



**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE**

**Syllabus**

**SOC 572 (Section 01W):**

**Classical Sociological Theory**

**ONLINE COURSE**

**Fall 2016**

**R. N. Singh, Ph. D., Professor of Sociology & Criminal Justice**

**This is an online course. I will record class attendance by each student based on the user activity recorded by eCollege in the course.**

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**Office Hours: By appointment requested through e-mail sent to me if you need to see me or talk to me on the phone; do give me your phone # if you want me to call back.**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**I. Materials – Textbook, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

**Required Textbooks:**

**1] Longhofer, Wesley and Daniel Winchester (editors). 2012. Social Theory Re-Wired: New Connections to Classical and Contemporary Perspectives. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-88654-3**

**2] Ritzer, George. 2010. Contemporary Social Theory & Its Classical Roots. (3rd edition). New York: McGraw Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-340438-7**

**[These books will also be used in the SOC 573: Contemporary Sociological Theory**

course, and shall be helpful for taking the written comprehensive exam in sociology.]

## **II. Course Description:**

Welcome to the SOC 572: I am confident that we will have a productive semester in a selected overview of the classical theories in sociology in a particular reference to the writings of Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Max Weber, and George H. Mead.

Attention will be given to how these theories have given rise to the major theoretical perspectives in sociology, particularly functionalism, conflict theory, social action-interaction theory and symbolic interactionism

## **III. Student Learning Outcomes:**

Through textbooks' readings and other materials, we will pursue the following learning objectives.

- 1. Students will be active and engaged participants in discussions by analyzing information presented on classical sociological theories.**
- 2. Students will demonstrate their comprehension of the primary writings of classical sociological theory.**
- 3. Students will synthesize and apply classical theory in empirical contexts.**

## **IV. Student Responsibilities**

Your responsibilities in completing this course are stated below.

- 1. It will be very important that you all read regularly the syllabus and ALL Announcements posted at the home page of this course very carefully and follow all instructions about course objectives, grading procedures, etc.**

**Ignorance about details given in the course syllabus and various announcements posted on the eCollege web site cannot be accepted as excuse in any manner. I urge that you FULLY understand course requirements, grading procedures, and details on exams and assignments. That will be the key to doing well in the course. Also, please feel free to post your questions on the **virtual office** about the course requirements.**

**I will appreciate if you can post your questions at **VIRTUAL OFFICE** in the Home Page of this course. The virtual office will serve our learning needs of being in touch with not only me but with all persons in the course whenever you have questions or comments about the course (for example, about exams & study guides given on every week in the Homepage, and other aspects of the syllabus).**

- 2. This is a fully online course. Read instructions given under each week carefully. At the same time, I will take advantage of providing you instructions online as well as through your myleo e-mails. This way we will have effective communication with each other.**
- 3. All of your closed book exams will mainly be based on assigned readings.**
- 4. You may e-mail me whenever you have challenges or questions, particularly those that you don't want to share with your class mates. Only use this address: [Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu](mailto:Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu)**

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

**Grading will be based upon **total 300 points** accumulated from 2 exams scores and 10 weekly discussions. Details on all requirements and grading procedures are stated below:**

**At the end of the course an “A” will be equal to 90+% based on 270+ points; a “B” will be equal to 80-89% based on 240 to 269 points; a “C” 70-79% based on 210 to 239 points; and so forth.**

**Your final grade will be based on the following procedures given under A & B below:**

#### **A. Closed-Book Exams (a total of 200 points):**

**There will be three major exams. You will be required to take two out of the three exams. If you take all three of them, I will drop the lowest score. Each exam will constitute 100 points for the final grade. There will be no other make-up exam.**

**Dates for the three exams are given below (each exam will be available on-line starting past midnight each day and it closes at midnight on the same day it is scheduled):**

❖ **Exam 1 consisting of essay questions worth 100 points based on the study guide to be given to you. The closed book exam will be given on-line on Monday, **October 17, 2016**. YOU WILL HAVE 60 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE EXAM. YOU WILL BE LOGGED OUT OF THE EXAM AFTER 60 MINUTES. SO TIME YOURSELF CAREFULLY.**

❖ **Exam 2 consisting of essay questions worth 100 points based on the study guide to be given to you. The closed book exam will be given on-line on Monday, **December 5, 2016**. YOU WILL HAVE 60 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE EXAM ON-**

**LINE. YOU WILL BE LOGGED OUT OF THE EXAM AFTER 90 MINUTES. SO TIME YOURSELF CAREFULLY.**

❖ **Final optional/makeup exam consisting of essay questions worth 100 points based on the study guide given to you. The closed book exam will be given on-line on Monday, **December 12**, 2016. YOU WILL HAVE 60 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE EXAM. YOU WILL BE LOGGED OUT OF THE EXAM AFTER 60 MINUTES. SO TIME YOURSELF CAREFULLY.**

**If you have already taken the first two exams, you do not have to take the comprehensive final. However, if you are taking it to improve your bad score in one of the first two exams, it can only help you and will not bring your grade down even if you fail it. **The final will be required if you have missed one of the first two exams.** If you missed both of the first two exams, you must have dropped the course by the university deadline for dropping.**

➤ ***Additional instructions for each exam may be provided through my-leo e-mails to you when necessary. All exams will be closed-book. You must write dates for exams on your calendar. **I will not be able to change dates for any students.** Since I have already allowed flexibility to you of dropping one exam, you should do fine.***

**You will be logged out of each exam after the maximum allowed time. Do not take any break. Once you start the exam, you must complete it in one sitting.**

## **B. WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS (TOTAL OF 100 POINTS):**

**I will post ten discussion questions on a number of theoretical questions and issues at least once a week. Be sure you log into discussions at the home page of the course and respond to questions during almost each week. You will be able to earn bonus points for your participation in EACH discussion (up to 10 points for each week's topic depending on how meaningful you are through your reading of materials assigned that week in your comments, and how much critical thinking you demonstrate in your discussion comments based on logical arguments).**

**YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FIRST GIVE YOUR OWN RESPONSE TO EACH WEEK'S QUESTION AND THEN RESPOND TO AT LEAST THREE OTHER STUDENTS' RESPONSES (your response saying you agree or disagree with someone will not be enough; you must comment on why you agree or disagree). THAT WAY WE WILL HAVE SOME DEBATE ON THESE QUESTIONS.**

**Your score achieved in discussions out of a total of 100 points in 10 discussions will be calculated and added to your total score in two major exams taken. Your active participation in discussions is required and will enhance your chances of making higher grades.**

**REMEMBER THAT EACH WEEKLY DISCUSSION CAN ONLY BE RESPONDED TO BY YOU DURING SPECIFIC DATES OF EACH WEEK (AS STATED IN COURSE CALENDAR) IN ORDER TO EARN POINTS.**

**I will be able to find out through eCollege which one of you spent how much time on discussions and were meaningful and relevant in your comments. Elaborate in your discussion so that every one of you in class can understand what you are talking about. If someone in your class gives some arguments in discussions that you agree or disagree, be sure to be courteous and state your views accordingly. This is meant to be a debate to promote critical thinking. I will give you credit for your discussions accordingly. Please take weekly discussions seriously as this will help you relate to our important issues and express views on them.**

**I want you to do well in answering essay questions in exams and weekly discussions. The essay questions may not only help you to improve your scores but they represent critical thinking on your part on serious questions. I encourage all of you to do your best in essay questions.**

**If you lose some points in any essay, reasons for that could include:**

- **you may not have answered a question correctly;**
- **you may not have answered all parts of each question;**
- **you may have been too brief in your answer and might not have elaborated on your answer demonstrating your understanding;**
- **you may have included irrelevant materials in your answers;**
- **you may have lacked clarity; or**
- **you may not have provided examples illustrating your points, where needed.**
- **These discussions have been designed to meet Student Learning Objective #1:**

**Students will be active and engaged participants in discussions by analyzing information and develop critical thinking presented within the readings.**

**It is expected that you thoughtfully reflect on the discussion that ensues, and reply back to comments posted by other students. Here are some ground rules for our discussion boards:**

- **1) There are no minimums or maximums on how much or how little you post on the discussion boards. The goal is to achieve quantity & quality. I am striving for us to have a *genuine conversation* on the boards this semester. You may post a new question, start a new thread, or simply respond to other students. For this to happen, we need a couple of guidelines: post or reply, and then *follow-up*. You will not achieve full points by just logging on in the last hour of the last day and posting a couple of random comments on others' posts. Ideally, you'll post something, check back in a few hours and check-in again over the course of**

several days to interact, reply, respond and comment on what others have said on a single thread.

- **2) This discussion will take place within a set timeframe. After the deadline, your professor may post some summary comments of the discussion, highlighting the themes and questions that have emerged. Discussion boards cannot be made up. If you miss out, there is no way to makeup these points.**
- **3) You should feel free to honestly post and defend your opinions, but should be tolerant of other students who express views that are contrary to their own. Discussion boards are places where *dialogue* occurs. They are not a debate that is to be “won” or places where “conversion” takes place. Feel free to explore differences in view points, but do not allow these conflicts to escalate into personal attacks. Please do *not* play devil’s advocate or pretend to take a stance that is not genuine or authentically held.**
- **4) Full, complete sentences are required. Do not use jargon, abbreviations, or acronyms. So, no “LOL,” “SMH,” “IMHO” or “BTW,” please.**
- **5) IMPORTANT: Demonstrate your “sociological imagination” by integrating relevant theories and concepts to help explain, support and defend the arguments you plan to make. You will usually need to draw upon the articles for support. Be sure to CITE appropriately.**
- **6) Spell-check your posts. You may want to draft your response in Microsoft Word, spell-check it, then cut and paste it into the discussion board on eCollege. You will not be able to go back and edit your post once it has been submitted to eCollege.**

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

**This is an online course and some obvious technological resources will be required. You will need access to a computer with:**

- **Internet access (high-speed preferred)**
- **Word processing software (Microsoft Word 2007 or later preferred)**
- **Adobe Acrobat, or ability to open pdf files**

**As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so please be sure to check it regularly. Conversely, you are to email me ONLY via: [Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu](mailto:Raghu.Singh@tamuc.edu)**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

- ❖ **“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of **common decency** and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”** (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Please make sure you use professional language in discussions, even when disagreeing with each other.
- ❖ **A Note on Academic Honesty:** Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must work to provide an environment in which each student has the opportunity to be evaluated fairly on the basis of his/her own performance. University regulations regarding academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. At a minimum, any student found to be in violation of university rules will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment involved. ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to both the Department Head as well as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. These offices may also wish to evaluate the case and decide punishment independent of this professor’s actions. I will use the technology to scan your answers and discussions to determine if anyone has copied contents from other students, on-line sources, and from published works. No credit will be given to anyone for giving or taking help toward any form of plagiarism beside punitive action in serious cases. While I trust my students, precautions are needed to protect those who genuinely work on the course.
- ❖ **Special Needs: ADA Statement**

**The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, or e-mail: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**

### **Campus Concealed Carry Policy**

**Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may**

not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **CALENDAR CONTAINING DATES FOR REQUIRED EXAMS & WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS**

**Week 1: Monday, 8/29 to Saturday, 9/3: Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 1 and submit comments on time.**

**Week 2: Monday, 9/5 to Saturday, 9/10. Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 2 and submit comments on time.**

**Week 3: Monday, 9/12 to Saturday, 9/17: Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 3.**

**Week 4: Monday, 9/19 to Saturday, 9/24: Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 4 and submit comments on time.**

**Week 5: Monday, 9/26 to Saturday, 10/1: Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 5 and submit comments on time.**

**Week 6: Monday, 10/3 to Saturday, 10/8: Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 6 and submit comments on time.**

**Week 7: Monday, 10/10 to Saturday, 10/15: Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 7 and submit comments on time.**

***Take EXAM 1 online, covering assigned topics, on Monday, October 17.***

**Week 8: Monday, 10/17 to Saturday, 10/22: Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 8 and submit comments on time.**

**Week 9: Monday, 10/24 to Saturday, 10/29: Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 9 and submit comments on time.**

**Week 10: Monday, 10/31 to Saturday, 11/5: Read assigned readings and work on Discussion 10 and submit comments on time.**

**Week 11+: Monday, 11/7 to Saturday, 12/3: Read assigned readings and work on preparing for Exam 2 and Final-Optional-Comprehensive Exam.**



**Thanksgiving Break during Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> week.**

**Take EXAM 2 online, covering assigned topics, on Monday, December 5.**

**Take FINAL COMPREHENSIVE-Make-Up EXAM online, covering assigned readings given in the study guide on Monday, December 12. Final Grade available to you on December 15.**