Sociology 5053  
Sociological Theory  
Fall 2002

Instructor: Dr. Laurel Holland  
E-Mail: lholland@westga.edu  
Office: Pafford 232

T/T: 2:00-3:15  
CRN: 80755  
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.).

Farganis, James. Readings in Social Theory. (3rd 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 acquire an in-depth understanding of the major classical and contemporary 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 you own social theory.

Course Requirements  
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. Graduate students will be required to answer one additional discussion question. 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 undergraduate student 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. As graduate students you will be expected to guide the groups in understanding the reading and organizing the presentations. Your participation and effectiveness in leading the in-class discussions will account for 20% of your overall grade.

**Timed Writings**
Throughout the semester there will be unannounced timed writings. Graduate students should be prepared to discuss the Farganis 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 graduate student is required to read two original works which can be compared and contrasted and produce a 10-15 page report which is due on the last day of class (Thursday, Dec. 4th). 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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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (average of 2 exams)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Report</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></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**

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Aug. 19 &amp; 21)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction/What is Sociological Theory?</td>
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<td>The Theory-Research Relationship.</td>
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The Political, Social, and Philosophical Backdrop of Classical Theory.

Readings:

Week Two
(Aug. 26 & 28)
Comte and Spencer

Readings

Week Three
(Sept. 2 & 4)
Marx

Readings

Week Four
(Sept. 9 & 11)
Durkheim

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

Week Five
(Sept. 16 & 18)
Weber

Readings
Week Six
(Sept. 23 & 25)
In-Class Discussion #4 (Kivisto, Chapter 4)

Readings
Kivisto. Reading # 1: “Alcohol-Related Windows on Simmel’s Social World.” (pp. 7-32).

Week Seven
(Sept. 30)
Other Voices in the Development of Sociology
(Martineau, Perkins Gilman, Addams, DuBois)
(Oct. 2)
Mid-Term

Readings

Week Eight
(Oct. 7 & 9)
Introduction to Contemporary Theory.
Functionalism (Parsons, Merton, Neofunctionalism)

Readings
(Pps.345-366).

Week Nine
(Oct. 14 & 16)
Conflict & Critical Theory (Mills, Habermas)
In-Class Discussion #5 (Kivisto, Chapter 7)

Readings
Kivisto. Reading # 5: ‘Critical Theory, Legitimation Crisis, and the Deindustrialization of Flint, Michigan.”’ (pp. 151-174).
**Week Ten**  
Symbolic Interactionism (Cooley, Mead, Blumer, Goffman)  
(Oct. 21 & 23) λ  
In-Class Discussion #6 (Kivisto, Chapter 10)  

**Readings**  

**Week Eleven**  
Phenomenology & Ethnomethodology  
(Oct. 28 & 30)  

**Readings**  

**Week Twelve** Developments Since the 1960s  
(Rev. 4 & 6) Post-Structuralism & Postmodernism (Focault, Derrida, Baudrillard)  

**Readings**  

**Week Thirteen** Feminist Theory  
(Rev. 11 & 13)  

**Readings**  

**Week Fourteen**  
(Rev. 18) λ  
In-Class Discussion #7 (Kivisto, Chapter 6)  
(Rev. 20) Undergraduate Presentations
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Fifteen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Nov. 25)</td>
<td>Undergraduate Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Nov. 27)</td>
<td><strong>No Class (Thanksgiving Break)</strong></td>
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<th>Week Sixteen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Dec. 2)</td>
<td>Undergraduate Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Dec. 4)</td>
<td>Graduate Presentations</td>
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**Final Exam**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 2:00-4:00**

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