Course 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 relative strengths, weaknesses and prospects. The achievement of this objective may, however, require that we sacrifice some depth for comprehensiveness.

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

All exams must be taken at the scheduled times and place. Make-ups and/or extra credits will not be allowed unless for validly supported medical and/or personal emergencies. 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.

Course Outline
Jan. 23  - Introduction: Instructor, Course and students
          - Thinking Critically About Sociological Theories
Jan. 30  - Definitions and History of Sociological Theories
Feb. 06-13 - Functional Theorizing (Ritzer chps. 3&7)
Feb. 20  - First Exam
Feb. 27- Mar. 06 - Conflict Theorizing
                   (Ritzer chps 2, &8)
Mar. 11-15  - Spring Break
March 20 & 27  - Interactionist Theorizing
                 (Ritzer, chps 4, 9&10)
March 25  - Second Exam
April 03-10  - Social exchange Theorizing
              (Ritzer 5&11)
April 17-24  - Feminist Theorizing
              (Ritzer chp 12)
May 01  - Postmodernism (Reading 2 Ritzer 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.