

I. SOCIOLOGY 342 - HISTORY OF SOCIAL THOUGHT

- 3 hours credit

Prerequisite: Sociology 205 and instructor's consent.

SOC 538 Social Theory

Prerequisite: Graduate Standing

II. SCOPE OF THE COURSE

The course emphasizes the historical development of sociological theory. Examination of the intellectual roots of sociology will be a major focus with the collective contributions of Marx, Durkheim, and Weber considered in depth. Contemporary social theory will also be a major emphasis. At all times, an effort will be made to allow social theory to speak to the issues of American society in the late 20th century. Undergraduates will meet three hours per week. Graduate students will meet an additional 1 ½ hours per week in seminar format.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

- A. To systematically analyze the socio-political-economic-cultural forces molding the work of social theorists.
- B. To become conversant with the spectrum of sociological thought.
- C. To develop an in-depth appreciation for TWO major social theorists.
- D. To analyze current social problems from a selected sociological theory.

IV. REQUIRED TEXT

The Discovery of Society by Randall Collins

The Nature and Types of Sociological Theory by Don Martindale

V. SPECIAL PROJECTS (Graduate Students)

Each student will select TWO theorists for in-depth independent examination under guidance from the instructor. The student will examine each theorist's system of thought and the social forces from which it emerged as well as recent developments in the person's work. Finally, the student will critique each theorist by comparing the two and then by independent examination. Students will write a 20-25 page, typed paper using the ASA format and summarize their findings in class.

(Undergraduate Students)

Students will select, in consultation with the professor, a theorist for in-depth analysis. A well written, 12-15 page, typed paper using the ASA format will be presented for evaluation. Each student will orally present to the class his/her analysis.

VI. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

The style of the course will be seminar in character. Class discussions of assigned readings, student

VII. METHOD OF EVALUATION

- A. Two exams, a mid-term and comprehensive final will be administered on announced dates. Each exam will be essay in format. The mid-term will count 150 points of the course grade and the comprehensive final exam 250 points.
- B. The term paper will count 500 points of the course grade with the following division:

Logic and clarity of analysis	300 points
Writing style, grammar, spelling, ASA format	125 points
Oral presentation	75 points
Total	500 points

C. A class participation grade will be assigned for maximum of 100 points.

D. The following grading scale will be used:

Graduate	Undergraduate
930-1000 points = A	900-1000 points = A
850-929 points = B	800-899 points = B
750-849 points = C	700-799 points = C
650-749 points = D	600-699 points = D
0-649 points = F	0-599 points = F

E. Students will not be allowed to make up tests or turn in assignments late unless:

1. A student is ill and provides evidence of same.
2. A student's family experiences serious illness or death -- evidence of such may be required.
3. A student's absence is related to school function approved by the academic dean (does not apply in the case of late assignments).
4. A student secures PRIOR excuse from the professor for reasons other than 1-3.

VIII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

If the student accumulates (for any reason) more than 6 absences for a course meeting on MWF (4 absences for T-Th courses), each additional absence MUST be removed by writing a three-page, double-spaced, typed paper with at least THREE sources other than an assigned reading on a subject related to the missed class. Failure to complete this assignment for each absence above the maximum allowed will result in TWENTY points subtracted from the student's semester grade average for EACH paper not turned in to the professor. Papers are due no later than one week after the student's return to class or when the final exam is administered (whichever is applicable). The student assumes the responsibility to secure an assignment from the professor if absences exceed the maximum allowed.

IX. POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

As noted in the university catalogue, academic dishonesty violates the philosophy of Christian education embraced by Mississippi College. Cheating on tests, assignments and/or papers will result in a grade of "F" for that assignment and referral of the student to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

POST SCRIPT

The professor reserves the right to deviate from the information contained in this document.