Sociology 3001-001 Classical Social Theory Fall 2021

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| **Instructor: Dr. Mike Haffey****Email:**Michael.Haffey@colorado.edu **Office Hours:**Thursdays 11am-1pm or by appointment | **Teaching Assitant:** Ian M. Whalen, MA (he/him/his)**Email:** ian.whalen@colorado.edu**Office Hours:**Tuesdays, 12:00pm-2:00pm or by appointment**Book Office Hours:**[https://calendly.com/ian-whalen/socy-3001-office-hours (Links to an external site.)](https://calendly.com/ian-whalen/socy-3001-office-hours) |

**Course Description**

Welcome. I consider this course one of the most important you will take during your sociology undergraduate career. Sociological theory - a logical explanation of how a given empirical phenomenon works - serves as the ideational foundation for all sociological investigation past, present, future, and across all areas of substantive interest. As sociologists, theories provide us the necessary interpretive schemas by which to make sense of the empirical world.

Social theory encourages us to look beyond individual psychology and unique events to the predictable, broad patterns and regular occurrences of social life that influence individual destinies. It frames our understanding and conceptualization of human nature, human behavior, and human organization. Social theory enables us to see. It is an unusual form of vision.

I hope to encourage you to see the evolution of ideas, questions, and explanations that stand at the center of our discipline. What is society? How does it work? What are its constituent parts and how are they related? How are the individual and society linked? How do societies retain their unity and continuity while undergoing change? What is the cause of social change? Why and how do vast social, political, and economic inequalities endure? In what ways do class, gender, and race intersect? How and where is culture created, and to what ends? Such grand questions are the essence of classical sociological theory.

What is so exciting about these types of questions is that they are the very ones we need to grasp and interpret the complex and dynamic features of contemporary social life. Looking across the social landscape today – pandemic impacts, political turmoil; economic recovery; vast inequality, globalizing processes, increased reliance on technologically-mediated communication, hyper-consumerism, and matters of concern regarding race and gender inequality - it seems most appropriate that we pursue our discipline’s most fundamental concerns. The many sociological concepts and theories that we will study this semester provide us explanatory frameworks and powerful thinking tools to comprehend these most intriguing and consequential contemporary concerns.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

The **textbook** I have chosen for this course was written and designed to facilitate your understanding of a broad range of classical social thought. This text is available for purchase or rental at The CU Bookstore in the UMC. I think you will find this text quite engaging in its address of foundational sociological ideas. The authors have worked hard to make a number of complex ideas as understandable as possible. You must do a little work as well. You will be expected to have read and assimilated the required readings each week. It is a good practice to read the assigned material before it is discussed in class. The one required text for this course is:

***Explorations in Classical Sociological Theory: Seeing the Social World (4th ed.) by Kenneth Allen and Sarah Daynes (2017).***

**METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

This class will be taught in-person, and meets Tuesday and Thursday's from 8:00am-9:15am in Hellums 252. All exams will be conducted in-class on the scheduled exam dates.

Assignments and Grading

**Course Grade:** Your final grade for this course will be determined via six exams (15% each / 90% total) and one “sociological concepts” paper (10%).

**Exams**: There are six (6) scheduled examinations (15% each) throughout the semester. You must take all six exams. Each of these 75-minute, multi-format, examinations willcover material from our texts and my class presentations. I do use the “+/ -“ grading system. **Exam dates: 9/7, 9/28, 10/14, 11/2, 11/18, 12/13 at 4:30pm.** Exams will be conducted in-person in Hellums 252.

Exams will consist of both objective (multiple-choice, listing, diagramming, etc.) and short answer essay questions. These questions will require you to develop a strong grasp of key concepts, to see the similarities and differences among sociological theories, and display some of the higher levels of thinking: synthesis, analysis, criticism, and creative application. If you are going to miss an exam, it is vital that you notify me **prior**to that exam.

**“Sociological Concepts” paper:**For this assignment, I ask that you select one concept from Marx, one concept from Durkheim, and one concept from Weber and address the following questions for each of the three concepts:  **What is the concept? and how is it defined by that theorist?  What other concepts from this theorist/theory is this concept closely linked to? how so? Where do we see this concept today? Give an example.** Each of these three concept analyses should be one page, single-spaced, informed from the literature, and creative in application. This writing assignment **(due November 16th)**will account for 10% of your final grade.

**Grading Scale**

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| *Table 2 - Grading Scale* |
| **Letter Grade** | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |
| **Percentage Grade** | 93-100 | 90-92 | 87-89 | 83-86 | 80-82 | 77-79 | 73-76 | 70-72 | 67-69 | 63-66 | 60-62 | <60 |

#  **Important University Policies**

# **Requirements for COVID-19**

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to[Links to an external site.Student Conduct and Conflict ResolutionLinks to an external site.](https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/). For more information, see the policy on[Links to an external site.](https://www.colorado.edu/policies/covid-19-health-and-safety-policy)[classroom behaviorLinks to an external site.](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the[Links to an external site.Student Code of ConductLinks to an external site.](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

As of Aug. 13, 2021, CU Boulder has returned to requiring masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a temporary precaution during the delta surge to supplement CU Boulder’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. In addition, vaccinated instructional faculty who are engaged in an indoor instructional activity and are separated by at least 6 feet from the nearest person are exempt from wearing masks if they so choose.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, please notify me so that alternatives can be implemented.

#### Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services websiteLinks to an external site.](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance.  If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical ConditionsLinks to an external site.](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions)under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

#### Preferred names and pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

#### Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behaviorLinks to an external site.](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of ConductLinks to an external site.](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/).

#### Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office websiteLinks to an external site.](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

#### Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting (Links to an external site.)](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC websiteLinks to an external site.](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

#### Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. I will make every effort to accommodate your religious obligations provided that you notify me well in advance of the scheduled conflict. Whenever possible, you should notify me at least two weeks in advance of the conflict to request special accommodations. See the [campus policy regarding religious observancesLinks to an external site.](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.