Instructor: Dr. Igor Ryabov  
ELABN 335  
Office Phone: 665-7874  
E-mail: igor.ryabov@utrgv.edu


Course Description per the Graduate Catalog: Examination of selected classical and contemporary sociological theories. The catalog description is available via ASSIST.

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. Discussion etiquette should replicate that found within the traditional classroom environment. Please provide respect for your peers by offering articulate responses based on critical analysis.  
3. The final grade is the sum of the grades for 6 tests which are based on the textbook, and the final exam (see the grading policy below).  
4. Failure to submit a test by the due date will result in a zero grade (unless you have been granted permission by me prior to the test or have documented evidence of a family emergency or illness).  
6. There will be no opportunities to earn extra credit, and no make-up tests. Nevertheless, consistently high test scores will reflect positively on your final grade for the course.
### Grading Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grade is Composed of:</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests (six; each = 10%)</td>
<td>A 90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>B 80-89</td>
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<td>C 70-79</td>
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<td>D 60-69</td>
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<td>F &lt;60</td>
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### Schedule (subject to change)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction; Karl Marx; Test 1 is due (covers chapters 1-2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Émile Durkheim; Max Weber; Test 2 is due (covers chapters 3-4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Charlotte Perkins Gilman; Georg Simmel; W.E.B. Du Bois, George Herbert Mead; Test 3 is due (covers chapters 5-8)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Structural Functionalism; Critical Theory; Exchange and Rational Choice Theories; Test 4 is due (covers chapters 9-11)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Symbolic Interactionism and Dramaturgy; Phenomenology; Feminist and Gender Theories; Test 5 is due (covers chapters 12-14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Poststructural and Postmodern Theories; Contemporary Theoretical Syntheses; The Global Society; Test 6 is due (covers chapters 15-17); Final Exam</td>
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### UTRGV Policies:

**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.

**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 (including self-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 that is 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.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- **Learning center:** BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- **Writing center:** BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- **Advising center:** BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- **Career center:** BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)