

**American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

SBHS 214, Sociological Theory

1. Course Learning Outcomes:

The course is intended as a selective survey of some of the leading theoretical perspectives and critical issues of classical and contemporary sociological theory. Special focus is placed on four interrelated dimensions: 1) the nature of sociological theory and its intellectual sources, 2) its classic tradition, particularly the legacies of Marx, Durkheim and Weber, 3) an exploration of salient contemporary perspectives, 4) the emergence of new theories and /or directions, such as post-modernity and global sociology.

2. Resources Available to Students:

Wallace and Wolf, *Contemporary Sociological Theory*, 5th Edition (Prentice Hall, 1999).

Supplementary readings will be placed on reserve in Jafet and the Center for Behavioral Research.

3. Grading Criteria

Grading is based on one class presentation (oral and written), a mid-term and final examination.

The final grade takes into account the potential of the student for development and improvement in his/her overall performance.

4. Schedule

Weeks 1 and 2: Introduction: On the Nature of Sociological Theory
Week 3: Intellectual Sources of the “Sociological Imagination”
Week 4: On the Origins of Sociological Theory
Week 5: Marxist Sociology
Week 6: The Durkheimian Tradition
Week 7: Weberian Tradition
Week 8: Functionalism
Week 9: Conflict Theory
Week 10: Symbolic Interactionism
Week 11: Dramaturgical Analysis: Goffman
Week 12: The Sociology of the Body and Sociobiology
Week 13: Global Sociology
Week 14: Post-Modern Sociology

5. Course Policy:

No explicit policy.