

## **SOCIOLOGY 375, Sociological Theory**

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Fall 2016

**Prerequisites:** No

**GE:** upper-division GE D1 (Individual and Society)

### **Catalog Description**

This course will introduce you to a range of classical and contemporary sociological theories about our social world. Sociological theories seek to understand how and why we as humans organize ourselves in the manner in which we find ourselves, study the dialectic between structure and agency, and fathom how such a peculiarity as society is even possible in the first place. Our task is thus: whereas a biologist is concerned with the existence of life and its organizing principles, social theory is concerned with the existence of society and its organizing principles. Be prepared to compare, contrast, and critique the ideas of the theorists we examine. By the end of the semester students will have gained:

1. A deeper knowledge of what society is, and how we cannot know our selves without knowing our society.
2. A familiarity with the major contributions of sociological theorists.
2. An ability to understand any given social phenomenon from a multitude of theoretical points of view.
4. An awareness of the human species' profound lack of understanding of itself, and how this ignorance permits our own manipulation and alienation by the very structures we have ourselves created.

This course will be conducted as a seminar. In other words, you are expected to be scholars in this course, coming to class prepared to engage in open theoretical discussion with your classmates. Attendance is absolutely required.

### **Required Texts**

2 books will be assigned (tba)

### **Grading**

Two exams, along with quizzes and assignments throughout the semester.

All information included is subject to change.