TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY - CORPUS CHRISTI
Course: Social Theory (Soc. 4301A) Semester: Spring 2012
Instructor: Dr. Bilaye Benibo Office: BH 346
Time: Tuesday 4:20-6:50 p.m. Phone: 825-5980
Classroom: BH 205 O/Hrs: Wed.7-8 p.m.
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Required Textbook
Ritzer, George Sociological Theory. 8th edition McGraw-Hill N.Y.

Course Description & Objective
Central to any discipline are the explanations it advances for why and how phenomena in its area of interest occur. These explanations are otherwise referred to as theories. The present course is essentially a survey course in sociological theories. Like most fields of inquiry, sociologists have not one, but many theories. Our primary objective in this course is to critically explore these theories with a view to assessing their explanations of order and change in society. A secondary objective is to develop an appreciation for subtle differences within theoretical perspectives. The achievement of this objective may, however, require that we sacrifice some depth for comprehensiveness.

Student Learning Outcomes
- Explain the key assumptions of each of the theoretical perspectives discussed in class,
- Understand each theorist’s explanations of social order and social change
- Distinguish among theoretical perspectives and theorists within each perspective.

Course Requirements
Your final grade in this course will be based on the following:

First Examination --- 30 percent
Second Examination ---- 30 percent
Final Examination ------ 40 percent
Total ----100 percent
The grading scheme for your course grade is as follows:

- 90% and above - A
- 80-89% - B
- 70-79% - C
- 60-69% - D
- <60% - F

All exams must be taken at the scheduled times and place. Make-ups exams will not be allowed unless for validly supported medical and/or personal emergencies. There will be no extra-credit points given in this class. Exams are in-class, and in essay format. Exam questions require thoughtful, analytical and comprehensive answers to questions drawn from lectures and assigned readings. Blue (examination) books are required for all exams.

**Students with Disabilities**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, at 825-5816 for further instruction and/or guidance.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Additionally, students are encouraged to speak to the instructor before dropping the class.

**Grade Appeal Process**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he/she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2 Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student
Grade Appeals Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Course Outline

Jan. 10  
- Introduction: Instructor, Course and Students  
- Thinking Critically About Sociological Theories

Jan. 17  
- Definitions and History of Sociological Theories  
(Ritzer Chap. 1)

Jan.24 & 31  
- Functional Theorizing (Ritzer chaps. 3&7)

Feb. 07  
- First Exam

Feb. 14-21  
- Conflict Theorizing  
(Ritzer chaps. 2&8)

Feb. 28 & Mar. 06  
- Interactionist Theorizing  
(Ritzer, chaps. 4, 9&10)

March 13  
- Spring Break

March 20  
- Second Exam

March 27-April 3  
- Social exchange Theorizing  
(Ritzer Chaps. 5&11)

April 10&17  
- Feminist Theorizing  
(Ritzer chap. 12)

April 24  
- Postmodernism (Ritzer Chaps. 15-16)

May 08  
- Final Exam (4:30-6:30 p.m.)

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate students’ and/or instructional needs.