

Minnesota State University Moorhead

SOC 407: Contemporary Sociological Theory

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:

SOC 110 - Introduction to Sociology

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This advanced undergraduate seminar introduces students to contemporary sociological theory. It centers on the development of the major theoretical frameworks used by contemporary sociologists to understand the late-modern world. The starting point is the 1920s, and continues to the last fin-de-siecle and beyond. Theoretical frameworks considered includes the following: structural functionalism, systems and network theories, critical theory, rational choice and exchange theories, structuralism, structuration theory, critical race theory, feminist epistemologies, theories on power and the body, and the influence of post-modern theory.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 11/18/2006 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Structural Functionalism.
2. Rational Choice Theory.
3. Critical Theory.
4. Feminist Epistemology
5. Critical Race Theory.
6. Jurgen Habermas' Critical Communication Theory .
7. Network Theory.
8. Anthony Giddens' Structuration Theory.
9. Pierre Bourdieu's Social Reproduction Theory (Habitus and the Field).
10. Jean Baurillard's Post-Modern Theory.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will study about the major theoretical traditions in sociology since 1920.
2. Students will study how the major theoretical traditions have attempted to answer the major problems for sociology such as the structure vs. agency conundrum.
3. Students will study about the scope conditions that constrain major theoretical paradigms (rational choice, structuration, symbolic interactionism, structural functionalism, structuralism, post-structuralism, sex/gendered epistemologies, critical theory, critical race theory, and the like) in sociology today.
4. Students will examine how contemporary theory informs understanding of the dilemmas of late-modernity: identity, intimacy, anomie (both personal and social), terrorism, multiculturalism, and globalization, to name a few.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted