

Texas A & M University – Central Texas
SOCI 5303
Theoretical Sociology
Summer 2018

Professor: Michelle Dietert, PhD

Office Location: Founders Hall Room 217-J

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 8:00am to 12:00pm (Please email to schedule an appointment during my office hours). If you cannot meet during my office hours let me know and we can make other arrangements.

E-mail: dietert1@tamuct.edu

Class Time and Location - Online (June 4 – August 10)

Use this link to access this course: *This course is a 100% online course and uses the TAMUCT Canvas Learning Management System:* [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]

Required Texts

Durkheim, Emile. 2014. *The Division of Labor in Society*. Free Press.

Foucault, Michel. 1995. *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Vintage Books.

Goffman, Irving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. Anchor Books.

Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. *The German Ideology*. (Located in a pdf file uploaded in Canvas).

Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*. (Located in a pdf file uploaded in Canvas).

E-Reserve

Required Readings are made available in the TAMUCT library E-Reserves and are listed in your tentative course schedule below. The password is marx, when prompted. Here is the link http://tamuct.libguides.com/er.php?course_id=42492, for your convenience. The visibility dates for your readings range from June 4th-August 10th. Please note that the scanned articles and chapters will not be visible until June 4th.

For Referencing (Required)

American Sociological Association. 2014. *American Sociological Association Style Guide* (5th). American Sociological Association Publisher. (978-0912764214)

Catalog Description

This is a graduate level course that focuses on the study of the historical development of sociological theory by examining the major works of classical, contemporary, postmodern and modern social theorists.

Course Description

This is a graduate level course that will challenge the student to critically analyze sociological theories from some of the great thinkers within the discipline. Rather than rely on secondary readings to increase your knowledge in regards to a particular theory, you will be required to read the primary readings of the theorists.

Course Objectives

1. Students will be able to designate the assumptions and strategies used by each theoretical perspective.
2. Students will acquire the technical vocabulary of sociological theory.
3. Students will be able to compare and contrast the differing theoretical perspectives, noting strengths and weaknesses inherent in each.
4. Students will gain appreciation of sociological theory as a tool in research, as well as a tool for solving social problems.
5. Students writing skills will be enhanced by completing the course requirements.
6. Students will be able to cite correctly using the American Sociological Association (ASA) referencing style.

Class/Instructor Policies

The role of the instructor is to present critical ideas, to offer an analytical framework for understanding the course material, to work with students in providing an inspiring learning environment, and to provide and receive constructive feedback. It is not the instructor's role to tell the student what to think. The student's responsibility is to read the readings with a critical mind, to question, to complete assignments on time, to participate in the exchange of ideas, and to work toward an inspiring learning environment. It is the responsibility of all of us to create a safe learning environment free of racism, sexism, classism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism.

Late Work: I will NOT be accepting late work under any circumstances. If you are turning in assignments, your work must be uploaded in Canvas at the specified due date and time. I will not accept that assignment through email. You will earn a zero for the assignment and/or paper.

Additional Help: If you need additional help on assignments, papers, or any materials covered in class, you are more than welcome to set up an appointment with me during my office hours or at a time that we can both agree on. The best way to get in touch with me is through email. I no longer have an office phone.

Incomplete Grades: I DO NOT GIVE OUT INCOMPLETE GRADES. ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTS ARE DUE ON THE DATES OUTLINED IN THE SYLLABUS.

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

In addition, the professor does not allow students to record lectures on any device. If you have any questions, please let me know.

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University Policies/Services

911 Cellular

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas
911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Academic Integrity.

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

If you do plagiarize, I will 1) fail you for the assignment and/or the course, and 2) initiate an Academic Dishonesty action against you.

Academic Accommodations.

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center: Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-4pm Monday-Thursday during the summer with online hours available Monday-Thursday from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) at [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library.

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources.

On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address) Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

Course Requirements

1. **Theoretical Summary Papers (8 x 25pts = 200):** You will have a total of eight weekly summary papers in this class. For these papers, you are to reflect on the readings for that week. These papers should be presenting and interpreting the main arguments of the readings and when possible, addressing their empirical significance and practical application or lack thereof as the student understands them. For these papers, make note that you do not need to address everything that you have read. This would not be possible. These papers should be no less than 750 words, double-spaced, written in Times New Roman font and uploaded in Canvas as a Word document. As far as organization is concerned, I would like you to provide

an introduction letting the reader know what theorists/theories you will reflect on. Your dialog regarding the theorists/theories will make up the body of the paper. Finally, you will conclude. Remember to cite when appropriate using ASA referencing style.

2. Research Paper (200 points): Due Wednesday August 8 by midnight. Choose a contemporary social problem that interests you and explore that issue from one or more of the theoretical perspectives discussed in class. I will be looking at how well you apply the theory or theories to the social issue you have chosen to write about. Please see my grading rubric and tentative paper outlines at the end of this syllabus.

- Your research project should be no less than 5000 words in length. This length requirement **does not include** your title page, abstract or your reference page. Please submit your double-spaced paper in Times New Roman using 12 point font.
- You must use no less than 10 – 15 **scholarly** references, but feel free to use more. Scholarly references are those found in social science journals or other scholarly journals. You can also utilize a book or two but the main focus should be on finding sources that have researched your topic. Please do not get all of your sources from online websites and cut/paste into your paper. Again, you should integrate **scholarly** research articles into your dialog/analysis.
- For your research paper, you must also reference correctly. If you take information from a source, you must give credit to your reference. Please use **ASA (American Sociological Association)** referencing style. The ASA reference guide is listed under required texts on the first page of your syllabus. Please use the ASA guide. Purdue Owl does not provide all of the ASA requirements.
- Not only must you reference correctly, but you should include a reference page and reference your sources within the text of your paper. If you write a paper but do not provide references within the text of your paper and/or provide a reference sheet, **you will earn a zero for the paper.**
- In addition, I do not accept “recycled” papers or more specifically, papers that have been written for another class! Also, if you copy/paste any of your theoretical summary papers into your final paper, you will earn a zero.
- Once you upload your paper, make note of the report generated by **Vericite**. Vericite will pinpoint exactly what text used in your paper comes from other sources. The system will also provide a percentage designating how much of your text comes from other sources. Please stay under 20%.

3. Postings (9 Postings x 13 points each = 117 total points):

- You will have 9 postings for this course. Since you will be the only graduate student taking this course, you and I will have dialog about the material read for that week. Weekly posts will open up on Mondays at 8:00am and close on Saturdays at 11:59pm. Your main posting will be due by Wednesday evening at midnight. You will have until Saturday at midnight to complete all replies to the professor. For your first posting, I want you to develop and submit the topic based on what you have read. This will get our dialog going. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.
- You will receive a total of 13 points for providing a substantive post, responding to at least three of my responses, presenting good writing skills and adhering to deadlines.

- In your tentative schedule below, you will find the dates and times when postings open for discussion and when they are no longer available. “No longer available” means that once the discussion is closed, you will not be able to make up those points.
- Finally, your postings to me and your theoretical summary papers are two different assessments. Do not copy your papers into the discussion board. If you do, you will not earn discussion points for that particular week.

****GRADING RUBRICS FOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF YOUR SYLLABUS**

Grading Scale

- A = 465 – 517 (Excellent)
 B = 371 – 464 (Better than Average)
 C = 259 – 370 (Average)
 D = 155 – 258 (Below Average)
 F = 154 and below (Failing)

Tentative Course Schedule

WEEK 1: General Introduction to Sociology

Monday June 4 - Sunday June 10

- **Readings:**
 - Invitation to Sociology – Peter Berger
 - The Promise – C. Wright Mills
 - Three Sociological Perspectives – Paul Colomy
- **Posting 1**

Due Friday: Theoretical Summary Paper #1

WEEK 2: Understanding the Discipline of Sociology, Auguste Comte (1798-1857)

Monday June 11 – Sunday June 17

- Comte
 - Chapter 1: Account of the Aim of this Work
 - Chapter 2: View of the Hierarchy of the Positive Sciences
- **Posting 2**

Due Friday: Theoretical Summary Paper #2

WEEK 3: Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Frederick Engels (1820-1895)

Monday June 18 - Sunday June 24

Readings:

- **Books**
 - German Ideology (Provided as a pdf file in Canvas)
 - Communist Manifesto (Provided as a pdf file in Canvas)
- **Posting 3**

Due Friday: Theoretical Summary Paper #3

WEEK 4: Max Weber (1864-1920)

Monday June 25 – Sunday July 1

Readings:

- **E-Reserve**
 - The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism – Max Weber
 - Bureaucracy – Max Weber
 - “Objectivity” in Social Science and Policy – Max Weber
 - Class, Status and Party – Max Weber
- **Posting 4**

Due Friday: Theoretical Summary Paper #4

WEEK 5: Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

Monday July 2 – Sunday July 8

- **Book**
 - Division of Labor
- **E-Reserve**
 - The Rules of Sociological Method – Emile Durkheim
 - Egoistic Suicide and Anomic Suicide – Emile Durkheim
 - The Elementary Forms of Religious Life – Emile Durkheim
- **Posting 5**

Due Friday: Theoretical Summary Paper #5

WEEK 6: W.E.B DuBois (1868-1963)

Monday July 9 – Sunday July 15

Readings:

- **E-Reserve**
 - The Conservation of Races
 - Of Our Spiritual Strivings
 - The Souls of White Folk
 - Social Inequality and Racial Intermarriage
 - The Shape of Fear
 - Marxism and the Negro Problem
 - The Black Mother
 - Woman Suffrage
 - The Damnation of Women
 - The Freedom of Womanhood
 - The Talented Tenth
 - Chapters 4 and 5 from the Green text
- **Posting 6**

Also check out Du Bois' hand written infographics:
(<http://publicdomainreview.org/collections/w-e-b-du-bois-hand-drawn-infographics-of-african-american-life-1900/>)

Due Friday: Theoretical Summary Paper #6

WEEK 7: Erving Goffman (1922-1982), George Herbert Mead (1863-1931), Harold Garfinkel (1917-2011)

Monday July 16 – Sunday July 22

- **Book**
 - The Presentation of Self – Erving Goffman
- **E-Reserve**
 - Self and Society – George Herbert Mead
 - Passing and the Managed Achievement of Sex Status in an “Intersexed” Person – Harold Garfinkel
 - Ethnomethodology – Harold Garfinkel
- **Posting 7**

Due Friday: Theoretical Summary Paper #7

WEEK 8: Michel Foucault (1926-1984), Gender Theory - Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935), Dorothy Smith (1926-), Patricia Hill Collins (1948-), Judith Butler (1956-)

Monday July 23 – Sunday July 29

- **Book**
 - Discipline and Punish – Michel Foucault
- **E-Reserve**
 - Performative Theory of Gender Acts – Judith Butler
 - The Economic Status of Women – Charlotte Perkins Gilman
 - Feminist Standpoint Theory – Dorothy E. Smith
 - Black Feminist Thought – Patricia Hill Collins
- **Posting 8**

Due Friday: Theoretical Summary Paper #8

WEEK 9: Jurgen Habermas (1929-), C. W. Mills (1916-1962), Robert Merton (1910-2003)

Monday July 30 – Sunday August 5

- **E-Reserve**
 - Three Normative Models of Democracy – Jurgen Habermas
 - The Structure of Power in America – C. Wright Mills
 - Manifest and Latent Functions – Robert Merton
 - Social Structure and Anomie – Robert Merton
 - The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy – Robert Merton
- **Posting 9**

No Theoretical Summary Paper Due – Work on Your Final Research Paper

WEEK 10: FINALS WEEK

Monday August 6 - Sunday August 12

- **Final Paper Due Wednesday August 8 by Midnight**

***Professor reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time.**

Grading Rubric for Final Research Paper - THEORY

<i>Sections</i>	Poor	Minimally Acceptable	Good	Exceptional
Spelling, Grammar, & Sentence Structure 10%	<i>Many</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (0 pts) <i>Score:</i>	<i>Some</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (10pts) <i>Score:</i>	<i>Few</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (16 pts) <i>Score:</i>	<i>No</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (20 pts) <i>Score:</i>
Proper Referencing Format (ASA) 10%	Not used in text and reference page (0 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Used in text but not in reference page or used in reference page but not in text of paper (10 pts) <i>Score:</i>	ASA style utilized with few errors both within the text of the paper and in reference page (16pts) <i>Score:</i>	No errors in reference page and in text citation (20 pts) <i>Score:</i>
Structure and Organization of Research Paper 15%	Does not clearly develop and organize introduction, body, and conclusion (0-10 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Minimal development and organization of introduction, body, and conclusion (11-20 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Average development and organization of introduction, body, and conclusion (21-29 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Accurate development and organization of introduction, body, and conclusion (30 pts) <i>Score:</i>
Theory Definition 15%	Does not clearly develop theoretical definition (0-10 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Minimal development of theoretical definition (11-20 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Average development of theoretical definition (21-29 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Accurate development of theoretical definition (30 pts) <i>Score:</i>
Theoretical Application to Sociological Phenomenon 50%	Paper does not demonstrate theoretical application (0-33 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Paper needs improvement of theoretical application (34-66 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Paper demonstrates adequate theoretical application (67-99 pts) <i>Score:</i>	Paper demonstrates excellent theoretical application (100 pts) <i>Score:</i>

A= 180 – 200 (90-100%)

B= 160 – 179 (80-89%)

C= 140 – 159 (70-79%)

D= 120 – 139 (60-69%)

F ≤ 119

Grading Rubric for Theoretical Summary Papers

<i>Sections</i>	Poor	Minimally Acceptable	Good	Exceptional
Spelling, Grammar, & Sentence Structure	<p><i>Many</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (0 – 2 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p><i>Some</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (3pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p><i>Few</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (4 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p><i>No</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors (5 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>
Proper Referencing Format (ASA required)	<p>Referencing not used in essay where appropriate (0 - 2 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p>Minimal use of referencing in essay where appropriate (3 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p>Good/average use of referencing in essay where appropriate (4pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p>No referencing errors in essay (5 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>
Structure and Organization of Essay	<p>Does not clearly develop and organize introduction, body, and conclusion (0-2 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p>Minimal development and organization of introduction, body, and conclusion (3 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p>Average development and organization of introduction, body, and conclusion (4 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p>Accurate development and organization of introduction, body, and conclusion (5 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>
Content of Essay – Application of Theory	<p>Information and evidence are not accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively. (0-3 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p>Information and evidence is minimally accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively. (4-6 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p>Information and evidence averagely accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively. (7-9 pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>	<p>Information and evidence is exceptionally accurate, appropriate, and integrated effectively. (10pts)</p> <p><i>Score:</i></p>

Discussion Rubric

Worth 13 total points

Levels of Achievement

<i>Criteria</i>	Does Not Meet Criteria	Needs Improvement	Excellent
Initial Substantive Posting to Professor	0-1 point First posting too short, based on personal views only, with no references to the readings or the concepts learned from the material covered	2 - 4 points First posting too short. Not a clear indication of an understanding of the readings	5 points A substantive first posting, citing the readings and demonstrating full understanding of the course content
Replies to Professor	0-1 points No or just one response, with no significant comments to improve the conversation	2 points Only two responses to professor	3 points Three substantive posts were responded to, with comments advancing the conversation
Adhering to Deadlines	0 points Substantive response and replies to professor do not meet deadline	1 points Partial substantive response OR replies to professor	2 points All entries posted by the deadline.
Writing Skills	0-1 points <i>Many</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors	2 points <i>Some</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors	3 points <i>No</i> spelling, grammar, or sentence structure errors

Theory Final Research Paper
*Suggested Outlines

1. Abstract
2. Introduction
 - a. In the introduction, you want to introduce your chosen topic. If applicable, provide some recent statistics to give the reader some background on your topic.
 - b. Tell the reader what you will cover in your research paper. This could include all of the sections that follow.
3. Review of the Literature
 - a. Find at least 10 - 15 scholarly references that focus on your chosen topic. Your references should be from scholarly journals. You may use internet websites but these will not count as one of your scholarly references. I suggest only using relevant websites such as those ending in .gov.
4. Theory Definition
 - a. In this section, you want to define the theory or theories that you are using in your paper. You may use your book as a reference.
5. Theory Application
 - a. In this section, you want to apply the theory to your social issue. How does this theory or theories help the reader understand the social issue you have chosen?
6. Conclusion
 - a. Wrap up your final conclusions here.
7. Reference Page
 - a. You must use American Sociological Association (ASA) reference style in your reference sheet and within the text of your paper.

OR ANOTHER OPTION:

1. Abstract
2. Introduction
 - a. In the introduction, you want to introduce your chosen topic. If applicable, provide some recent statistics to give the reader some background on your topic.
 - b. Tell the reader what you will cover in your research paper. This could include all of the sections that follow.
3. Theory Definition
 - a. In this section, you want to define the theory or theories that you are using in your paper. You may use your book as a reference.
4. Review of the Literature and Theory Application
 - a. Find at least 10 - 15 scholarly references that focus on your chosen topic. Your references should be from scholarly journals. You may use internet websites but these will not count as one of your scholarly references. I suggest only using relevant websites such as those ending in .gov.
 - b. Integrate the application of the theory with your review of the literature. How does this theory or theories help the reader understand the social issue you have chosen?
5. Conclusion
 - a. Wrap up your final conclusions here.
6. Reference Page
 - a. You must use American Sociological Association (ASA) reference style in your reference sheet and within the text of your paper.

*You do not have to follow the exact order of this outline. Since you are a graduate student, you are free to construct the paper that you think best demonstrates your knowledge of the theory/theories and application. I am here if you have questions or concerns. 😊