

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

PROGRAM AREA _____

1. Catalog Description of the Course. *[Include the course prefix, number, full title, and units. Provide a course narrative including prerequisites and corequisites. If any of the following apply, include in the description: Repeatability (May be repeated to a maximum of ___ units); time distribution (Lecture ___ hours, laboratory ___ hours); non-traditional grading system (Graded CR/NC, ABC/NC). Follow accepted catalog format.]*

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.

	Units	Hours per Unit	Benchmark Enrollment
Lecture	3	1	25
Seminar	_____	_____	_____
Laboratory	_____	_____	_____
Activity	_____	_____	_____

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:

1. Articulate the basic sociological perspectives: Functionalism, Conflict Theory, Symbolic Interaction Theory, Feminism, and Post Modern Theory.
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 YES NO

If Yes, indicate GE category:

A (English Language, Communication, Critical Thinking)	
B (Mathematics & Sciences)	
C (Fine Arts, Literature, Languages & Cultures)	
D (Social Perspectives)	
E (Human Psychological and Physiological Perspectives)	

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.]*

Bailey, G. (2003). *Social theory: Essential readings* (2nd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Farganis, J. (2004). *Readings in social theory* (4th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Glassner, B. (2003). *Our studies, ourselves*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Mills, C. W. (1959/2000). *The sociological imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ritzer, G. (2004). *Sociological theory* (6th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Wallace, R. A. (2006). *Contemporary sociological theory: Expanding the classical tradition* (6th ed.). New York: Prentice-Hall.

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.

Harley Baker
Proposer of Course

02 February 2005
Date

Approvals

Program Coordinator Date

GE Committee Chair Date
(If applicable)

Curriculum Committee Chair Date

Dean Date

Effective Semester: _____

**California State University Channel Islands
Modified Course Proposal Consultation Sheet**

1. Course prefix, number, title, and units: _____

2. Program Area: _____

Recommend Approval

Program Area/Unit	Program/Unit Coordinator	YES	NO (attach objections)	Date
Art				
Business & Economics				
Education				
ESRM				
Humanities				
Liberal Studies				
Mathematics & CS				
Sciences				
Library*				
Information Technology*				

* If needed