

Participation requirement:**Some points to consider for class & group discussions.**

Remember to respect your fellow students. Theorists often disagree, but they usually do so in a professional manner. We will always try to do so.

Your class participation grade will be based (see details below) on your contributions to class and group discussions such as asking and answering questions and general contributions to discussions such as being an active listener. This portion of your grade will NOT be based on how much you talk but rather on your contributions (both negative and positive) to the class. The following criteria, plus academic etiquette standards, will be used to evaluate the quality of your contributions.

Content:

- above average– student’s comments and answers demonstrate a thorough grasp of the material
- average– student’s comments and answers demonstrate a basic understanding of the main points
- below average- content absent or gross errors are present

Contribution to Discussion:

- above average– student clarifies a point for the class or makes a suggestion or observation pursued by others
- average– student makes relevant, if obvious, points; helps move discussion along
- below average- student does not speak to the issue; makes largely irrelevant points

Development:

- above average– student offers a central thesis and provides supporting evidence and/or arguments
- average– student has two or more points that are at least indirectly connected
- below average- student offers points not relevant to the issue or the points have little or no interconnections

Tests:

All tests are comprehensive.

DROP LOWEST TEST SCORE: Most everyone has an extremely busy week or a week they don’t feel well. These are issues that impact both attendance and test scores. To address these issues and to eliminate the need to determine who has a valid reason for missing a test, everyone gets to drop their lowest test score. (Note: this option does not apply to the final exam) Consider saving your drop till the end of the semester as there will be NO MAKE UP TESTS. If you have a family emergency or are sick towards the end of the semester and you have used your drop you will NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE UP THE TEST. Also, if you have used your drop do not expect to make up a test because you have a university excused absence. If you participate in university activities you need to USE YOUR DROP for that activity. **Please reread this paragraph.**

There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Important Stuff

- **Academic Etiquette:** Class begins on time. Do not be late. Please contact me if you must be late. Please resist the temptation to begin packing up to leave before the end of class. If you must leave early please let me know before class and cause as little disruption as possible when you leave. Academic etiquette also includes treating all class members with respect and resisting the desire to have private conversations with the people sitting near you. Even whispering is distracting to others, including the instructor.
- **Academic Integrity & Misconduct: Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in failing the course. In addition to failing the course it is possible there will be other disciplinary action as I will report the incident.** Cheating is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Forms of cheating include, but are not limited, to turning in a paper written for another course, having another student write your assignment, copying another student's assignment, and plagiarizing. Plagiarism comes in a lot of forms. The most common form of plagiarism used by students is failure
- All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.
- **Reading:** Learning about sociological theory involves lots of reading and thinking about what you have read. Some of the material will be difficult to read but it is imperative that you make every effort to read through it BEFORE class. This will give you a sense of what you do and don't understand. Then when you read it the second or third time you will be likely start to gain an understanding of the theory in question
- **About You:** If you have needs that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know in person or on your written information sheet. By working together we will be able to make this class a positive experience for you. I am happy to make reasonable accommodations for any student who desires them. Please let me know as soon as possible what you require
- **Attendance:** I will be taking attendance on a regular basis. Please note the format for this class is discussion and class exercise thus your attendance is very important. In fact, because this is a discussion rather than a lecture course each of us must be active participants, both as learners and as teachers. Please note that active participation **REQUIRES** attendance **AND** advance preparation.
- **Professor's Philosophy of Education**
 - the quality of the course is the reciprocal responsibility of teachers and students.
 - education requires active learning and practice in all types of communication skills (e.g. writing and speaking as well as reading and listening.)
 - grades should reflect achievement both in absolute terms and relative to other students.
 - a course should truly be worth three semester credits at a very good, accredited institution.

This class will be oriented toward student participation: You are responsible for doing the reading, preparing comments/questions, and participating in class discussion. Most of the time will be spent discussing the material. I will spend little time lecturing.

If you want to spend your class time listening to an instructor this is not the class for you as I do not see students as vessels into which I put my knowledge; I see you as people with whom I am undertaking the study of classical social theory. If you are interested in engaging critically with the course material, the instructor and other students, and doing writing to apply what you have learned, this is a class for you.

Important Note: You should anticipate modifications in the topics and readings. All members of the class are responsible for calendar modifications announced in class.

Week Beginning	Topic & Important Dates	Reading
Jan. 23 rd	What is sociology? What is theory? Karl Marx	Allan – Chapter 1: Imagining Society Allan – Chapter 3: Engines of Change
Jan 28 th	A Radical Theorist: Karl Marx	Allan – Chapter 3: Engines of Change Reserve “Working Longer, Living Less: Understanding Marx Through the Workplace Today”
Feb. 4 th	<u>Monday, Feb. 4th Test #1</u> A Conservative Theorist: Durkheim	Allan – Chapter4: Cultural Consensus
Feb. 11 th	A Conservative Theorist: Durkheim	Allan – Chapter4: Cultural Consensus & Reserve: “Surfing the Net for Community: A Durkheimian Analysis of Electronic Gatherings.”
Feb. 18 th	Durkheim <u>Friday, Feb. 22nd Test #2</u>	Review Durkheim- Compare Functionalist and Conflict No Class Monday
Feb. 25 th	Theories of Complexity & Form: Weber	Allan – Chapter 5: Authority and Rationality
March 3 rd	Theories of Complexity & Form: Weber <u>Assignment to Group</u>	Reserve: “The Weberian Theory of Rationalization & the McDonaldization of Contemporary Society.”
Mar. 10 th	<u>Monday, March 10th Test #3</u> Theories of Complexity & Form: Simmel	Allan – Chapter 6: Society and the Individual
Mar. 17 th	Theories of Complexity & Form: Simmel. Meet the Theorist: Overview due Fri. Mar. 21 st	Allan – Chapter 6: Society and the Individual
March 24 th - March 28 th ---- Spring Break		
March 31 st	Theories of Complexity & Form: Simmel <u>Friday, April 4th Test #4</u>	Reserve: Saudenmeier, William J. “Alcohol-Related Window on Simmel’s Social World.”
April 7 th	Society, Self, & Mind: Cooley & Mead No Class April 11 th	Allan – Chapter 13: Self-Consciousness;
April 14 th	Society, Self, & Mind: Cooley & Mead Meet the Theorist: Detailed plan due Monday, April 14th , <u>Friday, April 18th Test #5</u>	Reserve Readings: “Fashioning Gender Identity” (Cahill) & “The Recovering Alcoholic Self” (Denzin)
April 21 st	Meet the Theorists	group presentations
April 28 th	Meet the Theorists	group presentations
May 8 th	Final Exam:– Take Home	Due by 2:00 PM on Tuesday, May 6 th