**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING**

**SOC 3900**

**Sociological Theory, 3 CREDIT HOURS**

**100% Online**

**Spring 2020**

**Dr. Karen Straight**

**Email:** [kstraigh@uwyo.edu](mailto:kstraigh@uwyo.edu)

**Phone:** 406-201-1224

**Office hours:** Monday and Wednesday 9 – 10:30 am MST remote and by arrangement.

**Course prerequisites, co-requisites, enrollment restrictions**: 9 credit hours of sociology, including SOC 1000.

**Course Description**:

Examines the emergence and development of sociological theory in the writings of thinkers such as Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. Explores continuities and discontinuities between the classical period of sociological theory and contemporary schools such as functionalism, conflict theory, neo-Marxian theories, feminist theory, ethnomethodology, symbolic interactionism, phenomenology, and rational choice/exchange theory.

**Student Learning Outcomes**:

Students will:

* Identify and explain major perspectives in sociology.
* Apply sociological theories to understand modern day social phenomena.
* Evaluate the social context in which theory emerges.
* Compare and contrast central tenets of sociological theory.
* Critically evaluate major perspectives in terms of strengths, weaknesses, and applicability to modern life.

**Required texts:**

## Ritzer, George and Stepnisky, Jeffrey. 2018. Sociological Theory (10th edition). Thousand Oaks: Sage.

## General requirements and expectations for the course:

**Your grade will be determined through completion of the following assignments:**

**Eleven Short Assignments/Discussions (10 at 20 points each, 1 at 10 points) 210**

**Test One 100**

**Test Two 100**

**Test Three 100**

**Total 510**

The university grading system will be applied to determine your grade:

A: 90 – 100%

B: 80 – 89.99%

C: 70 – 79.99%

D: 60 – 69.99%

F: 59.99% and below

**Group Discussion:**

Participation in discussion is a critical aspect of this class. Through group discussion we will learn a great deal about others, ourselves, and different ways to perceive the world around us. When you are caught off guard by another person’s insight or perspective on an issue, you are forced to examine your own opinions, assumptions, and values. This is invaluable to the learning process. Give our discussions time and attention. Demonstrate a willingness to hear others’ ideas, play with new ideas, and show respect across our differences and similarities. If you do, you will come away from this course with new and worthwhile knowledge. ***Unless otherwise indicated***, ***you will post responses to the discussion assignment topic on the Wednesday of the week assigned (unless otherwise indicated) and reply to two other posts by Sunday of that week unless otherwise indicated in the assignment directions.*** Because the point of the discussions is to encourage interaction, late responses will NOT receive points. I will look for definite qualities in evaluating your work.  Some expectations include the following:

1. The development of independent thinking.

2.  Utilization and specific references to course materials.

3. A willingness to play with new ideas — yours and others.

4. The development of competence at learning from others and integrating those ideas which challenge, support or simply stimulate your thinking into your work.

5. The writing of a well-formulated response.  Be deliberate and reflective in your use of language.

6. The exploration of complicated ideas, even if you find you cannot come to a neat and easy conclusion.

7. The development of competence in writing that summarizes, analyzes and argues.

**Exams:**

We will have three exams during the course of the term. Exams will be available during a set period of time. Once you enter the exam, you must complete it within the time period indicated. All assignments are individual assignments. Any unauthorized collaboration is a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy. The exams will be composed of multiple choice and/or short essay questions.

**Late Work Policy:** Assignments are due by the date indicated in the syllabus.

**Classroom Behavior Policy:** We form a learning community. Your behavior contributes to the learning experience of your peers. Give our course materials and assignments your full attention. Stay on top of due dates and participate on time in a manner that contributes to our learning community. Keep in mind that discussion is an opportunity to reflect more deeply on course materials and learn from your peers through an exchange of ideas. While critical evaluation of course materials and key debates is required, behavior that negatively impacts the learning environment of your peers will not be tolerated. As the instructor, I have the right to dismiss you from electronic forums if behavior is inappropriate and negatively impacts the experience of others.

**My Schedule:** I check email daily during normal business days. I am offline on holidays and weekends. Please plan accordingly. Thank you!

**Classroom Statement on Diversity:** “The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning. “

**Disability Support**:

*The University of Wyoming is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students.* *If you have a disability, including but not limited to physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities, and would like to request accommodations in this course due to your disability, , please register with and provide documentation of your disability as soon as possible to Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 128 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or*[*udss@uwyo.edu.*](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu)*It is in the student’s best interest to request accommodations within the first week of classes, understanding that accommodations are not retroactive. Visit the DSS website for more information at:*[*www.uwyo.edu/udss*](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)

**Academic Dishonesty Policies**: Include a statement or a reference to UW Regulation 2-114 (Procedures and Authorized University Actions in Cases of Student Academic Dishonesty).

*Example: “Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Cases of academic dishonesty will be treated in accordance with UW Regulation 2-114. The penalties for academic dishonesty can include, at my discretion, an “F” on an exam, an “F” on the class component exercise, and/or an “F” in the entire course. Academic dishonesty means anything that represents someone else’s ideas as your own without attribution. It is intellectual theft – stealing - and includes (but is not limited to) unapproved assistance on examinations, plagiarism (use of any amount of another person’s writings, blog posts, publications, and other materials without attributing that material to that person with citations), or fabrication of referenced information. Facilitation of another person’s academic dishonesty is also considered academic dishonesty and will be treated identically.”*

**Duty to Report under Title IX:**

*While I want you to feel comfortable coming to me with issues you may be struggling with or concerns you may be having, please be aware that I have some reporting requirements that are part of my job requirements at UW.*

*For example, if you inform me of an issue of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination I will keep the information as private as I can, but I am required to bring it to the attention of the institution’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to talk to those offices directly, you can contact Equal Opportunity Report and Response (Bureau of Mines Room 319, 766-5200,* [*report-it@uwyo.edu*](mailto:report-it@uwyo.edu)*,* [*www.uwyo.edu/reportit*](http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit)*). Additionally, you can also report incidents or complaints to the UW Police Department. You can also get support at the STOP Violence program (*[*stopviolence@uwyo.edu*](mailto:stopviolence@uwyo.edu)*,* [*www.uwyo.edu/stop*](http://www.uwyo.edu/stop)*, 766-3296) (or SAFE Project (*[*www.safeproject.org*](http://www.safeproject.org)*,* [*campus@safeproject.org*](mailto:campus@safeproject.org)*, 766-3434, 24-Hour hotline: 745-3556).*

*Another common example is if you are struggling with an issue that may be traumatic or unusual stress. I will likely inform the Dean of Students Office or Counseling Center. If you would like to reach out directly to them for assistance, you can contact them using the info below or going to* [*www.uwyo.edu/dos/uwyocares*](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/uwyocares)*.*

*Finally, know that if, for some reason, our interaction involves a disruptive behavior or potential violation of policy, I inform the Dean of Students, even when you and I may have reached an informal resolution to the incident. The purpose of this is to keep the Dean apprised of any behaviors and what was done to resolve them.*

**Substantive changes to syllabus**:

*All deadlines, requirements, and course structure are subject to change if deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified in our online class shell through the announcements of these changes. It is your responsibility to regularly review the announcements.*

**Schedule of Activities and Assignments:**

**\*\*\*The schedule below may change at the instructor’s discretion.**

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| Date and Topic | Reading | Assignments/Exams |
| Classical Sociological Theory | | |
| Unit One  1/27 – 2/9  \*\*Please note: This is a two week unit. | Chapter 1: A historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Early Years | Discussion 1: Introductions – Please introduce yourself in the discussion board no later than 1/30 by completing the posted discussion assignment. Reply to two more posts by Sunday, 2/2. 10 points  Get started on week two’s discussion assignment during week one. It will take time to complete.  Discussion 2: Post your response to the discussion board by 2/5. Replies to two peers due by 2/9. 20 points |
| 2/10 – 2/16 | Chapter 2: Karl Marx | Discussion Assignment 3  Post your response to the assignment by 2/15. Reply to two additional posts 2/23. |
| 2/17 – 2/23 | Chapter 3: Durkheim | Discussion Assignment 24 |
| 2/24 – 3/1 | Chapter 4: Max Weber | Discussion Assignment 5 |
| 3/2 – 3/8 | Chapter 5: George Simmel | Test One:  This exam covers weeks one through 5 (Classical Sociological Theory) |
| Modern Sociological Theory: The Major Schools | | |
| 3/9 – 3/13 | Chapter 6: A Historical Sketch of Sociological Theory: The Later Years | Discussion Assignment 6 |
| Spring Break 3/14 – 3/22 |  |  |
| 3/23 - 3/29 | Chapter 7: Structural Functionalism, Systems Theory, and Conflict Theory  Chapter 8: Varieties of Neo-Marxian Theory | Discussion Assignment 7 |
|  |  |  |
| 3/30 – 4/5 | Chapter 9: Symbolic Interactionism  Chapter 10: Ethnomethodology | Discussion Assignment 8 |
| 4/6 – 4/12 | Chapter 12: Contemporary Feminist Theory | Discussion Assignment 9 |
| 4/13 – 4/19 | Chapter 13: Micro-Macro and Agency-Structure Integration | Test Two: Modern Sociological Theory |
| Modern to Postmodern Social Theory (And Beyond) | | |
| 4/20 – 4/26 | Chapter 14: Contemporary Theories of Modernity | Discussion Assignment 10 |
| 4/27 – 5/3 | Chapter 15: Theories of Race and Colonialism  Chapter 16: Globalization Theory | Discussion Assignment 11 |
| 5/4 – 5/8 | Chapter 18: Social Theory in the 21st Century | Test There: From Modern to Postmodern Social Theory (And Beyond) |

***CAMPUS RESOURCES***

*DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES:* [*udss@uwyo.edu*](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu)*, 766-3073, 128 Knight Hall,* [*www.uwyo.edu/udss*](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)

*COUNSELING CENTER:* [*uccstaff@uwyo.edu*](mailto:uccstaff@uwyo.edu)*, 766-2187, 766-8989 (After hours), 341 Knight Hall,* [*www.uwyo.edu/ucc*](http://www.uwyo.edu/ucc)

*ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: 766-4286, 312 Old Main,* [*www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs*](http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs)

*DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE:* [*dos@uwyo.edu*](mailto:dos@uwyo.edu)*, 766-3296, 128 Knight Hall,* [*www.uwyo.edu/dos*](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos)

*UW POLICE DEPARTMENT:* [*uwpd@uwyo.edu*](mailto:uwpd@uwyo.edu)*, 766-5179, 1426 E Flint St,* [*www.uwyo.edu/uwpd*](http://www.uwyo.edu/uwpd)

*STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT WEBSITE:* [*www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct*](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct)