



Department of Sociology

Course Information

SOC3020 – Contemporary Social Thought

In Person Course

Time: T & Th 1:50 PM-3:15 PM

Location: Wilbur 105

Instructor: Michael L. Rosino, PhD

Email: Mrosino@molloy.edu

Office: Kellenberg 312 (office on the right)

Weekly Office Hours: T 12:30-1:30 pm & W 11-12

Catalog Description

Introduces modern developments in sociological theory. Examine schools of thought from mid 20th century to the present with an emphasis on how these theories shape empirical research today.

Course Description

Welcome to Contemporary Social Thought (also known as social theory)! In this course we will explore and examine contemporary social theory that builds upon the foundations of foundational social theory (covered in SOC3010). Social theory is a set of observations and explanations for social facts and patterns. Theorizing is a fundamental aspect of understanding and applying the sociological perspective to current events, large scale social trends, and everyday life. In this course, we will be learning about contemporary social theorists and schools of thought as well as their development and context. Throughout the course, you will cultivate your own ability to apply theories and concepts to understand complex social events and issues and to communicate that understanding with others.

How this Class is Taught:

The course will consist of lectures and weekly discussions or activities. Many classes will be devoted to lectures and discussions covering significant concepts and theories and further context and information. Other classes and online modules will provide an opportunity for deep readings of more complex material, interactive engagement with media, active learning exercises, and open dialogue on contemporary issues. We will also have guest speakers join us to discuss how their training in sociology helps them in their jobs and how they improve their communities.

Communication

Students should contact me through my Molloy email (mrosino@molloy.edu). I will respond to emails as promptly as possible from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. I will also offer opportunities to check in remotely via Zoom. I will also post announcements and updates via Canvas.

Students should use their official Molloy email and check Canvas on a daily basis during weekdays for updates and announcements. Students can use the Settings tab in Canvas in their Account to add other emails, a cell phone number, or twitter account to receive notifications.

Communication Procedures

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Course Goals

By the time you finish this course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate comprehension of the major schools of thought within contemporary sociological theory through writing and discussions.
2. Apply a knowledge and understanding of sociological theory to connect broad social issues and day-to-day life and articulate their connections and implications.
3. Define and apply related *theoretical concepts* and understand them from a *sociological perspective* in writing and discussions.
4. Demonstrate reasoning, research, and communication skills by locating and understanding sociological theories, applying them to novel contexts, and discerning the process through which they are produced.

Sociology program goals:

1. Develop the ability to think critically, analytically, and divergently and learn how to practice scientific objectivity when observing social phenomena.
2. Perfect written and oral communication skills.
3. Apply a sociological perspective to the analysis of social institutions, social processes, and social problems.
4. Identify and create hypotheses, and critically analyze research articles.

Guidelines for In-Class Participation

To ensure that all students can learn without distractions, the following activities **ARE NOT PERMITTED** during class:

1. any use of cell phones and other devices besides laptops unless part of a class activity
2. conversations not part of a class discussion
3. entering the classroom late and/or leaving early, except emergencies cleared with the instructor
4. personal attacks on another person's appearance, demeanor, or personal beliefs

Course Grade Components:

1. **Attendance and Participation (20%)** – Attendance and participation are essential components of success in this course. I will take attendance in each class as part of this grade. Additionally, many of the activities and discussions in this course will require participation and completion of in-class tasks, which will count toward this portion of your grade.
2. **Sociological Art and Media Projects (15%)**- On assigned days, each student will bring one example of art or media (e.g., video, song, image, meme, news article, blog post, podcast, etc.) that demonstrates a topic covered recently in class. The schedule will be developed after the drop/add period is over. The student will share it with the class, provide a brief explanation of how it relates to course material, and pose at least 2 discussion questions for the class to engage in conversation. Presentations (i.e. Prezi, PowerPoint, or Google Slides) are encouraged to provide context but they are not required.
3. **Weekly Reflections and Discussion Questions (30%)** – For each week, you will turn in written responses (1 paragraph per reading) and discussion questions (3 per week) on the readings on canvas. The course is heavily discussion based. These discussion questions and responses will ensure that you are prepared to participate in class discussions based on the readings.
4. **Paper Proposal and Bibliography (5%)** – You will submit a one-page paper explaining your topic and the question you will address and a one-page bibliography of 5 sources with a one-sentence description.

5. **Rough Draft (10%)** – You will submit a rough draft of your paper for in-class peer feedback.
6. **Final Paper (20%)** – A 4-5 page paper that examines current or historical events through the lens of a theory or theories, evaluates the relative merits of a theory or theories, or explores some other topic related to this class will be due during finals week.

Communicating Across the Curriculum Program: Percentage of Grade Involving Evaluation of Writing, Speaking, Critical Thinking Skills: 90%

Late Assignments and Due Dates:

Late assignments will not be accepted except in cases of family or health emergencies. All assignments for this course should be done well before their due dates to avoid last-minute issues. **Please contact me as soon as possible if you need an extension or clarification.** I am happy to work with students to meet deadlines.

Textbook

Appelrouth, Scott and Laura Desfor Edles. 2016. *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory: Text and Readings*. Sage Publishing.

Course Schedule

Weekly Module	Materials	Assignments (Weekly Reflections Due Each Tuesday at noon)
Module 1: Introduction to the Class and Each Other	Course Syllabus (on Canvas)	Syllabus Quiz (Jan 26)
Module 2: Re-Introduction to Social Theory	Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
Module 3: Structural Functionalism	Textbook Ch 9 Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
Module 4: Structural Functionalism II	Textbook Ch 2 Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
Module 5: Critical Theory	Textbook Ch 11 Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
Module 6: Critical Theory II	Textbook Ch 11 Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
Module 7: Symbolic Interactionism	Textbook Ch 12 Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
Module 8: Symbolic Interactionism II	Textbook Ch 12 Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
Module 9: SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)	NONE	Rest and Reflect
Module 10: Phenomenology	Textbook Ch 13	Weekly Reflection

Weekly Module	Materials	Assignments (Weekly Reflections Due Each Tuesday at noon)
	Additional Materials (on Canvas)	
Module 11: Poststructuralism	Textbook Ch 14 Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Rough Draft (Due in Class Mar 31) Weekly Reflection
Module 12: Poststructuralism II	Textbook Ch 14 Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
Module 13: Global Social Theory	Textbook Ch 15 Additional Materials (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
Module 14: Reflections and New Directions	Readings (on Canvas)	Weekly Reflection
FINALS WEEK	N/A	FINAL PAPER (DATE TBA)

Support and Resources

Disability Support Services – “If you are a prospective or current student and would like to discuss your eligibility, please contact us. To schedule an appointment, please send an email to dss@molloy.edu.”

<https://www.molloy.edu/academics/academic-services/disability-support-services>

Molloy University Writing Center - “the Writing Center is staffed by experienced professional consultants. As an undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral student of Molloy University, you can be helped at the Writing Center, whether you are writing a summary/critique, a PowerPoint presentation, an application essay, or a research paper requiring precise use of MLA or APA documentation format. You can also obtain helpful handouts prepared by our consultants.”

<https://www.molloy.edu/about-molloy-college/offices-and-services/writing-center>

Student Personal Counseling Center – “The Student Personal Counseling Center (SPCC) is a confidential and free service available to all currently enrolled Molloy University students. Through individual counseling (in-person and telehealth), wellness workshops, crisis intervention, support groups, and on-campus trainings, the SPCC aims to enhance wellness, and offer students a more meaningful, and successful college experience. If you are interested in scheduling a counseling appointment, please call 516-323-3484, stop by Public Square 030, or complete an online appointment request at <https://molloy.titaniumhwc.com/AppointmentRequestForm>. The SPCC is open Monday and Wednesday from 8:30am-7pm; Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am-6pm; Friday from 8am-5pm. Follow us on Instagram @spcc_molloy.” You can also use this QR code:



<https://www.molloy.edu/molloy-life/campus-life-and-activities/student-personal-counseling-center>

JET Library Virtual Office Hours – “Online office hours are specific hours where a librarian will be sitting in a Zoom meeting, waiting for people to join and ask questions.”

<https://molloy.libguides.com/usingthelibrary/oooh>

Recording - “As a student enrolled in courses offered by Molloy University, Rockville Centre, New York, I understand that classes may sometimes be audio or digitally captured for instructional purposes. THESE RECORDINGS ARE INTENDED ONLY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND WILL BE USED ONLY BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE COURSE. PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR INSTRUCTOR BY EMAIL IF YOU DO NOT CONSENT TO PARTICIPATION IN A DIGITAL RECORDING OF YOUR COURSE. If no student elects to withhold his/her consent prior to 9/13, digital recording of the class will begin. Any student who has not contacted the professor prior to that date will be deemed to have consented to the recording. You may notify your professor by email at any time if you choose to revoke your consent.”

Academic Integrity

According to the Molloy University Office of Academic Affairs, “Engaging in any form of academic dishonesty includes:

- A) Cheating - utilizing a source other than self either during an exam or in completion of an assignment
- B) Fabrication - intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information
- C) Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:

- Allowing another student to copy during an exam or take-home assignment
- Allowing your work to be represented as another student's work
- Supplying information regarding examinations to others
- Not fully participating as a cooperative member in group work

D) Plagiarism - failure to cite another's direct words, poor paraphrasing, or rephrasing another's work as to represent them as one's own”

Academic misconduct (such as cheating or plagiarism) in this course may result in failure of the course or expulsion.

<https://www.molloy.edu/about-molloy-college/offices-and-services/office-of-academic-affairs/academic-integrity/for-students>

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI). These tools are shaping the future of work, research, and technology. Used in the wrong way, they stand in conflict with academic integrity guidelines at Molloy University. To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless a faculty member for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Faculty use Turnitin.com to monitor unauthorized use of AI tools (Please refer to the Student Handbook for additional information.).

Health and Wellness

Molloy University is committed to maintaining a healthy environment. Therefore, students are urged to monitor the website and all health and safety updates for any health-related changes in campus procedures. If you suspect contracting a contagious disease you are encouraged to use good judgment, monitor your symptoms, consult a medical professional, and remain home if needed. At the present time, masks are not required while on campus. However, we respect individual preferences and encourage members of the community to support the individual right to determine their need to wear a face covering. If you have health questions or concerns, the Student Health Services can be reached by email at healthservices@molloy.edu or by phone at 516-323-3467.

A note from your instructor: The COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and will likely surge during the Fall semester. I will offer complete flexibility to allow you to make up work, stay home, or need any other accommodations if you test positive for COVID-19, suspect you may have encountered COVID-19, or feel you may have symptoms. I personally recommend taking precautions to protect yourselves, your classmates, and myself as much as possible.

Attendance

It is the accepted practice at Molloy University that faculty take attendance in all courses. Students should notify faculty if an absence is necessary because of a serious situation. Failure to attend class for two (2) consecutive weeks at any point in the semester without notification of extenuating circumstances will result in an administrative withdrawal from the course. In the case of an online or hybrid course, attendance is considered similarly important. Therefore, failure to participate in academic activities in any given week is considered an absence. Examples of participation in academic activities representing attendance would be participation in a class chat or discussion board on an academic topic, submissions of a required assignment, digital interaction with the professor on an academic topic, and completion of a quiz or exam. Administrative withdrawal results in removal from the course with a grade of "WA" or "WF" determined by the point in the term and the academic performance. Students should consult the University catalog for complete details regarding withdrawals and the potential financial implications of a withdrawal.