

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

Fall, 2021

Dr. Kay MANN

Mondays, 3:00-5:50 pm Alternate weeks.

Collins Classroom CCC 310. Stevens Point Campus and by TeleVideo to Wausau 238.

Email: kmann@uwsp.edu

Office: D 257. Stevens Point. #316. Wausau

Office Hours: Tuesday, 11:00-12:15, Thursday, 11:00-12:15 (SP), Wednesday, 11:15-12:00 pm, and by appointment. Zoom meetings are possible as well.

Phone: Messages can be left at: (715) 346-2629

Last day to add or drop course without a grade: Sept. 14.

Last day to drop to course: Nov. 5

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

Supplemental Readings to be posted on Canvas.

Grading:

20%Midterm

20%Final

10%Short Paper #1

10% Short Paper #2

10% Application Paper

10%Synthetic Paper

Discussion Posts (5) 10% (5x 2 each)

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. If you must be absent for personal or professional reasons it is your responsibility to make up missed work. Missed exams may only be made up in case of emergencies reported *before* the exam.

Late papers will be penalized at the discretion of instructor.

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.

Face covering requirement:

Under the [chancellor's order](#), and in an August 9, 2021 email sent by Chancellor Gibson that summarizes the order, “[A]ll students, employees and visitors to any UW-Stevens Point campus or facility will be required to wear face coverings when inside campus buildings and enclosed spaces with others outside of your household (e.g., in a UWSP vehicle). This policy is in effect until further notice.”

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 and Readings

Week I. September 13 Class.

Introduction: What is theory and why is it important? Sociology's main theoretical frameworks; Karl Marx's Conflict Theory

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.

From Marx:

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

Discussion Post: Week of September 20.

Week II. September 27:

Emile Durkheim and Functionalism; Max Weber

Readings:

Selections from Durkheim:

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

From Weber:

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

Short paper #1: Marx as Conflict theorist. Due, Friday, October 5 at 5:00 pm.

Discussion Post: Week of October 4.

Week: III. October 11: Early Symbolic Interactionism and Twentieth Century Development

Readings: From George Simmel

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

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.

Short paper #2. Durkheim as Functionalist. Due, October 11.

Discussion Post: Week of October 18.

Week IV: November 8 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, 35.
- Herbert L. Gans, The Uses of Poverty; The Poor Pay All, *handout*

- Human Capital and Social Capital, by James Coleman, #37.
- The Correspondence between Goods Production and Taste Production, by Pierre Bourdieu, 71.

- **Midterm Exam: Week of October 18.**

Week V: November 22: Conflict/ Postmodernism

Readings:

Conflict:

- One-Dimensional Man, Herbert Marcuse, #47.
- War Making and State Making as Organized Crime, Charles Tilly, #53
- Selections from C. Wright Mills, On Canvas.

Postmodernism

- Panopticism, by Michel Foucault, #70.
- Advertising, Jean Baudrillard, 68.
- Modern and Postmodern, Mike Featherstone, *handout*.
- **Paper #3. Coser and Gans Synthetic Paper due November 29.**

Discussion Post: Week of November 29.

Week VI: December 6. Feminisms; Queer Theory, Multiracial

Readings:

Feminisms

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

Queer Theory

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

Multiracial

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

Paper #4. Human and Social Capital Paper due December 6.

Discussion Post: Week of December 6.

**Final Exam: December 16. 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Collins 310 and
Wausau 238.**

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: