Sociology 4301
Sociological Theory

Instructor:       Dr. Kenneth L. Stewart
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                 Anytime by Appointment

The Course Website: This course is supported by Blackboard at:

http://blackboard.angelo.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp

The course is NOT an online course. Materials on the Web are
designed to support the classroom by delivering handouts,
exercises, assignments, and grade information.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes: This course engages in advanced study of sociological theory.
The study features the historical traditions of sociological theory. Students will acquire knowledge in the social sciences by:

- Demonstrating basic knowledge of the frameworks of logical reasoning in sociological thought.
- Mastering the specialized vocabulary of sociological discourse.
- Defining social problems from various sociological perspectives.

Course Policies:

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Credit toward final grades will not be awarded based on attendance. However, students who do not regularly attend and engage the class are unlikely to perform well on course assessments.

COURSE ORGANIZATION: Class sessions will be conducted as seminars. The length of the course seminars varies so that a discussion of one sociological theory may run over several classes, while the seminar for another may be completed in a single day. Students are responsible for staying informed about the progress of seminars and class sessions.

HONOR CODE: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete HONESTY in their academic pursuits. The Honor Code demands that students not participate in or condone PLAGIARISM among other forms of cheating. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at:

www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf

Persons with DISABILITIES warranting academic accommodations must request such accommodations prior to their being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. You request accommodations at:

http://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/apply-for-disability-accommodations.php

GRADING is based on Seminar Participation and three major Seminar Reviews.

Eleven seminars will take place. The first seminar is an important introduction and orientation to the course. Four seminars cover the modern classics of sociological theory, the people who laid the foundations of the field as we know it today. The remaining seminars cover theories of the 20th century and the 21st century until now. Students will have instructions to prepare for seminar sessions. The instructions include questions for discussion, and answering the questions will provide the best preparation for Seminar Reviews.
Seminar Participation: Students will be awarded up to 10 points for participation in each of the 11 seminars. The total point value of seminar participation includes 100 points toward the final grade, plus opportunity to earn 10 extra credit points.

Student attendance for the duration of a seminar earns 5 of the 10 points for participation. Students who add constructive comments to the seminar will earn up to 3 additional points, and students who add high-value comments that affect the direction and progress of the seminar discussion will earn up to 2 points credit.

(NOTE: At the discretion the instructor, written response to seminar questions may be substituted for attendance).

Seminar Reviews: Seminar Reviews will be completed at the course website. Each review will be worth 100 points. Review questions will be based on seminar materials, readings, and discussions.

Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

400 - 360 = A
359 - 320 = B
319 - 280 = C
279 - 240 = D
239 - 000 = F

The grading scale will NOT change at the end of the semester.

Students are responsible for tracking their progress as grades become available on Blackboard.

Seminars and Reading:

(1) Introduction to Sociological Theory (Ch. 1)
Classical Foundations:
  (2) Marx, Ch. 2
  (3) Durkheim, Ch. 3
  (4) Weber, Ch. 4
Expanding the Classics: Sociology in America
  (5) Mead, Ch. 8

*First Seminar Review

20th Century Traditions:
(6) Structural Functionalism, Ch. 9
  Parsons
Merton
(7) Symbolic Interaction, Ch. 12
   Blumer
   Hochschild
(8) Phenomenology, Ch. 13
   Berger & Luckmann
   Smith
*Second Seminar Review
(9) Exchange & Rational Choice, Ch. 11
   Homans
   Coleman
(10) Critical Theory, Ch. 10
    Marcuse
    Habermas
(11) 21st Century Theories of Global Society, Ch. 16
    Wallerstein
    Giddens
*Third Seminar Review (Due May 10 @ 10 am)