SOCIAL THEORY (SOCI 4333-01)
SUMMER I 2019

Instructor: Dr. Salvatore Restifo
Email: salvatore.restifo@utrgv.edu
Office: ELABN 333

Class Time: MTWRF 9:40AM – 11:10AM
Classroom: ELABS 249
Office Hours: MTWRF 11:15AM – Noon
(And By Appointment)

Course Overview
The primary purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to both classical and contemporary sociological theory. As a social science discipline committed to the scientific study of societies, sociology is centrally focused on the organization of societies, the interrelations among various groups and institutions across societies, and the nature of social change. Sociological theories offer us explanations of how varying relationships, circumstances, and forces shape our daily lives and our social world. Thus, theory provides us with a framework for social analysis.

But theories often conflict and theorists often disagree. It would therefore be quite unusual for us to agree with every tenet of every theory. Indeed, theories are meant to be critiqued, analyzed, and revised in light of the realities of the world we live in. The topics covered in this course should therefore stimulate your critical thinking and encourage healthy academic debate. In addition, you should walk away from this course with sharper discussion and writing skills which will benefit you in both your academic and professional career development.

Course Learning Objectives
1. Identify and describe core theoretical arguments, concepts, and contributions of both classical and contemporary theorists.
2. Develop an understanding (and an ability to convey that understanding) of the connection between theory and analytic approach in social scientific inquiry.
3. Evaluate and critique major assumptions, merits, and utility of theoretical arguments and frameworks.
4. Identify, apply, and critically evaluate how key concepts and theoretical frameworks (both classical and contemporary) lend insight into understanding the realities of modern society and social life.
5. Develop critical thinking, discussion, and writing skills to effectively interpret, apply, evaluate, and critique various concepts and theoretical frameworks covered.

Required Materials
- During parts of this course I will assign supplemental readings not included in the textbook. These readings will be Posted on Blackboard.
Degree Requirements Filled
This course fills a core requirement for Sociology majors/minors and Criminal Justice majors.

Learning Objectives Earning a B.A. in Sociology
1. Demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts and sociological perspectives.
2. Understand basic procedures of sociological research and demonstrate ability to analyze sociological data.
3. Apply sociological perspectives and methodology to community service and research projects.

Course Evaluation/Requirements
In this course students are evaluated on their comprehension of the course material and their ability to convey that knowledge to me in the format outlined below. While I understand that students may desire or need a certain grade in this course, students must realize that the grade earned is a product of their own cumulative effort and understanding of course material. Grades are not given by instructors, they are earned by students.

Course evaluation will be based on the following components:
Class Participation: 10%
Quizzes: 15%
Documentary Analysis: 20%
Midterm Examination: 25%
Final Examination: 30%

Final Letter Grade
90% and above: A
80-89%: B
70-79%: C
60-69%: D
Less than 60%: F

Class Participation: This course involves both lecture and discussion. While a portion of each class period will be devoted to lecture, class discussions will be critical to developing a deeper understanding of course material. At times we will also have in-class exercises/assignments. This format allows us to more fully engage the readings, providing a forum for asking questions as well as intellectual exchange. Regular class attendance and reading the assigned material prior to class is therefore crucial for fulfillment of this portion of the course grade. I also expect respectful class discussion and behavior. Disrespectful or threatening behavior towards others in this class will not be tolerated.
In addition, it is your responsibility to come to class; it is not my responsibility to make sure that you attend. Should you miss a class, be aware that you should obtain any missed notes from a fellow student as I do not provide copies of my lecture notes—no exceptions. Obtaining lecture materials is always the student’s responsibility. To facilitate getting to know some of your classmates, please introduce yourself to at least two people sitting near you and exchange phone numbers or email addresses.

Classmate 1: __________________________________

Classmate 2: __________________________________

Documentary Analysis: Students will engage in and complete a multifaceted writing module based on a documentary film viewed in Week 3 (format: double-space; 1-inch margins; 12 point font; Times New Roman). In particular, students will apply multiple theoretical concepts addressed in this course to interpret and better understand the various dynamics depicted in the documentary. (Further details and instruction concerning specific concepts and assignment goals will be provided.) The analysis is due at the beginning of class Tuesday, July 2. Late assignments will be penalized 50% and will not be accepted if more than 2 days late. Assignments not turned in at the beginning of class July 2 are 1 day late. There are some exceptions to this rule, as in the case of medical emergencies. In such instances I will require documentation. (Assignments must have all pages stapled together when turned in.)

Quizzes: Six pop quizzes will be given this term. Quiz questions will be based on the reading assignment for the particular class period in which the quiz is given. A majority of quizzes will be comprised of in-depth short answer questions. No makeup quizzes will be given for this course. However, your lowest quiz score will be dropped and only your five highest quiz scores will count toward your final grade. Therefore, if you miss a class period when a quiz is given, the zero that you receive for that one quiz will be dropped. Again, the score for only one quiz—the lowest—will be dropped.

Midterm and Final Exams: Two exams will be given this term, a midterm and a final. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. Both exams will be based on course readings, discussions, and class lectures. These exams will be used to assess your understanding of the fundamental concepts and theories addressed in this course. The midterm will cover material from the first half of the course, while the final exam will be comprehensive but largely focused on material from the latter half of the course. Makeup exams will not be given except in the case of emergencies. Should an emergency arise and necessitate a make-up exam, I will require documentation.
**Additional Course Information**

*Extra credit:* NO extra credit option will be given for this course.

**Records:** You are expected to retain all graded assignments that are returned to you for your records. I will retain all other graded assignments for one year. If you have concerns about your grade, please make them known to me before that time so that they can be resolved.

**Classroom Civility:** Please be on time to class and refrain from packing up or leaving early. Both behaviors are distracting to me and to the rest of the class. If you arrive late, please come in as quietly as possible and sit near the door. And if you *must* leave early, please inform me in advance and sit next to the door to minimize distraction. In addition, make sure to turn off all cell phones when you enter the classroom and put them away. Any student text messaging during class will be asked to leave. Lastly, use of laptops to take notes is permitted. However, should it become a distraction I will not allow the continued use of laptops for anyone during class time.

**University Policies and Student Services**

*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.

*Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations:* Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Student Accessibility 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: July 1–July 8, 2018 for Summer I.
**Academic/Scholastic Dishonesty:** As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in academic/scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Academic/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; or the attempt to commit such acts. Given that academic/scholastic dishonesty harms the individual as well as the integrity of the University, policies on academic/scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). Ignorance of these rules, regulations, and guidelines is never considered an “excuse” for engaging in academic/scholastic dishonesty. **All academic/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, 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 that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at 665-8287, 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

**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.

**Sources for Additional Student Assistance**

**Learning Center**  
Main Office: Learning Assistance Center (ELCTR), 100  
Web site: [http://www.utrgv.edu/tutoring/](http://www.utrgv.edu/tutoring/)  
Phone: 956-665-2585

**Writing Center**  
Main Office: Student Academic Center (ESTAC), 3.119  
Phone: 956-665-2538
## Tentative Course Schedule

Note: I may occasionally change the syllabus as circumstances warrant.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>WEEK 2</th>
<th>WEEK 3</th>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
<th>FINAL EXAM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(M) June 3</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Introduction (pg. 1-21)</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Weber (pg. 139-165)</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Simmel (pg. 262-276)</td>
<td>Chapter 15: Butler (pg. 752-759); Supplemental Reading: Posted on Blackboard (Butler)</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Habermas (pg. 447-459)</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong> Tuesday, July 9, 9:55 AM – 11:40 AM, ELABS 249</td>
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<td>(T) June 4</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Durkheim (pg. 83-107; 121-137)</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Weber (pg. 175-199); Supplemental Reading: Posted on Blackboard (Ritzer)</td>
<td>Midterm Review</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Coleman (pg. 484; 513-531)</td>
<td>Chapter 16: Wallerstein (pg. 761-787) <strong>DOCUMENTARY ANALYSIS DUE</strong></td>
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<td>(W) June 5</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Durkheim (pg. 108-121); Chapter 2: Marx (pg. 24-37; 56-69)</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Du Bois (pg. 277-311)</td>
<td>Documentary Film</td>
<td>Chapter 14: Bourdieu (pg. 664-687)</td>
<td>CATCH-UP DAY</td>
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<td>(F) June 7</td>
<td>Supplemental Reading: Posted on Blackboard (Davis &amp; Moore; Walsh &amp; Zacharias)</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Perkins Gilman (continued); Chapter 6: Simmel (pg. 239-262)</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Hill Collins (pg. 469-481); Supplemental Reading: Posted on Blackboard (Hill Collins)</td>
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<td>Final Exam Review</td>
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<td>READ ASSIGNED MATERIAL PRIOR TO CLASS!!</td>
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