student surveys cannot be traced.

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic
Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, AND VIOLENCE:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:** According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.