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.

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

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**

09/02  - Introduction: Instructor, Course and students
       Definitions and History of Sociological Theories

09/23  - Functional Theorizing (Ritzer chps. 3&7)

09/30  - First Exam

09/30-10/14 - Conflict Theorizing
              (Ritzer chps 2&,8)

10/21-10/28 - Interactionist Theorizing
              (Ritzer, chps 4, 9&10)

11/04  - Second Exam

11/04-11/18 - Social exchange Theorizing
              (Ritzer 5&11)

11/25-12/02 - Feminist Theorizing
              (Ritzer chp 12)

12/09  - 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.