

SS3417: APPLIED SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Applied Sociological Theory

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

3417

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enhance students' abilities to describe and evaluate sociological theories and devise applications.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe and analyse major theoretical paradigms of sociology;	35			
2	Compare and contrast different theoretical paradigms of sociology; and	35			
3	Describe and analyze the applications of sociological theories in social issues.	30	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	LTA1: Lectures	Instructor will give lectures to introduce the major sociological theories and applications.	1, 2, 3
2	LTA2: Student Presentations & Class Discussions	Students will engage in group presentations on selected sociological theories and applications. These presentations will facilitate further class discussions.	1, 2, 3

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	AT1: Term Paper	1, 2, 3	30	Allow AI to 1) conduct proof editing; 2) generate initial ideas 3) conduct preliminary analyses	Yes
2	AT2: Class Participation	1, 2, 3	10	-	Yes

3	AT3: Group Presentations	1, 2, 3	25	Allow AI to 1) conduct proof editing; 2) generate initial ideas 3) conduct preliminary analyses	Yes
4	AT4: Book review	1, 2, 3	35	Allow AI to 1) conduct proof editing; 2) generate initial ideas 3) conduct preliminary analyses	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Term Paper

Criterion

1.1 Have the ability to distinguish various concepts and principles of sociological theories for the analysis of social problems and issues;

1.2 Able to recognize the scope and limitation of the theories to analyze the social problems in contemporary societies;

1.3 Have the ability to apply sociological theories to provide critical interpretation of social problems and issues;

1.4 Demonstrate the social policies and development strategies taken up to tackle the social issues and problems.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

2. Class Participation

Criterion

- 2.1 Ability to contribute to class by offering ideas and asking questions;
- 2.2 Ability to provide critical constructive feedback.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

3. Group Presentations

Criterion

- 3.1 Have the ability to apply sociological theories to account for different social problems in contemporary societies;
- 3.2 Able to articulate individual or collective reflection;
- 3.3 Have the ability to deliver a clear and precise verbal presentation;
- 3.4 Able to communicate with team members and become a team player.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

4. Book Review

Criterion

- 4.1 Ability to show good understanding and thoughtful ideas of a topic;
- 4.2 Ability to apply relevant use of knowledge, and argue well supported with relevant evidence;
- 4.3 Ability to make sensible and appropriate reflection on sociological theories or personal stance/value from book;
- 4.4 Ability to cite appropriate reference/resources, and make proper reference style.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Positivism, interpretivism, structural-functionalism, symbolic interactionism, transactionalism, Marxism and neo-Marxism, structuralism and post-structuralism, critical theory and post-modernism.

Applying sociological theories in social issues, e.g., culture, conflict, religion, security, governance, crime, globalization, transnationalism, development, and politics.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Ritzer, George & Goodman, Douglas. J. (2004). <i>Sociological Theory</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill. (R & G, earlier editions are fine) Reserved in library for reference
2	Bauman, Z. (2001). <i>Thinking Sociologically</i> (2nd ed.). Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
3	Giddens, A. (2006). <i>Sociology</i> (5th ed.). Cambridge: Polity Press.
4	Haralambos and Holborn. (2000). <i>Sociology Themes and Perspectives</i> (5th ed.). London: Collins.
5	Macionis J. (2007). <i>Sociology</i> . (11th ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Alasuutari, Pertti (2004). <i>Social theory and human reality</i> . London: SAGE Publications.
2	Edles, Laura D., & Appelrouth, S. (2005). <i>Sociological theory in the classical era: Text and readings</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
3	Hedstrom, P. (2005). <i>Dissecting the social: On the principles of analytical sociology</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
4	Lehmann, J. (2005). <i>Social theory as politics in knowledge</i> . Amsterdam: JAI.
5	Marinetti, Michael (2010). <i>Social theory, the state and modern society: The state in contemporary social thoughts</i> . New York: Open University Press.
6	Mouzelis, Nicos (1995). <i>Sociological theory: What went wrong? Diagnosis and remedies</i> . London: Routledge.
7	Owen, Tim (2009). <i>Social theory and human biotechnology</i> . New York: Nova Science Publishers.
8	Ransome, Paul (2010). <i>Social theory for beginners</i> . Bristol: Policy Press.
9	Ritzer, G. (2000). <i>Classical sociological theory</i> (3rd ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.
10	Ritzer, G., & Goodman, D. J. (2004). <i>Sociological theory</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill.

11	Ritzer, G., & Smart, B. (Eds.). (2001). Handbook of social theory. London: SAGE.
12	Ritzer, G. (2011). Globalization: The essentials. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
13	Wallace, Ruth A., & Wolf, Alison (2006). Contemporary sociological theory: Expanding the classical tradition. (6th ed.). Upper Saddle River: Pearson/Prentice Hall.
14	Tsang, E.Y.H. (2014). The New Middle Class in China, Consumption, Politics and the Market Economy. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
15	Tsang, E.Y.H. & Igoe, M. (2012). Blending East and West: Understanding the Changing Chinese Society. London and New York: McGraw Hill.
16	Zang, X. (ed.) (2012). Understanding Chinese Society. Abington: Routledge.