SOC 420 Introduction to Sociological Theory (3)
Prerequisite: SOC100 and upper division standing.

Three hours lecture per week
This course explores the origin and development of classical and contemporary sociological theory from the 19th century to the present. Sociological theory is portrayed as an organized system of accepted knowledge that applies in a variety of circumstances to explain a specific set of phenomena.

2. Mode of Instruction.

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<th>Units</th>
<th>Hours per Unit</th>
<th>Benchmark Enrollment</th>
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<td>Lecture</td>
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<td>Activity</td>
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3. Justification and Learning Objectives for the Course. (Indicate whether required or elective, and whether it meets University Writing, and/or Language requirements) [Use as much space as necessary]

This is a required course in Sociology. In many ways, sociological theory (together with Sociological Methodology) provides the tools underlying the other areas of sociology. This course introduces students to the major nineteenth and twentieth century thinkers who shaped the development of sociological theory. In exploring sociology's theoretical heritage, the course seeks also to foster an appreciation of what theory is and how necessary and useful it is for studying and understanding the social world. A major assumption of the course is that sociological theory has an eminently practical function for understanding ourselves and the world in which we live. This course will introduce the student to a variety of theoretical orientations, past and present, with an emphasis on the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. By analyzing a variety of theories, it is also hoped that the student will develop a theoretical view of her own and an analytical orientation toward theory in particular and social interaction in general.

After successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

2. Define and apply the basic theoretical terms and concepts used in sociology.
3. Articulate the importance and relevance of theory for sociology.
4. Identify major bodies of theoretical work and the theorists associated with them.
5. Explain sociological topics from a critical perspective.
6. Explain and apply key classical and contemporary social theories to current social problems and issues.
7. Outline the history and sociocultural context of sociological theory.
8. Describe several different styles of sociological theories.

4. Is this a General Education Course

If Yes, indicate GE category:

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<td>A (English Language, Communication, Critical Thinking)</td>
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<td>B (Mathematics &amp; Sciences)</td>
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<td>C (Fine Arts, Literature, Languages &amp; Cultures)</td>
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<td>D (Social Perspectives)</td>
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<td>E (Human Psychological and Physiological Perspectives)</td>
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5. **Course Content in Outline Form.** [Be as brief as possible, but use as much space as necessary]

The roots of social theory and the need for social theory  
Classical sociological thinking  
Positivism: Comte  
Functionalism: Durkheim, Parsons, Merton and neofunctionalism  
Conflict theory: Marx, Weber, Coser and Mills  
Symbolic interactionism: Mead, Blumer, Goffman and Cooley  
Social constructionism: Garfinkel and Berger  
Rational choice theory  
Macro vs. micro sociological theoretical perspectives  
Future of sociological theory: Modernism and postmodernism  
Social theory and understanding: Value of multiple perspectives

6. **References.** [Provide 3 - 5 references on which this course is based and/or support it.]


7. **List Faculty Qualified to Teach This Course.**

Sociology faculty

8. **Frequency.**
   a. Projected semesters to be offered: Fall **X** Spring **X** Summer _____

9. **New Resources Required.**
   a. Computer (data processing), audio visual, broadcasting needs, other equipment
   b. Library needs
   c. Facility/space needs

10. **Consultation.**
    Attach consultation sheet from all program areas, Library, and others (if necessary)

11. If this new course will alter any degree, credential, certificate, or minor in your program, attach a program modification.

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Harley Baker 02 February 2005
Proposer of Course Date
Approvals

Program Coordinator  Date

GE Committee Chair  Date
(If applicable)

Curriculum Committee Chair  Date

Dean  Date

Effective Semester: ____________________________
1. Course prefix, number, title, and units: _______________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Program Area: ____________________________________________________________

**Recommend Approval**

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<th>Program Area/Unit</th>
<th>Program/Unit Coordinator</th>
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* If needed