SOC 3000—Development of Sociological Theory
Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:
University Requisite: 6 Hours in SOC including 1000

COURSE OVERVIEW:
This course offers an introduction to sociological theory. Students will examine the historical roots of sociological theory and understand major theoretical paradigms with an emphasis on social and intellectual contexts, conceptual frameworks and methods, and contributions to contemporary social analysis.

METHODS OF COURSE INSTRUCTION:
All material for this course is print-based. Instructor and students communicate and exchange materials through postal mail.

E-PRINT OPTION:
In this course, an option exists to use e-mail to submit your lesson assignments. Your assignment will be returned to you either as an e-mail attachment or as a hard copy sent through the postal mail, depending on the preferences of the instructor and/or program.

TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES:

NUMBER OF LESSONS:
The course has nine lessons. These lessons include:
• Lesson 1: Introduction to Sociological Theory
• Lesson 2: Functionalism
• Lesson 3: Conflict Theory
• Lesson 4: Social Revolution
• Lesson 5: Symbolic Interactionism
• Lesson 6: Phenomenology
• Lesson 7: Rational Choice Theory
• Lesson 8: Sociobiology
• Lesson 9: Developments in Sociobiological Theory
TYPES OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

The writing assignments ask you to apply ideas of a theory to a situation you have experienced in your life. Many of the theories have several different ideas about how people experience social life and how they behave or focus on different situations. You will be able to choose which ideas you want to apply in your writing assignment and which situation you want to write about.

The first eight writing assignments ask you to apply a theoretical idea to an event or experience you have had in your life. This application can be an analysis of the social situation where the event occurred or the event itself. These essays should be about your life experience. The last essay asks you to identify how you see yourself as a social theorist. This essay asks that you pick one of the theories and explain why you think you are a (fill in the blank) theorist. Each essay should cite relevant points from the text material. If you wish to employ additional sources, you should provide a reference page for the essay with the author of the material, the title, date of publication, and place of publication of any sources you use. The first eight essays should be about two to four typed pages (500 to 1,000 words) and the last essay should be about four to six pages in length (1,000 to 1,500 words).

As you complete the first eight essays, you should send them in. When you receive the graded essays back, keep them and review the comments for hints about how to develop the last essay. You should treat the last essay as the final exam for the course and use all of the resources you have at your disposal as you develop it. You will find example essays for each type in this course manual. I have written these to show how I would answer the writing prompts if I were doing the assignments. I have also developed a grading rubric for the essays that will help you understand what I am expecting as you complete the assignments. Each of the eight short essays is worth 10% of the course grade. The last essay is worth 20% of the course grade. Letter grades will be assigned to each essay as it is graded.

GRADING CRITERIA:

The course is designed to develop your understanding of sociological theory. This is assessed when you write essays focused on one of the major theoretical traditions and also prepare a summary essay focused on your theoretical position. Each of the essays on an issue in the field is worth 20 points, while the essay focused on your position is worth 40 points. Grades are assigned based on how many of the 200 possible points you earn in your essays. The table below presents the scale for letter grades.
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