Sociology 4053
Sociological Theory
Fall 2002

Instructor: Dr. Laurel Holland
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Office: Pafford 232

T/T: 2:00-3:15
CRN: 80734
Classroom: Pafford 105

Office Hours: M/W: 11:00-2:00; T/R: 11:00-12:00; 4:00-5:00; Other times by appointment.
Phone: 770-836-4586
E-Mail: lholland@westga.edu

Required Texts:
Adams, Bert N. & Sydie, R.A. Sociological Theory.

Kivisto, Peter. Illuminating Social Life: Classical and Contemporary Theory Revisited. (2nd ed.).

Course Description: This course examines the contributions of major classical and contemporary sociological theorists and theoretical perspectives. Special emphasis is given to applying their ideas to the analysis of current social issues and encouraging students to develop their own theoretical position. Course focuses on selected classical and contemporary thinkers but introduces current perspectives and developments.

Learning Outcomes

1. To become familiar with the major classical and contemporary sociological theories and theorists.
2. To appreciate the role of theory in social science.
3. To develop the ability to apply sociological theories to everyday life occurrences.
4. To develop the ability to construct your own social theory.

Exams
There will be two exams throughout the semester, a mid-term and a final. Exams will cover
readings, lecture material, and classroom discussion. The exam format will be short answer and essay. Each exam will be worth 100 possible points. The average exam scores will account for 40% of your overall grade. Bring a large blue book to class on exam days. Note: Make-up exams will only be given in the case of a verifiable emergency.

**In-Class Discussions**
Each member of the class will be assigned to a group for class discussion of the Kivisto “Illuminating Social Life” readings. Individual members of the group will receive a separate grade based on participation and preparedness. Presentation times and details of expectations will be discussed in class. In-class discussions will be worth 100 possible points and will account for 20% of your overall grade.

**Timed Writings**
Throughout the semester there will be several unannounced timed writings. Students are expected to be able to discuss the assigned readings during this exercise. Each writing will be worth 100 possible points and the average of the writings will account for 15% of your overall grade.

**Papers/Class Presentations**
Each student is required to read one original work from either a classical, modern, or postmodern theorist. An 8-10 page report on the reading is due Thursday, Nov. 20th. The report should be typed in 12 pt. Times, double-spaced, with 1” margins. The report should include a biography of the author, a review of the theoretical perspective that frames the writing, and the major axioms of the writing. During the last week of the semester each student will present their report to the class. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes. Papers will account for 25% of your overall grade. The report of the paper will account for 5% of your overall grade.

*Note: Papers that are one day late will be deducted one letter grade. Papers that are more than one day late will not be accepted.

**Overall Class Evaluation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (average of 2 exams)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Discussions</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timed Writings</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Report</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class regularly and be on time.

**Academic Alert:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

**Tentative Schedule Date**

**Topic**
Week One
Introduction/What is Sociological Theory?
(Aug. 20 & 22)
The Theory-Research Relationship.
The Political, Social, and Philosophical Backdrop of Classical Theory.

Readings:

Week Two
Comte and Spencer
(Aug. 27 & 29)

Readings
Adams. Chapter Two: “Theorizing After the Revolution: Saint-Simon, Comte”
(Pps.32-46).

Week Three
Marx
(Sept. 3 & 5) In-Class Discussion #1 (Kivisto, Chapter 1)

Readings

Week Four
Durkheim
(Sept. 10 & 12) In-Class Discussion #2 (Kivisto, Chapter 3)

Readings
Kivisto. Reading # 3: “Surfing the Net for Community: A Durkheimian Analysis of Electronic Gatherings.” (Pps. 63-103).

Week Five
Weber
(Sept. 17 & 19) In-Class Discussion #3 (Kivisto, Chapter 2)

Readings
(Pps.169-195).

Week Six
Simmel
(Sept. 24 & 26) In-Class Discussion #4 (Kivisto, Chapter 4)

Readings
Adams. Chapter Eight: “The Sociology of Form and Content: Simmel” (Pps.197-
Kivisto. Reading # 1: “Alcohol-Related Windows on Simmel’s Social World.” (pp. 7-32).

**Week Seven**
(Oct. 1) Other Voices in the Development of Sociology (Martineau, Perkins Gilman, Addams, DuBois)
(Oct. 3) Mid-Term

**Readings**

**Week Eight**
(Oct. 8 & 10) Introduction to Contemporary Theory. Functionalism (Parsons, Merton, Neofunctionalism)

**Readings**

**Week Nine**
(Oct. 15 & 17) In-Class Discussion #5 (Kivisto, Chapter 7) Conflict & Critical Theory (Mills, Habermas)

**Readings**

**Week Ten**
(Oct. 22 & 24) In-Class Discussion #6 (Kivisto, Chapter 10) Symbolic Interactionism (Cooley, Mead, Blumer, Goffman)

**Readings**

**Week Eleven**
(Oct. 29 & 31) Phenomenology & Ethnomethodolgy

**Readings**
Week Twelve  Developments Since the 1960s  
(Nov. 5 & 7)  Post-Structuralism & Postmodernism (Foucault, Derrida, Baudrillard)

Readings

Week Thirteen  Feminist Theory  
(Nov. 12 & 14)

Readings

Week Fourteen  
(Nov. 19)  In-Class Discussion #7 (Kivisto, Chapter 6)
(Nov. 21)  Undergraduate Presentations

Week Fifteen  
(Nov. 26)  Undergraduate Presentations
(Nov. 27)  No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Week Sixteen  
(Dec. 3)  Graduate Presentations

Final Exam  Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 2:00-4:00

POST SCRIPT: The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the syllabus.