

SOCI 3410-WAO: Early Sociological Theory

Classes (days/times): Wednesdays and Fridays 8:30-10 AM

Class Location: **OA 2008** (2nd floor – 500 University Avenue, Orillia Campus)

Instructor: Kevin D. Willison, B.A. (Hon.), M.A., Ph.D.

E-mail: kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca

Office area: third floor (cubical area), 500 University Avenue (Orillia Campus)

Office hours: By appointment (see my above e-mail), and/or by chance.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES

SOCI 3410 is designed to provide a **critical evaluation of key theorists**. The course presumes that students have had previous exposure to sociological theory beyond what was considered in SOCI 1100.

SOCI 3410 is a required course for Sociology majors. Students registered in this class should have SOCI 1100 successfully completed.

The primary methods of instruction in SOCI 3410 will be formal lectures and ‘dialogical encounters’ between instructor and students. The primary purpose of class lectures is to offer a necessary historical, philosophical and conceptual background for situating and understanding particular streams of social thought, while the main objective of ‘dialogical encounters’ is to explore, through discussion and/or debate the actual theoretical ideas/questions you will be reflecting on in your commentaries. Although a significant portion of our class time will be devoted to formal lectures, your willingness to read, think and talk is indispensable for the overall success of the course and for how much you get out of it.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of key sociologically-oriented theorists and their relevance to the field of sociology within today’s society. By the end of the course, the diligent student will possess a competence in assessing, comparing and evaluating a broad range of sociological-related thinkers and be prepared to consider more advanced explorations of specific theoretical issues, problems and debates.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

***Sociological Theory* - Bert Adams and R.A. Sydie (Editors). Pine Forge Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-7619-8557-3**

All other course materials/information will be posted on our course website (Desire2Learn – D2L). This information is potentially testable material as well.

To get the most out of the course, you should have your weekly readings done *before* classes. Doing so will help you be more prepared for the lectures / class discussions.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Your performance in the course will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

- [1] Test One (15%): Friday January 29 [2016]
- [2] Test Two (15%): Friday February 26
- [3] Essay (20%): Due Wednesday March 23
- [4] 10 min oral presentation (5%) – Feb 24. Refer to D2L posted grading rubric.
- [5] Test Three (15%): Friday April 1.
- [6] Final (April) Exam (30%): Scheduled by the Registrar (stay tuned for day and time).

FORMAT of TESTS and EXAM

The tests and exams will be a combination of multiple choice, definitions and point-form answered essay answers. Please note that there will not be any true/false questions.

You will be responsible for course readings, lecture materials, and anything else presented during our class time. There will be a pre-exam review session with the purpose of clarifying difficulties and problems encountered during your preparation for the mid-term and final exams.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following grading scale will be applied in evaluating your course work:

90-100% (A+)

Outstanding Performance: superb mastery of the principles and materials treated in the course; exceptional fluency in communicating that mastery and a high degree of originality and independence in applying material and principles.

80-89% (A)

Excellent Performance: comprehensive in-depth knowledge of the principles and materials treated in the course; fluency in communicating that knowledge and originality and independence in applying material and principles.

70-79% (B)

Good Performance: thorough understanding of the breadth of materials and principles treated in the course and ability to apply and communicate that understanding effectively.

60-69% (C)

Satisfactory Performance: basic understanding of the breadth of principles and material treated in the course and an ability to apply and communicate that understanding competently.

50-59% (D)

Marginal Performance: adequate understanding of most principles and material treated in the course, but significant weakness in some areas and in the ability to apply and communicate that understanding.

40-49% (E)

Failure: inadequate or fragmentary knowledge of the principles and material treated in the in the course, or failure to complete the work required in the course.

1-39% (F)

Failure: inadequate or fragmentary knowledge of the principles and material treated in the in the course, or failure to complete the work required in the course.

0% (F)

Academic Dishonesty: demonstrable violation of the academic rules of conduct as defined by Lakehead University academic standards.

Your grade is a reflection of your performance in the course, which is the only criterion for your final course mark. *There will be no rescaling of grades at the end of the course* and no adjustments except for legitimate clerical errors. Please take note of that. According to Lakehead University defined standards, a grade of 0-49% constitutes unsatisfactory academic performance and means failing the course; 50-59% is a minimally accepted level of performance for passing the course, while 90-100% constitutes outstanding performance. For details on

evaluation and grading see your Lakehead *University Academic Calendar*, section University Regulations. If you wish to review your course work you can do so within *one week from the day your marks* have been posted.

GENERAL POLICIES

Email: E-mailing is to be regarded as an official form of communication. Only emails sent through Lakehead University account will be read and replied to. All other email messages will be ignored.

Cell phones: Cell phones are to be turned off during lectures (except under exceptional circumstances in which approval has been granted by the instructor). Avoid texting. Failure to follow this course policy *may* result in a loss of marks.

- Please do not text in class. Please focus on the course lesson.

* Use of portable devices during lectures is **not allowed** (except under exceptional circumstances in which approval has been granted by the instructor).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended. As a university-level course attendance is not taken nor is it necessary to e-mail the Instructor if you will not be attending. If you decide to attend, you are expected to arrive on time and be respectful to other students in class. Disruptive and otherwise inappropriate behaviour in the classroom will not be tolerated. Students engaged in such behaviour will be dealt with accordingly.

Disclaimer: The information in this Course Outline is subject to change; any changes will be announced in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change; any changes will be announced in class)

This course is reading intensive. Outside of class student should schedule 2-3 hours per week to complete assigned readings. While reading, select key works / key terms (for discussion in class).

Week 1

COURSE INTRODUCTION & SYLLABUS WALKTHROUGH

READINGS

- Preface
- Conclusion
- Introduction: An introduction to the range of sociological thinking / Importance of sociological analysis / thinking.

Week 2

BACKGROUND READING (pgs. 3-56)

- Section 1 of text: European Roots of Sociological Thinking – Origins of Sociological Thinking / Theorizing after the French Revolution / Saint-Simon, Comte, and H. Martineau.

Week 3

BACKGROUND READING (pgs. 61-116)

- Section 2 of text: Conservative Theories – Evolutionism and Functionalism/ Spencer and Sumner / Durkheim.

Week 4

Test One (15%): Friday January 29, 2016

Week 5

BACKGROUND READING (pgs. 121-164)

- Section 3 of text: Radical Theory / Marx and Engels / Lenin and Luxemburg

Week 6

BACKGROUND READING (pgs. 167-219)

- Section 4 of text: Sociological Theories of Complexity and Form / M. Weber / Georg Simmel.

Week 7

STUDY WEEK: NO CLASS

Week 8

10-minute oral Presentations: Wednesday Feb 24, 2016

Test Two (15%): Friday February 26, 2016

Week 9

BACKGROUND READING (pgs. 225-262)

- Section 5 of text: Sociological Theories of Politics and Economics
Pareto and Michels / Veblen and Schumpeter

Week 10

BACKGROUND READING (pgs. 267-306)

- Section 6 of text: Other Voices in Sociological Theorizing
Society and Gender / C. Perkins / B.P. Webb + Sociological Theory and Race /
W.E.B. Du Bois

Week 11

BACKGROUND READING (pgs. 310-339)

- Section 6 of text: Other Voices in Sociological Theorizing
Cooley, Mead and Freud

Week 12

Test Three (15%): Friday April 1, 2016

Week 13 – PARTIAL REVIEW / exam preparation

- **Your final exam in April of 2016 is scheduled by Registrar. Day and Time to be announced.**
- **Value of final exam equals 30 percent of your course grade.**

Missed Tests and/or Exams:

Make-up examinations will only be given with written (and original) documentation from a healthcare practitioner, using the official Student Health Certificate, available at:

<http://registrar.lakeheadu.ca/uploads/docs/F.HealthCertificate.pdf> .

Religious Observance Policy: If you require religious accommodation(s), you must make your request to the instructor preferably within the first two weeks of class.

Special Needs: Dr. Willison has received specialized training in AODA (the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Training Act). As there may be a need to provide information in accessible formats to persons with disabilities, students with special needs who require accommodations should speak with their Instructor privately at the very start of the course. Appropriate documentation must be provided to Student Services. If needed, refer to <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/> for further information.

Course Concerns? Students are encouraged to speak with their Instructor should there be a problem or concern regarding the course which you feel needs to be raised.

Emergency? Know the Number to Call

Lakehead Security reminds everyone to **call 3911** (Orillia) if you require emergency service. Paramedics, firefighters and police officers do not always know where to find certain buildings or locations on our campuses. By calling 3911 (Orillia), Lakehead Security will quickly dispatch a security guard to your location and contact 911 services. Lakehead Security will then meet and escort emergency services to your location to save valuable time.

Academic Paper Guideline I

Develop an argument (topic focus) substantiated/supported by a literature review.

Write an academic essay on a topic **related to the course**.

Your topic should either be covered in your required textbook, or from class.

**** Please verify your topic with the instructor well before the deadline.**

Your paper must be handed in at the start of the class on the due date. If not, a reduction of 4% of the assigned mark per day will be given.

Please note - marks are assigned for the following requirements:

- ◊ **Eight full pages (not including cover page and cited references page) double spaced** – typed.
- ◊ The cover and references pages are not counted as one of the 8 pages.
- ◊ Overall presentation, well written, good cover page and, relevant
- ◊ There should not be large gaps between paragraphs.
- ◊ Font size no larger or smaller than 12 cpi (regular - Times New Roman)
- ◊ Include at least **6 references** (i.e. from books and journals) to support your main point(s)/argument.
Note: citing newspaper articles, your text, websites and dictionaries do not count as a reference.
- ◊ Include title of article and list author(s) cited in the references.
- * Format: In the text of your paper, cite (author, year). If using a citation (“ ”), cite (main author, year and page number).
- * Do not provide the title of the source of the material within the text (main body) of your paper (this is distracting and, evidence of poor writing).
- * Be sure to limit the number of citations used (I want to see your work, not someone else). If citing more than one author, use (main author, “et al.”, year). **Use APA format.**
- ◊ Be sure to check your grammar and spelling.
- ◊ **Number each page.**
- ◊ **Staple** – no paper clips please. Do not expect the instructor to staple for you.
- ◊ Paper should be easy to read (not faint). Plan ahead.
- ◊ **Integrate terminology** related to course.

Further, you must include a separate typed cover page, which has the following information:

- [1] ◊ Your full name.
- [2] ◊ Title of your essay.
- [3] ◊ The course number and due date.
- [4] ◊ The instructor’s full name [Kevin D. Willison]

Notes:

- This academic assignment is worth **20 percent** of your final grade.
- No e-mail attachments are accepted. You must hand in a printed copy in class and, at the start of the class. Please do not hand in your paper at the front Information Desk.
- Suggestion: Find a “buddy” to e-mail your assignment to, to print and hand in on the due date in class, if for some reason you cannot make it to class. Please plan ahead.

Appendix B – Academic Paper Guideline – II

Expectations for Written Assignment

- [a] Try not to be repetitive in what you write. By doing so it appears you are only trying to fill up space.
- [b] Check for spelling and grammatical errors. Suggestion: read out loud your paper to help identify errors.
- [c] What you hand in is your work – not someone else’s. You may receive a grade of zero for the academic paper or the entire course if plagiarism is detected.
- [d] When using citations, be sure to cite your reference source and the page number (if applicable). If used, keep citations in your text as short as possible.
- [e] Have a good beginning and, a good ending. Your ability to write well will reflect upon what grade(s) you receive.

Ten Tips for Writing- Ask Yourself the Following

- [1] Does your essay fall within the terms of the assignment?
- [2] Does your essay have a clearly stated central idea that the rest of the essay develops and supports?
- [3] Is there evidence in the essay that you have done appropriate and sufficient research?
- [4] Is there an argument presented in a way that supports the thesis/main argument?
- [5] Are your arguments supported by appropriate, sufficient and clear evidence?
- [6] Do you comment on quotations in a way that shows their relevance to the argument?
- [7] Is the topic of each paragraph clear and is that topic clearly related to proving the thesis?
- [8] Is the sentence-level grammar correct?
- [9] Is there coherence from sentence to sentence and a reasonable transition from paragraph to paragraph?
- [10] Do you follow appropriate conventions of documentation, footnoting and bibliography?

Note: (-) Be sure to follow instructor guidelines for your essay. After all, he or she is grading it.

** Don’t know where to start? Procrastinating? Best to talk to your Instructor... NOW. **