

Contemporary Sociological Theory
Tuesday and Thursday: 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm
Broad 2160E

Professor Guhin

guhin@soc.ucla.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-3:15 pm
<https://calendly.com/jeffguhin>

Welcome and Overview

Hello students! This is going to be a great class. I'm really excited to be talking theory with all of you! A few things to emphasize:

1. This course is intended to teach you as much how to *theorize* as is to familiarize you with classic works of theory. What it means to theorize is something we'll be talking about a lot this quarter.
2. There is obviously a lot more that could have been in this course, which is true for any quarter-length course. Please do ask me about other readings if there's something you'd like to learn more about!
3. Because there's so much I could assign, I've emphasized the theme of "socialization" to which we will return throughout the quarter.
4. It's a lot of reading, but I cut a lot too. You'll generally have between 30 and 50 pages a session, which should be about two to at most three hours per class of outside work. If it's much more than that, please talk to your TA or academic counselor about strategies to make the reading easier for you.

Policy on Screens in the Classroom

I've gone back and forth on this. I've decided to allow screens in the classroom. However, please know that for many students, screens can be a distraction from learning, and they find they learn best by taking notes with a pen and notebook. This might well not be the case for you! I'm not judging. However, I'd ask you to please pay attention in class. If you're so busy that you'll have to do something else in class, then simply don't come.

Lectures: Attendance, Absences, and Podcasts

I've done podcasts of lectures in the past and I won't do them anymore as too many students view the podcasts as reasons not to attend lecture. You are free to record lectures with either video or audio recording equipment for your own personal use, but there will be no podcast of the course. Attendance at lecture will not affect your grade, but, you know, this lecture is costing you or someone in your life a good chunk of change, so I'd considering going.

Section Attendance

Teaching Assistants will take attendance at section. If you miss one section, it's not a big deal, but after two it will affect your grade. Your two section attendance absences should not be used at random: they are intended only for emergencies. In other words, all things being equal, you will not miss any section. If you are sick or experience a family tragedy, that is when you should miss section, and we have provided two possible absences in which you can do so. Your section grades each day will be from 0 to 1:

0: absent.

.5: present, doesn't speak.

1: actively involved.

Midterms, Papers, and Final

Midterms

These will be short multiple-choice midterms in weeks four and eight. They should take about twenty minutes and will gauge how well you've learning the material up to that point. Neither of these are cumulative, meaning they are only about what we have covered since the beginning of class and then since the first midterm. However, both of these midterms will have questions that will be repeated on the final. If you need to make up a midterm, you can do so during office hours or during an appointment. All made-up midterms will be short answer rather than multiple choice.

Final

The final will be an in-class combination of multiple-choice (taken largely from the quizzes) and essay questions that will ask you to compare any of the theorists we have read all quarter.

Papers

You will have two papers. The first, due at the mid-point of the quarter, will ask you to use a theorist to *theorize* a social problem or situation, large or small. You can use an example from your own life or from the news. This paper should be between 1000 and 1200 words. Grading will be based on how well you have shown your knowledge of the theorist in question and the plausibility of the application, in addition to standard concerns about style, grammar, and form (see rubric below).

You will have a second paper, due in the last week of class, that will be a comparison of two theorists we read in class. This paper should be between 1500 and 2000 words. Students are strenuously discouraged (but not prevented) from using secondary sources. For help with writing, please see the undergraduate writing centers. You can learn more about the writing centers and make an appointment here: <https://wp.ucla.edu/wc/>

Second Papers will be graded as follows. (Essays in the final will be graded similarly, though obviously there not be a requirement for quotes from primary sources)

A +/- (100/95/91 percent): A coherent, well-organized argument with original insights into meaningful differences and similarities between the authors and texts. Expands significantly beyond lecture and session discussion. Superior use of primary sources to make arguments. No errors, minor or major. Excellent (though not necessarily perfect) style, grammar, and form.

B +/- (90/85/81): A good though imperfect argument with a capable description of similarities and differences between the authors and texts. Expands beyond lecture and section discussion. Good style, grammar, and form.

C +/- (80/75/71): A simple comparison that might not necessarily be an argument, but nonetheless adequately describes the similarities and differences between the texts. Expands at least slightly from discussion in lecture. Inconsistent use of primary sources to make arguments. No major errors though more minor. Adequate style, grammar, and form.

D +/- (70/65/61): An adequate description of similarities and differences that does not significantly advance beyond what was discussed in lecture. Inadequate use of primary source citations. Major errors. Poor style, grammar, and form.

F (60): An inadequate description with no argument. Very poor style, grammar, and form. No primary sources.

Incomplete: (0 percent): Not turned in or plagiarized.

There will be a 12-hour grace period for all late papers to account for all the assorted emergencies that seem to occur immediately before a paper is due. This is a grace period and not an extension. Any paper turned in more than 12 hours after the deadline will immediately have its final grade deducted by 10 percentage points per day.

Grading

See the paper rubric above for how percentages turn into letter grades.

Midterm 1: 15%

Midterm 2: 15%

Paper 1: 10%

Paper 2: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Section Attendance and Participation: 10%

Contacting Me and Office Hours.

My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 pm to 3:15 pm, Haines 296. Come on by! I'm also available most days by appointment, though I almost never have meetings in the morning. You are not required to have an appointment for office hours, but those with appointments have first priority. You can stay as long as you like, but if there's a line, you can stay for no longer than 15 minutes. If you need more than 15 minutes, we can set up another time.

Here's the website to set up an appointment: <https://calendly.com/jeffguhin>

Honors Seminar

If you wish, you can also participate in the class honors seminar, which for this course will be reading essays each week with similar themes to the class. There will be short reflections written during the quarter but no other written assignments. *The Honors Seminar readings listed in this syllabus are only required if you choose to be in the Honors Seminar.*

Academic Honesty

If you're caught plagiarizing, you get an automatic 0 on the item in question. I'll also report you to the Dean, virtually without exception. If you are caught cheating on either of the midterms or the final, we will also report you to the Dean. For more in academic honesty at UCLA, please see the following website: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>. Any "cut and paste" without attribution is plagiarism and I will report it.

Difficult Material

Some material in this class might be hard for some students. If you're worried that's the case, please contact me beforehand.

Week One: Introduction, and Van Ausdale and Feagin

Tuesday, April 2

Introduction

Thursday, April 4

Van Ausdale and Feagin: *The First R: How Children Learn Race and Racism*, pp. 47-94

Honors Seminar (April 4)

John Dewey: Democracy and Education pp. 6-44

Week Two: Talcott Parsons

Tuesday, April 9: “The Learning of Social Role-Expectation and the Mechanisms of Socialization of Motivation” (pp. 201-226) *The Social System*

Thursday, April 11: “The Learning of Social Role-Expectation and the Mechanisms of Socialization of Motivation” (pp. 227-248) *The Social System*

Honors Seminar (April 11): “The Action Frame of Reference and the General Theory of Action Systems”

Week Three: Hannah Arendt

Tuesday, April 16: “What is Authority?” (pp. 91-141) *Between Past and Future*

Thursday, April 18: “The Crisis in Education” (pp. 170-193) *Between Past and Future*

Honors Seminar (April 18) *The Human Condition*, pp. 1-21.

Week Four: Erving Goffman

Tuesday, April 23: “The Moral Career of a Mental Patient” (pp. 127-169) *Asylums*

Thursday, April 25: “Stigma and Social Identity” (pp. 1-40) *Stigma*

Midterm One in Beginning of Class

Honors Seminar (April 25): *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, pp. 15-76.

Week Five: Pierre Bourdieu

Tuesday, April 30: “Social Space and Symbolic Power” *In Other Words* pp. 123-139

Thursday, May 2: *Language and Symbolic Power*, pp. 37-65

Honors Seminar (May 2): *The Honors Seminar Will Not Meet May 2.*

Friday May 3: First Paper is due in class via turnitin at class website

Week Six: Michel Foucault

Tuesday, May 7: *The History of Sexuality, vol. 1*, pp. 3-35

Thursday, May 9: *The History of Sexuality, vol. 1*, pp. 36-73

Honors Seminar (May 9): “Technologies of the Self” pp. 16-49

Week Seven: Ann Swidler

Tuesday, May 14: *Talk of Love*, pp. 1-40

Thursday, May 16: *Talk of Love*, pp. 181-213

Honors Seminar (May 16): “What anchors cultural practices”

Week Eight: Edward Said

Tuesday, May 21: *Orientalism*, pp. 1-28

Thursday, May 23: *Orientalism*, pp. 31-49

Midterm Two in Beginning of Class

Honors Seminar (May 23): “The Violences of Knowledge” by Guhin and Wyrzten

Week Nine: Barrie Thorne

Tuesday, May 28: *Gender Play*, 29-61

Thursday, May 30: *Gender Play*, 63-109

Honors Seminar (May 30) *Negotiating Opportunities*, pp. 27-60

Week Ten: Mary Crow Dog

Tuesday, March 13: *Lakota Woman*, pp. 1-41

Thursday, March 15: *Lakota Woman*, pp. 42-91

Honors Seminar: “Brownies”

FINAL: Friday, June 14, 2019, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM