Ohio University- Athens
Tentative Syllabus for Winter 2001

Instructor: Charles M. Brown
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Office Hours: M & W 11:15-1:00; M & T 9-10 and by appointment
E-mail: brownc4@ohio.edu
Home Page: http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~brownc4/classtheory.htm
Class Meeting Times and Location: Lindley 346: M & W- 1:10-3:00.

A Little About Your Instructor
I thought it might be nice to provide a small introduction to myself since we will be spending a quarter together. A certain amount of mystique is always good, so I won't tell you everything (besides, I'm sure that you wouldn't be interested anyway). For starters, I am 35 years old, married, and was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest (Oregon and Washington). I received my Bachelors degree in sociology from Oregon State University, and my Masters degree from the University of South Florida (again in sociology). I have spent the last five years at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale working on my Ph.D. and should be finished sometime this year. My major research interests in sociology include culture, religion, work, organizations, social thought, social movements, and science and knowledge. My master's thesis was a formulaic analysis of the lyrics and major themes of Conservative Christian speed/thrash metal music. My dissertation (the book that is written for the Ph.D.) will incorporate literature reviews, interviews, and participant observation to analyze the production of contemporary evangelical Christian culture, especially popular culture, and how various tensions within the industry are recognized and mediated. My hobbies include snow skiing, playing softball, listening to music (mostly alternative and classical although I am getting into techno), reading, computers, and playing the guitar (both electric and acoustic).

Course Description
Many sociology students dread taking a course in classical theory. After all, they reason, what do a bunch of dead white European males have to do with my life? Furthermore, it is often felt that classical theory has little if anything to say to contemporary social issues.

Throughout the course I will argue that classical theory is still relevant today! Not only have contemporary theorists continued to use the theories of classical theorists, but many of the social problems that you and I are faced with were directly addressed by classical theorists.

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for the student to develop a general sociological understanding and perspective with which to evaluate, interpret, and understand society in general and sociology in particular. We will begin by looking at the philosophical roots of sociology and how various social and philosophical changes contributed to the emergence of the discipline. We will then concentrate on the theories and methodologies of several important figures in the field.
This is designed to be a “read and discuss” seminar alongside the lecture component. **I expect you to come to class already having read the material and ready to discuss it intelligently.** One way to make sure that everyone is reading, thinking about, and ready to discuss the assignments is to force you put your thoughts on paper. Thus, each week, you should come to class with a sheet of paper upon which you have responded to the week’s readings. These materials will be collected and graded from time to time (see “reports and participation” below for more details).

**Text & Other Readings**

**To Be Purchased:**
3. Peter Kivisto. *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*.

**Readings on Reserve:**
3. David Lyon. “Sociology of Sociology” (Article)

**Course Prerequisites**
12 hours of sociology including Sociology 101.

**Course Objectives**
1. To help students develop a “sociological imagination” to society and sociology.
2. To expose students to the sociological terms, concepts, and theories that are helpful in understanding society.
3. To foster an understanding of how society and culture shapes sociological theory and vice versa.
4. To foster critical thinking skills.

**Course Requirements**
Each student is responsible for completing all class assignments, exams, and readings. This means that if you are absent, you should check with me as soon as possible to make sure that you did not miss any assignment changes, etc. Each student is also responsible to attend each class period. The Instructor reserves the right to move exams and assignments at his discretion. Missing an exam or assignment because it has been moved **IS NOT A VALID EXCUSE! IF YOU MISS AN EXAM OR ASSIGNMENT FOR THIS REASON YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKEUP THE WORK AND YOU WILL FAIL TO RECEIVE ANY POINTS!**

**Term Exams**
Each student will take two term exams worth 50 points each. The term exams will most probably consist of essay questions. **LATE EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN** unless the student receives prior permission or an emergency warrants the situation. Students who miss an exam for these reasons must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the exam in order to schedule a makeup.

**Class Attendance**
Obviously, this is a very small class. While I realize that you may have to miss class from time to time due to an illness, a funeral, etc., I have decided to make attending class mandatory. Here’s the deal… there are exactly 18 days in the quarter that we are scheduled to meet aside from exam days. I will allow you to miss two days without penalty. Each day after this will result in a deduction of 5 points per day missed. Tardiness beyond 5 minutes and leaving early are grounds for subtracting 5 points. Extenuating circumstances (e.g.
you are in the hospital for two weeks) will be treated differently but: (1) I’ll require documentation and (2) you need to contact me a.s.a.p. so that I know why you aren’t attending class.

**Class Participation**

Participation is also mandatory since this is a small class. You should come to class having already read the material and ready to ask questions and discuss the material intelligently. In short, you should come to class ready to lead a discussion of the readings. There may be times where I will turn the class over to you, the students, to lead discussion. Failure to generate discussion on your part means you individually lose points! Your best strategy is to come prepared to give an individual presentation on the readings for that day. Class participation is worth a total of **50 points** and will be added to your final scores at the end of the quarter. Class participation points will be approximated beginning the third week of class and allotted as follows:

- 50 points: Minimum of 1 exchange with myself or classmates each class period.
- 30 points: Minimum of 1 exchange with myself or classmates every other class period.
- 10 points: Minimum of 1 exchange with myself or classmates once every three class periods.
- 00 points: Less than 1 exchange with myself or classmates every three class periods.

**Reading Reports**

To ensure that you are keeping up with this task, I will collect reading reports from you from time to time starting the third week and continuing each week throughout the quarter. The due dates for these reports are listed in the course outline at the end of this syllabus. NOTE: There are 7 due dates listed but **I will only collect reports on four of these days.** You will not be told ahead of time, however, when reports will be collected. Thus, you should have them typed up and ready to hand in during the first part of class. Late reports will not be accepted!!! Guidelines for how to write up your reading reports will be given to you later in the first week. Reading reports are worth **20 points** each for a total of **80 points.** These reports should also be used to help you prepare for the exams.

**Essay Paper**

You will be required to type up and turn in a 10-15 page paper worth **50 points.** This paper will require you to synthesize the ideas of two theorists covered in the course. Further directions regarding the paper will be given to you later on in the quarter.

**Extra Credit Assignment**

We are living in an age of computers and it is obvious that anyone who wishes to succeed in today's world needs to feel comfortable using them. Because of this, and because I may need to contact you at some point in the semester, I am providing you an opportunity to gain an easy 5 points. NOTE: This will be the only extra credit assignment given, so be forewarned! Begging and pleading at the end of the semester will do no good!!! Here's what you need to do: email me using your own email account (contact the computer lab @ 593-1222 to get instructions about setting up an account). In the "subject line" please type your first and last name and be sure to provide the following in the body of the message: (1) the class number (Soc. 403); (2) your name; (3) phone number; (4) email address; and (5) your major. You must complete this assignment between Wednesday, January 3rd through Wednesday, January 31st. Late emails will not be credited. This assignment is worth **5 points.**

**Methods of Evaluation**

Breakdown for grades will be as follows:

- 2 Term Exams worth 100 pts. Total (50 pts. each)
- 4 Reading Reports worth 80 Total (20 pts. each)
- 1 Essay paper (50 pts. total)
- Class participation grade (50 pts. total)
Letter grades will be assigned to course grade percentages in the following manner:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Under 60%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You can calculate your current grade at any point in the quarter by dividing the number of points you have earned by the total amount of points possible and referring to the scale above. Thus, if you achieved a “43” on the first exam and a “17” on the first reading report, then you would calculate your current grade as follows: $43 + 17 = 60$ divided by $70$ (50 for the 1st exam and 20 for the 1st reading report) = .857 or 86%. Using the scale above you can see that you are currently earning a “B”.

**Some Further Guidelines**

Here are a few guidelines which should be of help in this course:

First, if you have any questions, please ask. Chances are if you do not understand something, half the class does not either. I will not think you are stupid because you ask questions. On the contrary, if you knew all about sociology, you would not be here in the first place. Also, your questions tend to liven up the class and make it more interesting for all of us. If for some reason you do not feel like asking the question during class, stop me after class. If you do not have time after class please make an appointment, we can find another time.

Second, I expect you to exercise proper manners while in class. This means that you should not talk during class to another student while I or another student is addressing the class. This means that you should arrive on time and not leave early. This means that you should not sleep in class, read the newspaper, listen to music, etc. **NOTE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO SUBTRACT POINTS FROM ANY STUDENT WHO REFUSES TO EXERCISE PROPER MANNERS IN CLASS. FURTHERMORE, POINTS MAY BE SUBTRACTED IN THE AMOUNT THAT THE INSTRUCTOR SEES FIT.**

Third, I consider your class participation to be very important. Please feel free to ask questions offer suggestions and/or comments, etc. If you disagree with me, fine. Feel free to say so. I only ask that you provide a rational and/or evidence for your position. In other words, don’t simply say, “I disagree with you because I just don’t think you are correct,” give me a reason why you disagree.

Fourth, I realize that many of you are going to be one or two points away from the next grade when I calculate your final grades. While some professors simply bump everyone up, I will not do this. Instead, I am giving you the opportunity to earn 5 extra credit points with the email extra credit assignment. These extra credit points will help you move up to the next level if you are a few points away. **DO NOT PLEAD AND BEG WITH ME AT THE END OF THE QUARTER TO MOVE YOU UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL AS YOUR PLEAS WILL BE IGNORED.** I think that I am already being more than fair by offering you a chance for extra credit.

Fifth, cheating of any kind is not allowed. Any student who appears to the instructor to be cheating will receive an automatic "F" for the entire course and s/he will be turned in to the appropriate academic authorities.
Sixth, each and every class is important. My lectures do not always follow the text. I may disagree with the text and may present material not found in the text. Lectures count more than text on exams. Therefore, YOU MUST ATTEND EACH AND EVERY CLASS.

Finally, I do not grade on a strict curve. This means you have more to gain by cooperating rather than competing with each other. I would like you to get to know the students in your discussion group really well. You should exchange addresses and telephone numbers with each other and try and form a study group. As a group you can help each other with the class material, particularly in studying for exams. You also can come into my office as a group and we can talk over things that are not clear.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1
Monday: No Class
Wednesday: Introduction to the Course & Mapping of the Field
   1. Collins & Makowsky: Introduction

Week 2
Monday: The Enlightenment: Philosophical Foundations (1693-1800)
   1. David Lyon Article (On reserve at the library)
   2. Zeitlin Chapter 1
Wednesday: The Enlightenment: Philosophical Foundations, Continued

Week 3
Monday: John Locke (1632-1704), Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), & Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)
   1. Zeitlin Chapter 3
   2. Kimmel & Stephen pp. 6-41 (On reserve at the library)
Wednesday: Henri De Saint-Simon (1760-1825) & Auguste Comte (1798-1857)
   1. Collins Chapter 1
   2. Zeitlin Chapters 8 & 9

*****Comte Report Due *****

Week 4
Monday: Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797) & Harriet Martineau (1802-1876)
   1. Zeitlin Chapters 5 & 11
Wednesday: Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)
   1. Collins Chapter 3
   2. Zeitlin Chapter 10

*****Tocqueville Report Due *****

Week 5
Monday: Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), Thomas Malthus (1766-1834), & John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)
   1. Collins Chapter 5
   2. Zeitlin Chapter 12
Wednesday: !!!!!!!!!!!!! Midterm Examination !!!!!!!!!!
Week 6
Monday: Charles Darwin (1809-1882) & Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)
1. Collins Chapter 11
2. Ashley & Orenstein Chapter 11 (On reserve at the library)

Wednesday: Karl Marx (1818-1883)
1. Collins Chapter 2
2. Kivisto Pp. 5-22
Recommended Reading: Zeitlin Chapters 14 & 15

*****marx Report Due *****

Week 7
Monday: Karl Marx, Continued

Wednesday: Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)
1. Collins Chapter 4
2. Kivisto Pp. 127-129

*****nietzsche Report Due *****

Week 8
Monday: Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)
1. Collins Chapter 6
2. Kivisto Pp. 36-65
Recommended Reading: Zeitlin Chapter 22

Wednesday: Emile Durkheim & Georges Sorel (1847-1922)

*****durkheim Report Due *****

Week 9
Monday: Max Weber (1864-1920)
1. Collins Chapter 7
2. Kivisto Pp. 66-98
Recommended Reading: Zeitlin Chapter 17

Wednesday: Max Weber

*****weber Report Due *****

Week 10
Monday: Georg Simmel (1858-1918)
1. Collins Chapter 9

!!!!!!!!!!!! Essay Paper Due !!!!!!!!!!!!!
Wednesday: Charles Cooley (1864-1929) & George Herbert Mead (1863-1931)
1. Zeitlin Pp. 426-436
2. Kivisto Pp. 144-148

***** mead Report Due *****

Week 11

!!!!!!! FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, March 13 @ 2:30 p.m. !!!!!!!!

Student Information:
Please answer the questions below and write your answers on the 3x5 note card provided by the instructor:
1. Name
2. Age
3. Major (spell out please)
4. Class standing (Freshman, Sophomore, etc.)
5. Where are you from?
6. Do you know anyone that has taken this course before? If so, who?
7. Have you transferred from another college or university? If so, which one?
8. How many quarters have you attended OU?
9. What other sociology courses have you taken?
10. Do you belong to a fraternity or sorority? If so, which one?
11. Are you involved in OU sports? If so, which one(s)? (Don't include Intramural sports)
12. Do you work? Where? How many hours per week?
13. E-mail & phone number
14. Why did you take this class?