Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department
Course Prefix and Number: SOCI 380
Course Title: Theories of Society

DIGITAL DESCRIPTIONS

STUDENT DESCRIPTION:
# Cr Hrs - # Lec Hrs - # Lab Hrs
3 - 3 - 0

PAY-HOUR DESCRIPTION:
Total # = Lec Hrs + Lab Hrs
3 = 3 + 0 X 2/3

Catalog Description: The development of sociological theories in Europe and the United States; major theoretical perspectives in sociology. Prerequisite: SOCI 111. Offered fall.

Prerequisites/Corequisites: SOCI 111 General Sociology

Text:

Supplemental texts:


Course Objectives: Students should be able to:

1. describe the major theoretical traditions in sociology that have developed in Europe and in the U.S. in the last two centuries, in conjunction with the development of sociology as an empirical discipline.

2. describe the specific contributions made by major European classical theorists, and analyze their theories in the social and intellectual context of their times.

3. describe the specific contributions made by major American theorists, and analyze their theories in the social and intellectual context of their times.

4. describe the major developments in contemporary sociological theory: critical theory, feminist sociology, poststructuralism, postmodernism, queer theory.

Topical Outline:

1. the historical development of sociology as an academic discipline
   a. the Enlightenment: philosophical foundations
      • Montesquieu, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft
   b. post-revolutionary thought
      • Saint-Simon, Comte, de Tocqueville, Maritneau
2. the structural-functionalist tradition
   • Comte, Spencer, Durkheim, Parsons, Merton
3. Marx and Marxism
4. Max Weber
5. Conflict theories
   • Marx, Simmel, Mannheim, Dahrendorf, Coser
6. Frankfurt School and the development of critical theory
   • C. Wright Mills, Habernas
7. Symbolic Interactionism
   • The Chicago School
     • Cooley, W.J. Thomas, George Herbert Mead, Goffman

8. Current developments
   • Dorothy Smith, Anthony Giddens, Pierre Bourdieu, Habermas, Foucault

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 35

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NOTE: The intention of this master course syllabus is to provide a general outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught, or where it is taught. This generic outline is not intended to restrict the way any individual faculty member teaches the course. The master syllabus, therefore, should be general enough to allow for a diversity of individual approaches to teaching the course, while at the same time it provides guidance on what the course should cover.