

## Sociological Theory (Classical, Contemporary and Islamic)

### Introduction:

Sociology shows us how individual experiences are shaped by the social and historical context we live in. It helps develop what C. Wright Mills called “the sociological imagination” –an individual’s ability to understand his or her life and problems in the context of broader social structures or historical trends.

From your Introductory Sociology courses, you should all be aware of some of the ways society affects the individual, through our cultural expectations, or through social structures such as class. Social theorists try to develop an overall explanation of these social forces

–they try to see how the systems as a whole works, based on the fundamental ideas they think are most important. For some, the best way to understand society is to analyze its economic structures; for others, we need to understand the cultural background of a community, in order to interpret the actions of its members. Social theories therefore contain concepts and methods that explain particular events or developments in society

**Course Objective:** The objective of the seminar is to explore theorizing as a practical activity in a contemporary context. In order to do so, the following dimensions of theorizing will be examined:

- 1) Classical and contemporary accounts of sociological theorizing,
- 2) The processes through which theory and social explanation are linked,
- 3) The role of ontological assumptions in sociological theorizing,
- 4) The role of metaphors, analogies and other narrative strategies,
- 5) The effects of the linguistic turn on theorizing, and
- 6) The impact of post-structuralism and postmodernism on contemporary sociological theorizing.
- 7) The role of Social thinkers in the dissemination of the Islamic perspective of Sociology.

### Course Requirements and Grading

**Reflection Papers:** Students are required to write a reflection paper of no more than 500 words on each of the assigned readings. In this paper, students will critically reflect on the day’s readings. Reflection papers must be **submitted during the class time**. Cumulative percentage of all reflection papers will be 20% of the final grade.

**Research Paper:** **Students are required to write a 15-20 page research paper.** Topic of the paper should fall within the framework of the concepts covered in the class. At the minimum, **paper should include at least six articles from academic journals (or two books and two academic articles)**. This is a minimum requirement and by no means should be taken as a limit. Those students who wish to get a better grade would consider more in-depth study of their topics. Students may also cite materials covered in the class or sources like newspaper articles and other non-academic journals to boost their arguments in the

paper. This paper will count for 15% of the student's final grade. Students are encouraged to start working on the paper at their earliest, and consult teacher of the course along the way to make sure that they are on the right track. **Research papers should be submitted three weeks before the final term exams.**

**Presentation (Research Paper):** Students are required to present their research papers during allotted times. Presentation time is 15 minutes, followed by a question-answer session. Students will be graded based on content, organization, and manner of presentation, as well as their participation in question-answer sessions, both as presenters and audience. This assignment will be worth 5% of the final grade.

**Book Report:** Students are required to write a critical book report on a classical text and discuss it in the classroom (**Books for report must be approved by the instructor.**) Specific instructions for this assignment will be distributed during the fifth week of the classes. On average, length of this report should be anywhere between 9-12 pages. Total worth of this book report is 10%. **Book report should be submitted one week before the midterm exams**

**Exams:** There will be two exams in this class, a midterm and a final. These exams will be closed book and conducted in the class room. Exams will be based on assigned readings, class discussions, lectures and any other learning activities done in the class room by the exam date. Midterm exam will be worth 20% and final exam will be worth 25% of the final grade.

**Attendance & Class Participation:** Students are required to come to class regularly. Attendance will be taken in each class. University policy on attendance will be followed. Class participation is also a vital part of this class. Students are required to read the assigned material prior to the class meetings and come prepared to take part in the discussion and learning activities related to that material. Participation includes, but not limited, reading the assigned material for the class, asking questions about the day's readings, answering questions raised by the instructor, spontaneously responding to the on-going discussion in the class, and taking part in the in-class activities. Overall, combined grade for attendance and participation is 5% of the student's final grade.

### **Grade Evaluation Criteria**

Following is the criteria for the distribution of marks to evaluate final grade in a semester.

<b>Marks Evaluation</b>	<b>Marks in percentage</b>
Reflection Papers	20%
Research Paper	15%
Presentation (Research Paper)	5%
Book Report	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Term	25%

Attendance & Class Participation	5%
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Total	100%

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**A Note on Academic Honesty:** It must be emphasized that university policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly followed. These policies prohibit acts of cheating, lying and deceit in their diverse forms. Since this class includes research component, students must also be fully aware of plagiarism. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas or written work as your own, without giving proper citation and credit to the original source. If you still have any question or confusion about academic dishonesty, please do not hesitate to discuss with the teacher.

**Make-up Exams and Late Assignments:** There will be no make-up exams, unless there is a valid (documented) reason for not taking the scheduled exams, or prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. As of late assignments, ten per cent of the grade will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Students will also lose percentage of assignment grades if incomplete assignments are turned in.

## **Contents**

### **Introduction: Welcome to Sociological Theory**

Analyzing Social Life

Societal Transformation and the Origins of Sociology

The Establishment of Sociology

The Sociological Craft in the Nineteenth Century

### **1. Islamic Perspectives on Sociology**

#### **Shah Wali Ullah**

#### **Required Text:**

Leaman, O. (Ed.). (2013). *History of Islamic philosophy*. Routledge.

Haroon, S. (2007). *Frontier of Faith* (p. 258). Oxford University Press, Pakistan (January 2011).

Muztar, A. D., & Waliullah, S. (1979). A Saint Scholar of Muslim India.

### **2. Ibn-e-Khaldoon**

Khaldun, I., & al-Rahman, A. (1982). al-Muqaddimah. *Penerjemah Ahmadia Thoha, Muqaddimah*.

Gellner, E. (1975). Cohésion and identity: the Maghreb from Ibn khaldûn to Emile Durkheim. *Government and Opposition*, 10(2), 203-218.

Islahi, A. A. (2007). Thirty years of research in the history of Islamic economic thought: Assessment and future directions.

### **3. Exchange, Exchange Network, and Rational Choice Theories**

Exchange Theory

Exchange Network Theory

Rational Choice Theory

Analytical Marxism

Game Theory

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

### **4. Karl Marx & George Simmel**

Expansion of Capitalism

Marx's Theory of History

Human Nature

Capitalism as a Distinctive Social Form

Wage-Labor

The Division of Labor and Alienation

Economic Inequality

Ideology and Power

George Simmel- dialectical thinking, Social Interaction, Social Structures, Philosophy of Money

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

### **5. Emile Durkheim**

Durkheim's Methodological Rules

The Nature of Society

Societal Transformation and Social Cohesion

Traditional Society

Modern Society

Social Conditions of Suicide

Religion and the Sacred

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

### **6. Max Weber**

Sociology: Understanding Social Action  
Culture and Economic Activity  
Ideal Types  
Social Action  
Power, Authority, and Domination  
Social Stratification  
Modernity and Competing Values

**Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

**7. Structural-Functionalism**

**Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton**

Talcott Parsons  
The Social System  
Socialization and Social Integration  
Social Differentiation, Culture and the Secularization of Protestantism  
Pattern Variables  
Modernization Theory  
Stratification and Inequality  
Robert Merton's Middle-Range Theory

**Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

**8. The Frankfurt School**

**Technology, Culture, and Politics**

Dialectic of Enlightenment  
Mass Culture and Consumption  
Politics; One-Dimensional Rationality  
Jurgen Habermas: The State and Society

**Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

**9. Conflict, Power, and Dependency in Macro-Societal Processes**

Ralf Dahrenhof's Theory of Group Conflict  
C.W.Mills  
Dependency Theory: Neo-Marxist Critiques of Economic Development

**Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

#### **10. Symbolic Interactionism (Mid Term)**

Development of the Self through Social Interaction

The Premises of Symbolic Interactionism

Erving Goffman: Social Exchange as Ritualized Social Interaction

Symbolic Interactionism and Ethnographic Research

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

#### **11. Phenomenology and Ethno methodology**

Phenomenology

Ethno methodology

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

#### **12. Feminist Theories**

Consciousness of Women's Inequality

Standpoint Theories 1: Dorothy Smith and the Relations of Ruling

Standpoint Theories 2: Patricia Hill Collins- Black Women's Standpoint

Sociology of Emotion

Arlie Hochschild: Emotional Labor

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

#### **13. The Social Reproduction of Inequality**

**Pierre Bourdieu's Theory of Class and Culture**

Social Stratification

Family and School in the Production of Cultural Capital

Taste and Everyday Culture

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

#### **14. Modern Sociological Theories**

George Ritzer-Integrated Sociological Paradigms

Anthony Giddens- Structural theory

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

#### **15. Post modernity**

Critique of the Modern

Postmodern Culture

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

#### **16. Globalization**

Defining Globalization

Economic Globalization

Immanuel Wallerstein: The Modern-World System

From World-Economic to Global Inequality

Political Globalization: The Nation-State in New Order

Cultural Globalization

Cities and Migration in a Globalizing Society

Globalization of Risk

Political Mobilization in the Globalizing Society

#### **Required Text:**

Dillon, M. (2013). *Introduction to sociological theory: Theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century*. John Wiley & Sons.

#### **15. Final Term**

