

University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Department of Sociology and Social Work
Sociological Theory, SOC 350

Spring, 2023

Dr. Kay MANN

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:15 pm.

Zoom Format

Email: kmann@uwsp.edu

Office: D 257 (Stevens Point)

Email: kmann@uwsp.edu

Office Hours: Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 11:00 -12:00; Wednesday, 4:00-4:45, and by appointment. Zoom meetings are possible as well.

Required Text: Peter Kivisto, *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*, 6th edition, Oxford University Press.

Supplemental Readings to be posted on Canvas.

Last day to add or drop course without a "W": February 1.

Last day to withdraw from a class: April 7.

Grading:

20%Midterm

20%Final

10%Short Paper #1

10% Short Paper #2

10% Application Paper

10%Synthetic Paper

Presentation: 10%

10% Class Participation and Attendance

Grading Scale

A 93-100

A-90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69

D 60-66

F 59 & below

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all classes is mandatory.

Attendance penalties begin with the fourth absence. *A seventh absence will lead to a failing grade.*

If you must be absent for personal or professional reasons it is your responsibility to get class notes from a classmate.

Missed exams may only be made up in case of emergencies reported *before* the exam.

Late papers may be penalized 3% of assignment grade per day late.

Academic Integrity

All students are subject to university regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism. To ensure that the highest level of academic and personal integrity is upheld, it is important that you understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UWSP (see Academic Integrity: A Guide for Students). For a complete overview of UWSP academic standards and disciplinary procedures, please visit: the following website:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Misconduct.aspx>

Disability Services

Consistent with the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, section 504, and the ADA act of 1990, any person enrolling in this course who may require alternative instructional and/or evaluative procedures due to a handicapping condition should feel free to contact Disability Services and Assistive Technology at 715-346-3365 in Room 609 Learning Resource Center at 900 Reserve Street. Staff will work to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Please let me know if I can assist in any way.

Mandatory Reporting

We are deeply committed to finding ways to effectively prevent, reduce and respond to discrimination and harassment, including sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence. By asking all employees to report, we will be able to respond more effectively when a member of our community experiences such misconduct.

Class Etiquette

Cell phones, laptop computers, and other electronic devices are very disruptive so please turn them off before coming to class. **Texting is particularly disruptive.** If you use your laptop to take notes or you need your phone for an emergency, please inform me in advance.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point occupies lands of Ho—Chunk and Menominee land and sacred land of all indigenous peoples.

Themes, Readings, and Due Dates *

Week I.

Introduction: What is theory and why is it important? Sociology's main theoretical frameworks.

Readings:

- Social Theory: Classical Foundations and Contemporary Developments, by Peter Kivisto, Introduction.
- What Pragmatism Means, by William James, 22.
- Toward an African American Feminist Epistemology, by Patricia Collins, 42.

Week II.

Karl Marx's Conflict Theory

- Alienated Labor, #1.
- The German Ideology, #2.
- Manifesto of the Communist Party (with Friedrich Engels), #3.
- The Civil War in France, #4.

WEEK III

Emile Durkheim and Functionalism.

Readings: Selections from Durkheim:

- On Mechanical and Organic Solidarity, #5.
- What is a Social Fact? #6
- Anomic Suicide, #7.

Short paper #1: Marx as Conflict theorist. Due, Friday, February 10.

WEEK IV: Max Weber

Readings:

- The Spirit of Capitalism, #9.
- Bureaucracy, #10.
- The Sociology of Charismatic Authority, #11.
- Class, Status, and Party, #12.

Week V: Early Symbolic Interactionism

Readings: From George Simmel

- Fashion, #13.
- The Metropolis and Mental Life, #14.
- The Stranger, #15.

Short paper #2. Durkheim as Functionalist. Due, Friday, February 24.

Week VI: Twentieth Century Functionalism/Exchange Theory

Readings:

- The Structure of the Societal Community, by Talcott Parsons, #26.
- The Unanticipated Consequences of Social Action, by Robert K. Merton, 25.
- Social Behavior as Exchange, by George Homans, #35.
- Formulation of Exchange Theory, by Peter Blau, #36.
- The Functions of Social Conflict" by Lewis Coser, 27.
- Herbert L. Gans, The Uses of Poverty; The Poor Pay All, (On Canvas).
- Human Capital and Social Capital, by James Coleman, #37.
- The Correspondence between Goods Production and Taste Production, by Pierre Bourdieu, 71.

Week VII: Symbolic Interactionism Twentieth Century Development

Readings: From the Chicago School/Symbolic Interactionism.

- Performances, by Erving Goffman, #31.
- Society as Symbolic Interaction, by Herbert Blumer, #29.
- Studies of the Routine Grounds of Everyday Activities, Harold Garfinkel, #33.

Paper #3. Coser and Gans Synthetic Paper due Friday, March 10.

Week VIII: November 8: Twentieth -Twenty-First Century Conflict Theory:

Readings:

- One-Dimensional Man, Herbert Marcuse, #47.
- War Making and State Making as Organized Crime, Charles Tilly, #53

Midterm Exam: Wednesday March 15 (On Canvas).

WEEK IX: Spring Break: No classes March 20 and 22.

WEEK X: Twentieth-Twenty-First Century Conflict Theory, continued.

- The Socialist Compass, Erik Olin Wright, #56.

Week XI: Postmodernism

- Panopticism, by Michel Foucault, #70.
- Advertising, Jean Baudrillard, 68.
- Modern and Postmodern, Mike Featherstone, *on Canvas*.
- **Paper #4. Human and Social Capital Paper due Friday, April 7.**

Week XII: Feminisms

Readings:

- Dorothy E. Smith, *Categories are not enough* #40.
- *Femininity and Masculinity*, Raewyn Connell, #43.
- *Doing Gender*, West and Don H. Zimmerman, #39.

Week: XIII: Queer Theory

Readings:

- *Queer-ing Sociology, Sociologizing Queer Theory* by, Steven Seidman, #44.
- *On Canvas*

Week XIV: Multiracial theories.

Readings: *The Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race*, by Omi and Winant, #49; *Selections from Critical Race Theory*. *On Canvas*.

Readings: *Selections from Critical Race Theory*. (*On Canvas*).

Week XV: Social Movement Theories

Readings: *On Canvas*.

Week: XVI: Review.

Final Exam: May 18, 12:30-2:30 pm

***All due dates subject to change as needed.**

Papers

Short Paper #1. 10%

Karl Marx is one of the main theorists of the theoretical perspective we call conflict theory. In a brief 2-3-page paper, explain how Marx's work fits into conflict theory. Refer to at least two specific writings and give at least one example from three different writings we have read.

Rubrics

1-Less than two writings and three examples cited. No connection to Marx as conflict theorist.

2- Less than two writings and three examples cited. Insufficient connection to Marx as conflict theorist.

3- Two writings, three examples cited correctly. Good degree of accuracy and persuasiveness in connecting Marx to conflict theory.

4-Two writings, three examples cited correctly. High degree of accuracy and persuasiveness in connecting Marx to conflict theory.

Short Paper #2. 10%

Emile Durkheim was one of sociology's founders. His work is cited as classical functionalism. In a brief 2-3 page paper explain how his work fits into functionalist theory. Refer to at least two specific writings and give at least two examples from his work.

Rubrics

1-Less than two writings and three examples cited. No connection to Durkheim as functionalist theorist.

2- Less than two writings and three examples cited. Insufficient connection to Durkheim as functionalist theorist.

3- Two writings, three examples cited correctly. Good degree of accuracy and persuasiveness in connecting Durkheim to functionalist theory.

4-Two writings, three examples cited correctly. High degree of accuracy and persuasiveness in connecting Durkheim to functionalist theory.

Synthetic Paper. 15%

Coser and Gans seemingly apply functional theory to a subject usually explored by conflict theorists. Discuss their work in the context of both theoretical perspectives. 3-5 pages.

Rubrics

Coser and theory

- 1- Absent
- 2- Vague, inaccurate; only one theory discussed and analyzed
- 3—Good, accurate; both theories discussed
- 4- Excellent synthesis of both theories

Gans and theory

- 1- Absent
- 2- Vague, inaccurate; only one theory discussed and analyzed
- 3- Good, accurate; both theories discussed
- 4- Excellent synthesis of both theories

Application Paper: Human Capital and Social Capital. 15%

Using Coleman's works describe the human and social capital that you possess. Then compare yourself with somebody, real or hypothetical with a very different amount of capital. Discuss how different race, class, and gender experiences can affect the degree of capital possessed by individuals and groups. 3-5 pages.

Rubrics

Human Capital

- 1-Absent
- 2-Vague, inaccurate
- 3-Good
- 4- Excellent

Social Capital

- 1- Absent
- 2- Vague, inaccurate
- 3- Good
- 4-Excellent

Class, Race, Gender

- 1- Absent
- 2- Vague, inaccurate
- 3- Good
- 4- Excellent

Comparison

1- Absent

2- Vague, inaccurate

3- Good

4- Excellent

Score:

Grade:

Presentation. 10%.

Each student will make a brief oral presentation with PowerPoint on one of the course readings chosen in consultation with professor.

This will involve:

- 1) Briefly outlining the article
- 2) Relating it to broad sociological perspectives
- 3) Posing three questions to the class.

Following the presentation, students will submit a one-page paper outline of the presentation.