

First Year Seminar: Sociology 89_002: Introduction to Applied Social Theory

Spring 2013

M/W/F: 4-4:50 pm

Meeting Place: Dey 201

Revised, November 12, 2012

Please note that the final syllabus may have minor changes

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 10 am-12 noon, Hamilton 263

Please note that we will use Sakai for this course; and you are required to bring your computer to class meeting in order to use some of the discussion tools. We will also conduct class polls using Polleverywhere.com, which you can use with your computer or SMS (phone).*

Course Description: To what extent do values influence the theories and methods of sociology? What common assumptions about human personhood underlie common concepts in sociology, such as power, structure, culture, and agency? In this reading, writing and discussion-intensive class, we will first review classical arguments about the role of values in sociology. Next we will discuss Aristotelian and neo-Aristotelian virtue ethics and apply them to contemporary social theories. Then we will explore competing visions of the human person contained in some examples of current thinking in psychology and economics. Throughout the course, outside speakers from the academy and community institutions will be invited to reflect on how their work informs and critiques dominant theories about social relations. Students will be required to conduct interviews with professionals whose work relates to the social theories we discuss and use those interviews to better understand and critique those theories.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Leading class discussions (5%): Twice a semester you will work with a group to prepare a one-page analytical summary of the week's course readings and lead the class discussion for that day. These summaries must be posted on Sakai under "Discussion and Private Messages" *no later than 12 noon* the Sunday prior to our class meeting. You will then be expected to present your summary to the class to start the discussion. This assignment will be graded on an A-F scale.

Participation in Class Discussions and On-Line Discussion Forums (2%): Class participation and discussion constitutes dialogue and engagement with ideas that emerge during class; hence, participation and discussion differs from both the reading summaries and the journal and should not just repeat what you have said elsewhere. You will be graded on a scale of A-F for class participation and discussion. For example, to earn an A for class participation, you must attend every class in person and speak up for every class—either during class or on-line on the “Discussion and Private Messages” section of Sakai.

Intellectual Journal (3%): We will use the “Blog” function on Sakai to generate an intellectual journal. This assignment encourages you to keep up with the reading, enlivens class discussions, and offers a forum to record your responses to the readings, thereby personalizing the course and, at the same time, sharpening your skills in thinking critically and writing fluidly. Journal entries should be approximately 250 words and may include hyperlinks to newspaper articles, YouTube videos, or other on-line material related to our class. Each entry should (1) either quote or summarize one passage in one (or more) assigned text for that day and (2) record your reflections on the reading. Each entry should engage *one* idea in the text in some direct and thoughtful way. The journal entries are due at the start of class on the day that the reading is assigned. No exceptions. You must write one journal entry for each class meeting when new readings are assigned (approximately 22 times a semester). You are graded on completion: a score of 1 means you completed the assignment as instructed and 0 means unacceptable. I encourage you to use these entries as a way to practice good writing. To earn an A on the blog journal, you may miss no more than 2 blog entries. To earn a B on the blog journal, you may miss no more than 4 blog entries. To earn a C on the blog journal, you may miss no more than 5 blog entries. To earn a D on the blog, you may miss no more than 6 blog entries. If you miss more than 6 blog entries, you will earn a 0 for this part of your grade. *On the days you write reading summaries for the class, you do not have to write a blog.*

Two Interviews & Analysis (15% each): You will be required to conduct, transcribe, and reflect on two face-to-face interviews with local professionals (such as professors, social workers, or community organization leaders) whose work deals with topics discussed in class. To prepare for this assignment, you will learn the basics about how to conduct an interview and write an interview summary and transcript. You will be required to write a 4-page report summarizing the main points of the interview and how it informs current topics in sociology. You will also have to post a 500-800 word summary for your classmates.

Two Observation Papers: (30% each): You will be asked to write two 5-page observation essays that critically engage with the theoretical perspectives discussed in class. This observation will analyze a scenario that is theoretically and conceptually related to course materials, such as a religious community, social service organization, or student group. The purpose of this assignment is to continue to develop your skills in observation, description, writing, analysis

and communication to others. Sociology is an empirical discipline that constructs theories and draws interpretations and conclusions from evidence that can be observed. In this paper you are refining your knowledge base of sociology concepts and relationships as well as continuing to develop your skills in analysis, synthesis, information literacy, writing and communicating to others.

Required Readings

You should purchase these books from the UNC Student Stores. The remainder of the required readings will be posted on Sakai. ***Please note that if you purchase them on your own (like through Amazon) you must order the book with the SAME ISBN # to ensure you get the proper edition of the book. Please note that the Kindle version of ebooks does NOT have page #s, which makes it very hard to use for this class. If you use an ereader, you MUST have page #s.****

Sen, Amartya. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Knopf, 1999. Print.
ISBN: 0375406190 (paperback)

Smith, Christian. *Moral, Believing Animals: Human Personhood and Culture*. New York: Oxford UP, 2003. Print. ISBN: 0195162021 (paperback)

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning*. Boston: Beacon P, c2006. Print.
ISBN: 9780671023379 (paperback)

Honor Code

The University Honor Code – which prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on graded course work – will be in effect through all exams, quizzes, and written assignments. Please read carefully the provisions of the Honor Code, make certain you understand and adhere to them, and ask me to clarify any questions you have regarding the Code. Please note that the honor code stipulates that no material from this class may be distributed to the public (this includes audio, written or visual material distributed in print or in any public electronic form such as Twitter). The Code is a long and valuable tradition at UNC – protect it! Read more about the honor code at: <http://honor.unc.edu/>

Schedule of Class Meetings and Required Readings

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1	NO CLASS	First Day of Class 1/9	1/11
Intro & Positive Psychology		Class: Discuss course expectations Watch Seligman video	No Class Read Seligman's Intro to Flourish & take Seligman's Character Strengths Test Write blog post on Seligman by 4 pm
Week 2	1/14	1/16	1/18
Frankl	Class: Watch Frankl Video & discuss Frankly Read: Frankl, first half of book Blog about Frankl (by 4 pm)	Class: Discuss Frankl Read: Frankl, 2nd half of book Blog about Frankl (by 4 pm)	In-class: Visit from the Writing Center, do in-class free writing exercises about Frankl.
Week 3	1/21 No Class, Holiday	1/23	1/25
Meaning in social theory		Class: Visit from Tanya Vacharkulksemsuk, Doctoral Candidate UNC-CH, who works in Dr. Frederickson's Positive Psychology Lab Read: Barbara Frederickson, The Value of Positive Emotions Blog on Frederickson due by 4 pm	Class: Discuss MacIntyre and Aristotle; give instructions on doing 1st interview Read: Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I, Ch.7-11, and Book II, Ch.1-4. MacIntyre, <i>After Virtue</i> , Chp. 12, pp. 160-164 Blog on Aristotle/

			MacIntyre by 4 pm
Week 4	1/28	1/30	2/1
Meaning Part II	Class: Discuss Trauma & Growth Read: Seligman, sections from <i>Flourish</i> on Post-Traumatic Growth Blog on Seligman by 4 pm	Class: Discuss instrumentalism Fowers, Blaine. "Instrumentalism and Psychology: Beyond Using and Being Used" Blog on Fowers by 4 pm	Class: Draft workshop on 1st interview paper
Week 5	2/4	2/6	2/8
Sociology of Morality	Class: Discuss Smith Read: Smith, Moral Believing Animals, Chps 1-2 Blog on Smith due by 4 pm	Class: Discuss Jeffries and Smith Read: Jeffries, Altruistic Personality Blog on Jeffries due by 4 pm	Class: Presentations of papers. 1st interview paper due on Sakai by 4 pm.
Week 6	2/11	2/13	2/15
Sociology and Morality	Class: Discuss Smith Read: Smith, Moral Believing Animals, Chps 3-4 Blog on Smith by 4 pm	Class: Discuss Sayer & values in social science Read: Sayer, "Values in Social Science" Blog on Sayer by 4 pm	Class: discuss observation paper assignment
Week 7	2/18	2/20	2/22
Sociology and Morality	Class: Discuss Smith Read: Christian Smith, Moral Believing	Class: Discuss Smith and Human rights Read: Smith, "Does	Class: Draft Workshop for 1st observation paper

	Animals, Chapter 5 Blog on Smith by 4 pm	Naturalism Warrant a Belief in Human Rights? Blog on Smith by 4 pm	
Week 8	2/25	2/27	3/1
Realism and People	<p>Class: Discuss Realist Social Science</p> <p>Read: Introduction to <i>Why Things Matter to People</i></p> <p>Blog on Sayer by 4 pm</p> <p>**Optional: instead of the second interview assignment, you may attend this lecture and write a report on it: Tuesday Feb 26 Angus Burgin will speak as part of the Hayek Lecture Series, History of Political Economy Center, Duke University***</p>	<p>Class: Discuss Suffering and the Person</p> <p>Read: Mooney & Guhin, "We Need Others to Flourish: Why Sociology Needs a Better Concept of the Person"</p>	<p>Class: Discussion of 1st observation papers</p> <p>1st observation paper due by 4 pm</p>
Week 9	3/4	3/6	3/8
History of Economic thought	<p>Class: Guest Speaker, Bruce Caldwell, Duke Center for the History of Economic Thought</p> <p>Reading: Hayek "Use of Knowledge in Society"</p> <p>Blog on Hayek by 4 pm</p>	<p>Class: Watch Hayek vs. Keynes rap video; discuss Hayek</p>	<p>Class attendance optional</p> <p>Spring break starts at 5 pm</p>
	3/11 SPRING BREAK	3/13 SPRING BREAK	3/15 SPRING BREAK
Week 10	3/18	3/20	3/22
Economics as Morality	Class: Guest speaker, Jason Brent, UNC-CH	Class: Discuss Morality & Economics	Class: Discuss Readings & Live Video Chat with

	graduate student in economic history Reading: Jacob Viner, Adam Smith & Laissez-Faire Blog on Adam Smith by 4 pm	Read: John Bruggeman, Economics as a Moral Science, selected chapter. Blog on Bruggeman by 4 pm	John Bruggeman
Week 11	3/25	3/27	3/29
Markets, Morals, & Freedom	Class: Discuss Sen Read: Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, Introduction through Chapter 3 Blog on Sen by 4 pm	Class: More Sen Discussion	Class: 2nd Interview draft workshop
Week 12	4/1	4/3	4/5
Markets, Morals, & Freedom	Class: Discuss Sen Read: Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, Chapter 4-6 Blog on Sen by 4 pm	Class: Discuss Sen & Nussbaum Read: Martha Nussbaum, selections from Women and Human Development Blog on Sen & Nussbaum by 4 pm	Class: Discuss 2nd interviews Blog: Interview #2 Due on Sakai at 4 pm
Week 13	4/8	4/10	4/12
Markets, Morals, & Freedom	Class: Discuss Sen Read: Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, Chapter 10-12	Class: Discuss Sen	Class: Discuss Ideas for 2nd observation paper
Week 14	4/15	4/17	4/19

Markets, Morals, & Freedom	<p>Class: Discuss Sen</p> <p>Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, one of 7, 8, or 9</p> <p>Blog on Sen by 4 pm</p>	Class: Discuss Sen	Class: Draft Workshop 2nd Observation paper
Week 15	4/22	4/24	4/26 Last Day of Class
Wrapping Up	<p>Class: Discuss Baumeister & Vohs</p> <p>Read: Baumeister and Vohs, "Sexual Economics: Sex as a Female Resource for Social Exchange."</p> <p>Blog: Blog on Baumeister by 4 pm</p>	<p>Class: Discuss Roback-Morse</p> <p>Read: Roback-Morse; sections from Love & Economics book</p> <p>Blog on Morse by 4 pm</p>	<p>Class: Presentations of Papers</p> <p>2nd observation papers due on Sakai at 4 pm</p>