Please fill in all information. Required signatures are on page 2 of this form. Please return to: Academic Affairs Committee, Office of the Provost, Anderson Hall, 2nd Floor.

Contact Person: George H. Lewis  
Phone: 946-2925

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date: December 8, 2006</th>
<th>School or College: COP</th>
<th>Department: Sociology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Course #: 177</td>
<td>Title: Theories of Society and Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Prerequisites: SOCI 71 or permission of the instructor; SOCI 172 strongly recommended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed Units: 4</td>
<td>Enrollment/Expected Enrollment: 20</td>
<td>Grade Option: Letter Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing Course Title: Same</td>
<td>Existing Course #: Same</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing Unit Value: Same</td>
<td>Existing Prerequisites: SOCI 71; SOCI 175 strongly recommended</td>
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</table>

Revised catalog description (attach additional sheet if necessary). Attach a syllabus: None

Describe the proposed changes and provide a rationale (attach additional sheet if necessary). To shift prerequisites in this core course to reflect other course changes

If approved, when will this be implemented? Fall ☑ Spring □ Year 2007

What is the anticipated impact on resources (e.g., Faculty, funds, library materials, etc.)? None

Describe any special facilities, furnishings, or technical needs. List software needs, if any. None

U.O.P.

DEC 21 2006

REGISTRAR
**APPROVAL PROCESS**

Please obtain all signatures before submitting to Academic Affairs Committee. Acquire signatures in the order in which they are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Action by department requesting addition/change:</th>
<th>Approved by: [Signature] Date: 3-22-06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Action by the Curriculum Committee of the School/College:</td>
<td>Approved by: [Signature] Date: 11-14-06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Action by the Dean of the School/College:</td>
<td>Approved by: [Signature] Date: 11-14-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Action by the Dean of the Library:</td>
<td>Approved by: [Signature] Date: 11-15-06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Action by the Director of Educational Technology Services (if computer lab, software needed):</td>
<td>Approved by: [Signature] Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Action by the Registrar:</td>
<td>Approved by: [Signature] Date: 12-31-06</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Action by the General Education Committee (as appropriate):</td>
<td>Approved by: [Signature] Date:</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Action by the Graduate Studies Committee (as appropriate):</td>
<td>Approved by: [Signature] Date:</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Action by the Academic Affairs Committee:</td>
<td>Approved by: [Signature] Date:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

After approval by the Academic Affairs Committee, information regarding new, revised, or deleted programs and courses is sent to the Registrar for listing in or modifying the catalog.

Form revised 9/4/03
Introduction: This course provides a broad overview of sociological theory at both the macro- and micro levels. The class readings will explore selective “classical” theories as well as contemporary sociological theories. Students completing this course will learn how scholars define and use theory in the development of sociological knowledge. Throughout the semester we will examine basic theoretical assumptions and learn how different orientations compare and contrast with each other.

Student Responsibilities and Learning Objectives:
As a community of learners, we will investigate sociological theory through a variety of instructional methods ranging from traditional lectures, student presentations, films and in-class exercises. Students are required to attend class regularly and participate in class activities. The goal of the course is for students to recognize and apply multiple theoretical perspectives to social issues and to use sociological theory in their everyday life.

Course Requirements: All members of the seminar are expected to take an active role in the learning process. Participation is key to having a successful and rewarding experience in this course. During the semester students will complete individual and group presentations, a research project as well as three in-class exams.

A description of all written course work will be provided in separate handouts and available on Blackboard. The course requirements and readings may be changed at the instructor’s discretion, it is important to check Blackboard regularly for course updates.

Course Goals
1. The course helps students understand individual human behavior.
2. The course helps students understand how humans interact.
3. The course helps students understand the theories of individual and interpersonal behavior from a historical and/or contemporary perspective.

* Additional readings may be available at the University Library, available on Blackboard or passed out in class.

Grade Option: Letter grade only.

Class Discussion: An objective of the course is to introduce students to various ways in which one can use social science research to analyze everyday life. Personal opinion and individual experiences are valuable for us to learn about each other; however it is important that as a community of learners we engage the course texts to serve as the central focus for class discussion. Students do not have to agree with any or all of a theorist’s stance, approach, findings or suggestions; however you must be able to engage and analyze the reading in a mature manner to successfully complete the assignments and participate in class discussion.

Some members may consider the issues and perspectives presented controversial, or may be uncomfortable having their personal views challenged. I would like this class to be a “safe place” to discuss the themes in the course, thus students are expected to respect the perspectives of others, including the instructor, and information in the texts that challenge their own worldviews. While lively
and engaging discussion is encouraged, *active listening* is also a necessary component of the class. Class members who repeatedly dismiss and rudely interrupt others, including the instructor, will lose participation points. Also, engaging in side conversations or passing notes is distracting for others and will result in the offending students to lose participation points if either activity becomes too distracting. Students should set cell phones, text messagers, and pagers to silent or turn off devices while in class. If any of the aforementioned activities (passing notes, side conversations or other necessary interruptions) becomes a habit, offending students may be asked to leave the class for the day.

**Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film analysis*</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign of the Times*</td>
<td>15 points (10 presentation, 5 paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project *</td>
<td>40 points (30 paper, 10 presentation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam One</td>
<td>30 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Two</td>
<td>40 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Three</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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</table>

200 points total for course

*Students may work in groups to complete the film analysis and research project. The Sign of the Times assignment is designed as a group project. All members of a group will receive the same grade.

**Grade Scale**

Final letter grades will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>200 - 185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>184 - 180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>179 - 173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>172 - 166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>165 - 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>159 - 153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>152 - 146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>145 - 140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>139 - 133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>132 - 126</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>125 - 120</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participation:** Participation in this class will be measured on several levels: 1) showing up ready to do the work of the course (having done the reading and assignments) and 2) participating fully in classroom discussions and small group work. Willing participation for the in-class activities will be counted in this portion of the grade. Occasionally I will ask students to respond to a reading selection in class, but I will not collect this work. Any written work done in class and not collected should be kept with the other course material to use for review for exams and the research project. I will be assigning a portion of the 30 points of your attendance and participation grade based on my subjective “take” of your in-class accomplishments.

**Film Analysis/Group Exercises and Discussions:** At various times throughout the semester you will be asked to break into groups for exercises meant to enhance your understanding of social theory. Some of the in-class group work will include doing a sociological analysis of films. The questions regarding the films will be distributed the first day of viewing. Other in-class exercises will deal with debating and analyzing a contemporary social problem in terms of a specific social theory. Group exercises will include a short paper, outline or informal presentation.

Students should include the names of all participating members present the day they hand in their work. I will grade in-class work with a check plus, check, or check minus. A check plus indicates exemplary work, a check represents average work, and a check minus signifies work that is below minimum expectations.
Sign of the Times: Students will prepare a presentation on the different time periods covered in the class in order to give the historical, political and social context for different social theories. These presentations should be brief (10-15 minutes), creative, fun and informative about the assigned time period. A hand out of possible questions about times groups can answer will be given in class. Each group will type up a short report (3-4 pp) detailing their findings. Research sources must be cited in the body of the paper. Sign of the time group papers must be handed in at the end of class on the day they are due. All group members’ names should appear on the paper. Group members will receive the same grade for the presentation and paper. Failure to lead discussion on the day you’ve signed up for will result in an automatic zero for two-thirds of this assignment. However students who miss the oral presentation may be able to earn full credit (5 points) depending on their contribution to the group paper.

Tentative Schedule for Sign of the Times Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group One</td>
<td>September 20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Two</td>
<td>October 11th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Three</td>
<td>October 13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Four</td>
<td>October 16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Five</td>
<td>October 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Six</td>
<td>November 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Seven</td>
<td>November 10th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Eight</td>
<td>November 17th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Nine</td>
<td>December 4th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A note about written work: All written work must be typed, double-spaced, numbered and in 12-point font in black ink. I will not accept hand written notes on notebook paper for any of the written assignments unless it is for in-class work. I will not grade an un-named paper or a paper with pages missing, so remember to put your full name on the first page of a paper and to staple the pages together. Furthermore, papers should always be turned in during class, to my department mailbox (WPC 212 Social Science Hub) or by email depending upon the specific requirements of the exercise. It is advised that students keep a copy of all written for their own records.

Attendance Policy and Lateness: Class attendance is important for participation as well as for lectures. Lectures will include major themes from most of the readings, however not all of the information from the texts will be covered in class. Testable material includes assigned reading, lectures, and film analysis and class presentations.

You are allowed two absences without penalty per semester. Beyond that, your final grade will drop a point for each additional absence. For example, if your final grade is a B, it will drop to a B- if you are absent 3 times, or to a C+ if you are absent 4 times, etc. You will be marked absent if you come to class unprepared or late. Two latenesses equal one absence.

Missed Work: Students are allowed to turn in missed work due to an excused absence within two weeks of the assignment due date. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor to schedule make-up exams or to make arrangements for missed work. Documentation explaining why you were unable to complete an assignment or attend class will be required before any missed work is accepted or make-up exam scheduled.

ADA Statement: As an instructor, I am responsible for creating a classroom environment where all students are able to be full participants in the course. If any student is in need of classroom assistance or modification related to a disability alert me at the beginning of the semester so that the proper arrangements can be made in advance.
Academic Honesty: No form of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated in this class. Both plagiarism and cheating are acts of academic dishonesty and are violations of University policy. Any student found plagiarizing an assignment will receive a failing grade for that assignment and the proper campus authorities will be notified. An act of academic dishonesty includes: 1) handing in a paper from a previous course without approval of both instructors, 2) cheating, e.g., giving or receiving answers during a quiz, and 3) plagiarism, e.g., copying another’s work without citing the source of the information or purchasing a paper from the Internet to hand in as your own. You may use someone else’s ideas in your work; however, you must acknowledge whose work/ideas you are using. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, review the University’s Honor Code. A complete statement of the Honor Code may be found in the Student Handbook, Tiger Lore. Understanding and adherence to the University Honor Code is the responsibility of the student.

Course Calendar

- Readings and course assignments are subject to change. I will announce changes in class and post course revisions on Blackboard; it is your responsibility to stay updated on changes in the class.
- Chapters from Charles Lemet’s text are designated as “CL”, readings on reserve or on-line are described by author and title.

8/30: Introduction to course, overview of course requirements

9/1: Sign of the Times Groups and first in-class exercise

9/4: Labor Day- No Class

I. Classical Sociological Theory: Marx, Weber and Durkheim

9/6: Sign of the Times: mid-1800s
Introduction to Karl Marx
Read pages 30-37 and 48-64 in CL for 9/6 to 9/11

- Things to keep in mind while reading: What is the common element in these readings? What does Marx care about? Do people matter to Marx? Is so, how? Have any of Marx’s ideas come true? Why should we care?

9/13: Review Marx and begin The Full Monty

9/15: Finish film and begin film analysis

9/18: Complete film analysis

9/20: Sign of the Times Group 1: 1890 - 1920s
Introduction to Max Weber
Read pages 99 – 124 in CL for 9/20 to 9/25

- Things to keep in mind while reading: What is the common element in these readings? How does Weber respond to Marx? What are the key elements in his grand theory of society? What role does the individual play in Weber’s scheme? Is Weber’s view of society still relevant? Why should we care?

9/27: Introduction to Durkheim
Read pages 70 – 98 in CL for 9/27 to 9/29
Things to keep in mind while reading: What is the common element in these readings? What does Durkheim care about? How does Durkheim’s world view compare and contrast with Marx and Weber’s? Does the individual matter at all? Why should we care?

10/2: Overflow day: Review Weber and Durkheim, meet with instructor regarding research project

10/4: Library Tutorial- meet in the Library Classroom for research tutorial

10/6: Fall Break- no class.

10/9: First Exam

Contemporary Social Theory

Things to keep in mind while reading: How do different people approach “doing” theory? What is similar or different between these theories and the classics? What role do individuals and groups play in modern society? What social institutions matter to these theories? Why should we care about a theorist’s perspective from the 1930s or 1960s? What, if anything, remains relevant about these theories today?

10/11: Sign of the Times Group 2: 1930s
Frankfurt School
Read pages 204-208 (Horkheimer) in CL, there may be additional readings assigned for this day.

10/13: Sign of the Times Group 3: 1940s
Social Theory and Racial Inequality
Read pages 238-243 (Du Bois) and 244-247 (Myrdal) in CL

10/16: Sign of the Times Group 4: 1950s
Symbolic Interactionism
Read pages 332-336 (Goffman) and pages 338-388 (Berger and Luckmann) in CL

10/18: Read pages 349 – 352 (C. Wright Mills) in CL, additional reading may be assigned.

10/20: Overflow Day and mandatory office hours for all students.
*Last day to drop classes!

10/23: Sign of the Times Group 5: mid-1950s to mid-1960s
Social Theory and Social Movements
Second Wave Feminism
Read pages 355 – 358 (Freidan) in CL, additional readings may be assigned.

10/25: Civil Rights Movement
Pages 344 – 348 (MLK, Jr) in CL and MLK, Jr’s “Letter from the Birmingham Jail” on line at http://www.nobelprizes.com/nobel/peace/MLK-jail.html

10/27: Film: Eyes on the Prize.

10/30: Film continued and analysis in class.

11/1: Sign of the Times Group 6: mid-1960s to mid-1970s
Read pages 380-383 (Habermas) in CL and Habermas’ “Legitimation Crisis” available on line http://www.cf.ac.uk/socsi/undergraduate/introsoc/legitmcr.html
11/3: Standpoint Theory
Pages 388 – 391 (Smith) in CL and additional reading to be assigned.
11/6: Overflow Day

11/8: Second Exam

11/10: Sign of the Times Group 7: mid-1970s to mid-1980s
Read pages 435- 440 (Bourdieu) in CL, and additional reading may be assigned.

11/13: Postmodernism
Read pages 465-471 (Foucault) and begin film One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest

11/15: Finish One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest and film analysis

11/17: Sign of the Times Group 8: mid-1980s – mid-1990s
➢ Some things to keep in mind while reading: What is similar or different between these theories and those that preceded them? What role do individuals and groups play in modern society? What social institutions matter to these theories? How accurate are these theories in explaining social life?

11/20: Overflow day: mandatory meeting with all students.

November 22nd - November 24th Thanksgiving Break!

11/27: Critical Race Theory and Multiple Standpoints
Read pages 535 - 546 (Collins) and 494 -497 (Asante) in CL

11/29: Bell Hooks Postmodern Blackness available online at http://www3.iath.virginia.edu/pmc/text-only/issue.990/hooks.990 Begin film Black is... Black Ain’t

12/1: Finish Black Is... Black Ain’t and film analysis in class

12/4: Sign of the Times Group 9: mid-1990s to- present
Men’s Studies
Doug C. Thompson’s “The Male Role Stereotype” and R. W. Connell’s “Hegemonic Masculinity” to be passed out in class, and Anne Fausto-Sterling’s “How to Build a Man” available from the University library.

12/6: Film Tough Guise

12/8: Overflow day: finalize research presentations for Wednesday and Friday

12/11: Exam Three

12/13 to 12/15: Research Presentations
Name: Nickname/preferred name:
E-mail address: I will use your campus email address for all correspondence. Phone:

Please answer the following questions. I will keep your responses confidential, and will use them to get a better understanding of your expectations and background coming into this class. If you need more room, you can use the back of this sheet. Thank you!

What do you expect to get out of this class?

Do you experience test anxiety?

List some of the positive and negative aspects of your previous experiences with group work:

List any concerns you have about the semester:

Is there any other information I should know to assist you in having a successful semester?

I will try to accommodate your first or second choice to present the Sign of the Times. However, due to the size of the class and limited selection of dates you should also include a third choice as well.

1.
2.
3.

Agreement
I, ________________________________, have read the syllabus on ________ and agree that I will:
1. Abide by all course rules and regulations;
2. Complete all course requirements to the best of my ability; and
3. Review the course syllabus or Blackboard page before asking questions regarding course assignments, readings or important class dates.

**The course syllabus serves as a contract between the instructor and student outlining expectations and guidelines for the course. If you have any questions regarding information in the syllabus, please see me as soon as possible.**