Required Textbook

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
1. Explain the key assumptions of each of the theoretical Perspective discussed in class.
2. Understand each theorist’s explanations of social Order and Social Change
3. Distinguish among theoretical perspectives and theorist 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

Letter Grade Equivalents of Percentages
90-100% = 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 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**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a Federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361)825- 5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room#116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call (361) 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible at: http://academicaffairs.tamu.edu/rulesprocedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.03studentgradeappealprocedure.pdf For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process for submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website http://cla.tamu.edu/student-resources.html.

Dropping A Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary and wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 8th is the last day to drop a class with the automatic grade of “W” this term.

Course Outline

08/27-29 Introduction: Instructor, Course and students
Definitions and History of Sociological Theories

09/03-26 - Functional Theorizing (Ritzer chps. 3&7)

10/01 - First Exam

10/03-10/17 - Conflict Theorizing
(Ritzer chps 2,&8)
10/22-10/31  - Interactionist Theorizing  
             (Ritzer, chps 4, 9&10)
11/05        - Second Exam
11/07-11/14  - Social exchange Theorizing  
             (Ritzer 5&11)
11/19-12/05  - Feminist Theorizing  
             (Ritzer chp 12)  
             - Critical Race Theory  
             - Postmodernism
12/12        - 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.