Contemporary Sociological Theory

SOCI 5110

Spring 2011

Instructor: Paul Kamolnick, Ph.D., Professor
Meeting Place and Time: 125 Rogers-Stout, Mondays, 4-6:55 pm
How to contact me:
Office: 223A Rogers-Stout; Office hours: M, T, W: 9:00-10:00 am; and by appt.
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e-mail: kamolnp@etsu.edu

Required Text:

Course Objective:
This course identifies the basic elements of scientific sociological theory, and provides a select survey of contemporary sociological theories. The relation of sociological theory to the overall scientific enterprise is emphasized, as is the integral relation of sociological theory, methods, and research.

Course Format:
Lecture-discussion. If students are interested, I am willing to modify this format in the direction of a seminar-type course where students are primarily responsible for presentations, or a mixed format, where I am responsible for part of the contents, and students in a seminar-type setting for other contents. Please check the D2L site accompanying this course for important pedagogical materials that I post.

Course Evaluation:
Three take-home essay examinations provide the basis for the final grade. Each examination contributes 33.3% toward the final grade.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is expected, though not required, and it is definitely to your advantage to attend each class session if at all possible in order to maximize effective learning of the course material.

Grading scale: Grading Scale
The ETSU +/- Scale is used in this course.

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>74-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>70-73</td>
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Course Itinerary

Jan. 24  Introduction to Course, Administrative Stuff.

Scientific Sociological Theory: Preliminaries, presuppositions.

Jan. 31  Elements of Scientific Theory Construction.

Reading: SST, ch. 1, “Sociological Theory.” (pp. 1-20)

Applerouth/Edles, pp. 3-4 “What is sociological theory?”

I. Key Types of Macro- and Meso-Level Socioenvironmental Theory.

Feb. 7  Societal Structural-Functionalism— Classical Origins, Parsons, Merton

Reading: SST, chs. 2, 3

Applerouth/Edles, ch. 2

Feb. 14 Conflict Theory—Marxian, Simmelian, Weberian

Reading: SST, chs. 8-10

Feb. 21 Feminist Conflict Theories

Reading: SST, chs. 11, 15)

Applerouth/Edles, ch. 7

Feb. 28  **Anthony Giddens’ Structuration Theory and Theorization of Modernity

Reading: SST, ch. 28

Appelrouth/Edles, pp. 523-558

Take-home exam handed out Feb. 28: Due Mar. 6.

II. Key Types of Micro-Socioenvironmental Theory.

Mar. 7  NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK

Mar. 14  Social Network Theory

Reading: SST, ch. 30

Exchange Theory—Early, Homans, Blau

Reading: SST, chs. 16-18)

Appelrouth/Edles, ch.4

Mar. 21 Exchange Theory—Exchange Networks, Rational Choice

Reading: SST, chs. 19-20

Applerouth/Edles, ch.4

Mar. 28 Interactionist Theory—Early, Self/Identity, Role Theory

Reading: SST, chs. 21-23

Applerouth/Edles, pp. 157-77.
Apr. 4 Interactionist Theory—Ethnomethodology, Emotions
Reading: SST, chs. 25-26
Applerouth/Edles, ch.6
Applerouth/Edles, ch.5, pp. 229-256

Take-home exam handed out Apr. 4: Due Apr. 11.

Apr. 11 Interactionist Theory—Goffman’s human ethology/dramaturgy
Reading: SST, chs. 24
Applerouth/Edles, ch. 5, pp. 177-228.

III. Frontiers of Sociological Theory
Apr. 18 Evolution, Sociogenetics, and Social Phenomena
Reading: SST, ch. 7.


Final handed out Apr 25; Due by Apr. May 2, before 6 pm.