Instructor: Paul Kamolnick, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology; aka: “Dr. K”

Meeting Place and Time: 403 Rogers-Stout, M,W,F: 11:30-12:25

How to contact me:
Office: 223A Rogers-Stout
Office phone: 439-6652
Office hours: M,W,F:10:30-11:15; T,R, 10:00-11:00, and by appointment.
e-mail: kamolnp@etsu.edu

Required Texts:

Course Objectives:
The objectives of this course are to (1) understand the basic intentions of scientific sociological theory, (2) survey the writings of select seminal contributors to modern scientific sociological theory, and (3) develop an appreciation for the strengths and limitations of sociology’s first century of scientific theory.

Course Format:
This course is conducted in a lecture-discussion format. Powerpoint and D2L will be incorporated as appropriate.

Course Evaluation: Undergraduates
Three in-class examinations are administered over the course of the semester. Each is worth 30% of the final grade, and include objective and short-answer-type questions. Since this course is designated writing intensive, I am required to have you write a minimum of 15 pages, with 5 pages of that 15, requiring revision based on instructor feedback. Completing the brief writing assignments in a timely and competent fashion contributes 10% to your final grade. Please observe the page requirements and use standard margins and fonts.
**Course Evaluation: Graduate students**

Three in-class examinations are administered over the course of the semester. Each is worth 30% of the final grade, and include objective and short-answer-type questions. Since this course is designated writing intensive, I am required to have you write a minimum of 15 pages, with 5 pages of that 15, requiring revision based on instructor feedback. Completing the brief writing assignments in a timely and competent fashion contributes 10% to your final grade. Please observe the page requirements and use standard margins and fonts.

**Grading Scale**

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

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
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Course Outline and Itinerary

August 30  
Introduction to course; Course orientation; What to expect.

I. Modern Scientific Sociological Theory: Basic Assumptions
   A. Discussion of Key Definitions/Concepts.  [Sept. 1 – 13]
      Reading: *The Emergence of Sociological Theory (EST)*, ch. 1.
   B. The Constrained versus Unconstrained Views of Human Nature:
      Exposition and Evaluation. [Sept. 15-17]
      Reading: Thomas Sowell, *A Conflict of Visions* (Chapter 1, pdf on D2L).

      **Brief 5-page writing assignment due before class Monday, Sept. 24:**
      “Thomas Sowell’s Conception of the Constrained versus Unconstrained Views of Human Nature: Exposition and Evaluation”
      **Revised paper due back Friday, October 4.**

II. Select Classical Sociological Theorists.

   A. Auguste Comte (1798-1857)  [Sept. 20 – Sept. 29]
      Reading: *EST*, ch. 3.

      **EXAM ONE: Friday, Oct. 1.**
      This exam covers: (1) “modern scientific sociological theory (2) Auguste Comte, and (3) constrained/unconstrained visions.

   B. Herbert Spencer (1820-1905)  [Oct. 4-20]
      Reading: *EST*, chs. 5.

      **FALL BREAK: NO CLASS MONDAY, OCTOBER 18.**

   C. Karl Marx (1818-1883)  [Oct. 22 – Nov. 3]
      Reading: *EST*, ch. 7.

      **EXAM TWO:** This exam covers  Spencer and Marx. Tentative date: Wednesday, Nov. 5

      **Brief 5-page writing assignment due before class November 5:**
      “Constrained versus Unconstrained Visions of Human Nature and the Social Bond: Spencer and Marx”
      **This will be part 2 of your paper #1. You will simply add this section as an illustration of your previous “part one”**.
D Emile Durkheim (1858-1918) [Nov. 8 - 19]
   Reading: EST, ch. 13.

E. Max Weber (1864-1920) [Nov 22 – Dec. 8]
   Reading: EST, ch. 9.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

F. Final Day of Class: Summing Up; Key Theorists and Their Core Concepts. [Dec. 10]

   **FINAL EXAM**: Monday, December 14, 3:50-5:50. This exam is non-cumulative. It is on Emile Durkheim and Max Weber.
   5-page writing assignment due on finals day.: “Does Max Weber’s theory of “rationalization” and its correlate, “disenchantment,” make sense of present-day life in the United States?”