

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS**  
**COURSE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL**

DATE: 8 OCTOBER, 2006  
PROGRAM AREA SOCIOLOGY

**1. Catalog Description of the Course.** *[Follow accepted catalog format.]*  
*(If Cross-listed please submit a form for each prefix being modified)*

**OLD**

Prefix SOC Course# 420 Title Introduction to Sociological Theory Units (3)  
3 hours per week  
☒ Prerequisites SOC 100 AND UPPER DIVISION STANDING  
☐ Corequisites  
Description This course explores the origin and development of classical and contemporary sociological theory from the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

☐ Gen Ed Categories  
☐ Lab Fee Required

Graded  
☐ CR/NC  
☒ A - F  
☐ Optional (Student's choice)

☐ Repeatable for up to \_\_\_\_\_ units  
☐ Multiple Enrollment in same semester

**NEW**

Prefix SOC Course# 420 Title Classical Sociological Theory Units (3)  
3 hours per week  
☒ Prerequisites SOC 100, 201, 202  
☐ Corequisites  
Description This course explores the origin and development of the discipline of sociology with a particular focus on the classical period: the 19th century to mid-20th century. Students will develop an appreciation for the roots of sociological theorizing by reading the work of such thinkers as Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, W.E.B. DuBois, Karl Marx and others.

☐ Gen Ed Categories  
☐ Lab Fee Required

Graded  
☐ CR/NC  
☒ A - F  
☐ Optional (Student's choice)

☐ Repeatable for up to \_\_\_\_\_ units  
☐ Multiple Enrollment in same semester

**2. Mode of instruction**

	<u>Existing</u>			
	Units	Hour Per Unit	Benchmark Enrollment	CS# Units (filled out by Dean)
Lecture	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>20-25</u>	_____
Seminar	_____	_____	_____	_____
Laboratory	_____	_____	_____	_____
Activity	_____	_____	_____	_____

	<u>Proposed</u>			
	Units	Hour Per Unit	Benchmark Enrollment	CS# Units (filled out by Dean)
Lecture	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>25</u>	_____
Seminar	_____	_____	_____	_____
Laboratory	_____	_____	_____	_____
Activity	_____	_____	_____	_____

**3. Course Content in Outline Form if Being Changed.** *[Be as brief as possible, but use as much space as necessary]*

**OLD**

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

**NEW**

The theory sequence, together with courses in methodology, provide the main tools to understanding and using other areas in sociology. The first course in a two course sequence, this course introduces students to the major nineteenth to mid-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.

Topics covered include:

toward theory in particular and social interaction in general.

(I) The Emergence of Sociology and the Social Sciences

(II) 1850s-1920s: the Classical Period

a) Karl Marx

b) Emile Durkheim

c) Max Weber

d) Georg Simmel

e) Others in the canon: WEB DuBois; Charolotte. Perkins  
Gilman; George H. Mead

(III) Begin: the modern era and the peak of functionalism

**4. 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]*

**OLD**

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.

**NEW**

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

1. Articulate what theory is and how it is used;
2. Explain how classical theory is still used by contemporary scholars;
3. Demonstrate ability to analyze original source material in the form of monographs and articles by classical thinkers (Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, DuBois and others) from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to mid century;
4. Apply key classical social theories to current social problems and issues.
5. Construct outline of the history of the emergence of the discipline of sociology and the social sciences.

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

**OLD** Social Theory: Roots and Branches, Peter Kivist (ed.) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Roxbury Publishing, 2003.

Four Sociological Traditions (text and reader), Randall Collins. Oxford University Press, 1994.

Illuminating Social Life: Classical and Contemporary Theory Revisited, Peter Kivisto (ed.) 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Pine Forge Press 2005.

Sociology: A Multiple Paradigm Science. George Ritzer. Allyn and Bacon, 1975.

**NEW** The Discovery of Society, Randall Collins and Michael Makowsky, 6th edition, Boston, MA: McGraw Hill. 1998.

Sociological Theory: Classical Statements, David Ashley and David Michael Orenstein, 6th edition, Pearson Press. 2005.

Social Theory: from the beginnings to the 1960s. Roberta Garner (ed). Broadview Press. 2004

The Emergence of Sociological Theory, Jonathan Turner et. al., Wadsworth, 2001.

**6. Indicate Changes and Justification for Each.** *[Check all that apply and follow with justification. Be as brief as possible but, use as much space as necessary.]*

- ☒ Course title
- ☐ Prefix/suffix
- ☐ Course number
- ☐ Units
- ☐ Staffing formula and enrollment limits
- ☐ Prerequisites/corequisites
- ☒ Catalog description
- ☒ Course content
- ☐ References
- ☐ GE
- ☐ Other

**Justification** Sociology 420 is a reworking of the current course in the curriculum, a survey course introducing the student to classical and contemporary sociological theory. The course as stands is too ambitious. Students will benefit from slowing down, and concentrating on historical thinkers and the genesis of the discipline of sociology in this first course, followed by a second course on more contemporary work in the discipline.

**7. If this modification results in a GE-related change indicate GE category affected and Attach a GE Criteria Form:**

**A (English Language, Communication, Critical Thinking)**

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| A-1 Oral Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A-2 English Writing    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A-3 Critical Thinking  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**B (Mathematics, Sciences & Technology)**

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| B-1 Physical Sciences                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B-2 Life Sciences – Biology                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B-3 Mathematics – Mathematics and Applications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B-4 Computers and Information Technology       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**C (Fine Arts, Literature, Languages & Cultures)**

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| C-1 Art                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C-2 Literature Courses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C-3a Language          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C-3b Multicultural     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**D (Social Perspectives)**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>E (Human Psychological and Physiological Perspectives)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>UD Interdisciplinary</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|

**8. New Resources Required. YES ☐ NO ☐**

If YES, list the resources needed and obtain signatures from the appropriate programs/units on the consultation sheet below.

- a. Computer (data processing), audio visual, broadcasting needs, other equipment)
- b. Library needs
- c. Facility/space needs

**9. Will this course modification alter any degree, credential, certificate, or minor in your program? YES ☒ NO ☐**

If, YES attach a program modification form for all programs affected.

Elizabeth Hartung  
Proposer of Course Modification

8 October, 2006  
Date

## Approvals

**Program/Course: SOC 420**

---

Program Chair(s)

Date

---

General Education Chair(s)

Date

---

Curriculum Committee Chair(s)

Date

---

Dean of Faculty

Date