



COURSE TITLE/SECTION: SOCW 8333/14199 Social Science Theories

TIME: Tuesdays 1:00pm-4:00pm

FACULTY: Susan P. Robbins

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 12:00-1:00pm by appt.
Tuesday 4:00-5:00pm, Other hours by appointment

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I. Course

A. Catalog Description: Cr. 3 (3-0).

Prerequisite: doctoral standing. The course provides a critical examination of human science theories and multidisciplinary conceptual frameworks relevant to human behavior and social work practice.

B. Purpose:

This course examines human science theories and multidisciplinary conceptual frameworks which hold strong potential for enhancing social work practice through an understanding of human behavior at the individual, group, organizational or societal levels. Drawing from the social science, biological science and social work literature, this course will assist students in understanding, selecting, utilizing and evaluating a variety of person in environment frameworks for analyzing contemporary issues and problems in human behavior that are central to social work practice.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply several conceptual and theoretical frameworks to the examination of human behavior at the individual, group, organizational or societal levels;
2. Discuss the interdependence among macro, meso, and micro frameworks and the interventive approaches derived from them;
3. Delineate the major research issues related to the evaluation of a variety of theories;
4. Select, construct and evaluate a conceptual framework for

understanding the causes and correlates of the specific issue or problem of greatest interest to them; and

5. Demonstrate the skills of critical thinking, scholarly discussion, and professional writing.

III. Course Content

Course content will include theoretical and conceptual frameworks and research from the human sciences (biology, neurochemistry, genetics, psychology, social psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, women's studies, gay and lesbian studies and cultural studies) and the social work literature.

IV. Course Structure

This course is organized to provide a framework for integrating, synthesizing, and critiquing a variety of social science theories and the interventive approaches derived from them. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of the course content, this course is organized as a multidisciplinary, inter-institutional course and the lectures will be provided by professors from various social science disciplines. Lecture material is intended to supplement, not review, the assigned readings.

V. Textbooks

Required:

Robbins, S. P., Chatterjee, P., and Canda, E. R. (2012). *Contemporary human behavior theory: A critical perspective for social work* (3rd ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Berger, P. & Luckmann, T. (1966). *The social construction of reality: A treatise in the sociology of knowledge*. New York: Anchor Books.

Heppner, P.P. and Heppner, M.J. (2004). *Writing and publishing your thesis, dissertation & research: A guide for students in the helping professions*. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Brooks/Cole.

Recommended:

Bolker, J. (1998). *Writing your dissertation in fifteen minutes a day: A guide to starting, revising, and finishing your thesis*. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

Silvia, P.J. (2010) *How to write a lot: A practical guide to productive academic writing*. Washington D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Single, P. B. (2010). *Demystifying dissertation writing: A streamlined process from choice of topic to final text*. Sterling, VA; Stylus Press.

VI. Course Requirements

This section should identify the course assignments, including written assignments, projects, and exams, as well as due dates. It is suggested that any stipulations regarding late submissions be included here.

A. Reading Assignments

In addition to the required texts, students will individually select theoretical and other readings appropriate to their topic of choice. These readings will be reflected in the reference list of the paper required for the course.

B. Written Assignments

There will be one (1) graded paper required for this class. This will be discussed in class.

C. Exams

There will be no examinations.

D. Other Assignments:

There will be one (1) required class presentation in which students will present the main points of their paper.

VII. Evaluation and Grading

Grading will be based on the quality of the paper and presentation. The specific percent allocated to the paper and presentation and will be based on individual student preferences that will be submitted to the instructor prior to the presentation. However, the minimum percent that can be allocated to the paper is 50% and the total percent for both assignments must equal 100%.

The following standard grading scale has been adopted for all courses taught in the college.

A =	96-100% of the points	C+ =	76-79.9%
A- =	92-95.9%	C =	72-75.9%
B+=	88-91.9%	C- =	68-71.9%
B =	84-87.9%	D =	64-67.9%
B- =	80-83.9%	F =	Below 64%

More than two (2) absences will seriously jeopardize your final grade.

Please refer to the Graduate and Professional Studies catalogue for the University policy regarding a grade of "incomplete."

VIII. **Consultation:**

My office is Room 311 on the third floor of the Social Work Building; my telephone number is (713) 743-8103 and my e-mail address is: srobbins@uh.edu

My office hours are posted on my office door and I will be glad to meet with students who request an appointment. Please call or e-mail me to schedule an appointment. I am generally accessible by e-mail and will answer most messages within 24 hours.

Initial Class Schedule

JAN.	20	<u>Introduction: Social Science Theories</u> Robbins, et al., Ch. 1
	27	<u>Lecture/ Discussion: The Nature of Reality and the Role of Quantification</u> Berger & Luckmann, Introduction & Section I, pp. 1-46
FEB.	3	<u>Lecture/ Discussion: The Paradigms of Fact and Definition</u> Berger & Luckmann, Section II, pp. 47-128
	10	<u>Class Work Session: Student Paper Outline Feedback and Critique</u> Berger & Luckmann, Section III & Conclusion, pp. 129-190
FEB.	17	<u>Class Work Session: Student Paper Outline Feedback and Critique</u> Class Discussion of Berger & Luckmann

IX. **Americans with Disabilities Statement**

Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please call 713-743-5400 for more assistance. Instructors may not provide accommodations without supporting documentation from the UH Center for Students with Disabilities.

X. **Policy on grades of I (Incomplete):**

The grade of "I" (Incomplete) is a conditional and temporary grade given when students are either **(a)** passing a course or **(b)** still have a reasonable chance of

passing in the judgment of the instructor but, for non-academic reasons beyond their control have not completed a relatively small part of all requirements. Students are responsible for informing the instructor immediately of the reasons for not submitting an assignment on time or not taking an examination. Students must contact the instructor of the course in which they receive an "I" grade to make arrangements to complete the course requirements. Students should be instructed not to re-register for the same course in a following semester in order to complete the incomplete requirements.

The grade of "I" must be changed by fulfillment of course requirements within one year of the date awarded or it will be changed automatically to an "F" (or to a "U" [Unsatisfactory] in S/U graded courses). The instructor may require a time period of less than one year to fulfill course requirements, and the grade may be changed by the instructor at any time to reflect work completed in the course. The grade of "I" may not be changed to a grade of **W**.

XI. Policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism

Students are expected to demonstrate and maintain a professional standard of writing in all courses, do one's own work, give credit for the ideas of others, and provide proper citation of source materials. Any student who plagiarizes any part of a paper or assignment or engages in any form of academic dishonesty will receive an "I" for the class with a recommendation that a grade of F be assigned, subsequent to a College hearing, in accordance with the University policy on academic dishonesty. Other actions may also be recommended and/or taken by the College to suspend or expel a student who engages in academic dishonesty.

All papers and written assignments must be fully and properly referenced using APA style format (or as approved by the instructor), with credit given to the authors whose ideas you have used. If you are using direct quotes from a specific author (or authors), you must set the quote in quotation marks or use an indented quotation form. For all direct quotes, you must include the page number(s) in your text or references. Any time that you use more than four or five consecutive words taken from another author, you must clearly indicate that this is a direct quotation. Please consult the current APA manual for further information.

Academic dishonesty includes using any other person's work and representing it as your own. This includes (but is not limited to) using graded papers from students who have previously taken this course as the basis for your work. It also includes, but is not limited to submitting the same paper to more than one class. If you have any specific questions about plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please raise these questions in class or make an appointment to see instructor. This statement is consistent with the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty that can be found in your UH Student Handbook.