**UE 1**

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SOCL-401: Sociology Theory

Dr. Grether

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I have made multiple changes towards this writing. Beginning with the APA format I made sure to include a header on each page. Next I began fixing my numerous grammatical errors throughout my paper. Following I divided the paper into various paragraphs in order to make this paper more clear. Afterwards, I began adding more sentences and information in order to reach the word count limit. I began cleaning up multiple sentences in order to get my clean and clear up the information I was trying to explain.

There have been several notable figures who played a significant role in establishing sociology as a scientific discipline. These key figures include Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, and Harriet Martineau. Auguste Comte was French and raised by his Catholic family who were heavy supporters of the French monarchy. Comte's main goal was to create a naturalist ( Comte, 2003). Comte also is given credit for the term social physics/sociology which derived from Latin and Greek words. Comte is best known for being the father of sociology and his works with social physics/sociology, social dynamics, social statics, methods of inquiry, law of three stages, positivism. Karl Marx was most known for his political economist, but he also played a big role in the sociology world. His works with capitalism and how society works and is shaped had a profound influence on sociology. The final major influence in the sociology world, Harriet Martineau who was one of the earliest women in sociology and a strong advocate for women's rights. Martineaus was best known for her concepts regarding morals and manners, which helped pave the way for an increase in gender inclusivity. Being one of the earliest women to engage in the sociological field, her work laid a great foundation for future women sociologists.

These early figures made significant contributions by developing theories, methods, and concepts that played a great role in constructing and guiding the new works for sociology. Their work continues to be utilized and plays a heavy influence in the field to this day. It has overall shaped how we study and understand society. Sociological theory is a conceptual scheme or a set of ideas that explain observable facts and makes sense during experiences. These ideas and beliefs can be derived from the early sociologist discussed previously. As discussed in Edles and Appelrouth readings which regards how sociological theories tend to be different from normal theories due to them being more evaluative and critical than other natural science theories. Due to sociologists seeking to explain why individuals' actions and behaviors are what they are. Rather than natural sciences theories explaining what exactly is going on outside the individual's perspectives and actions. Furthermore, sociological theories help us all understand social patterns, interactions, and structures which ultimately has helped us gain insight on human behavior ( (Edles & Appelrouth, 2010). This sociological theory also includes key points such as assumption, interactual concepts, and statements about relationships. In essence, sociological theory serves as a blueprint for sociologists to build through, analyze, and understand.

Overall, sociological theory lets us explore and examine the social world through a lens which lets us observe the aspects of human society. Sociological theory possesses unique characteristics that set it apart from natural sciences theories due to the nature of its subject matter, human society and its social behavior. Due to scientific theory being an iterative process that usually is not intended to be predictive like theories in the natural sciences. Sociological theory is meant to provide a paradigm in which to help explain a broad phenomena. This provides a worldview, cognitive framework, and a way of thinking. Which also includes a way in which individuals understand and make overall sense of a social reality. Another aspect of sociological theories is their dynamic nature. With the social world being a subject of historical shifts, cultural transformations, and societal changes. Scientific theories and sociology derived from the emancipation of slaves which came from sociologists such as Booker T. Washington, W.E.B Dubois and more ( Morris, 2015). Overall sociologist theories often confront normative assumptions and challenges that critically examine power structures, inequalities, and social injustices.

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**UE 2**

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SOCL-401: Sociology Theory

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Beginning my revision on this Unit essay, I started by fixing my grammatical errors throughout the paper. I also added the need header according to the APA format instructions.Following I began splitting my writing into numerous paragraphs in order to clear up my paper.

Max Weber was a prominent and very significant sociologist and philosopher. It can easily be determined that he was influenced and inspired by his wife Marianne. He was also a sociologist, who focused on feminist intellectuals in the sociology world (Lengermann & Niebrugge, 2007). Weber had several major concerns that motivated his theoretical interests. His works revolved around understanding and analyzing the complex dynamics of society.Weber primarily focused on modern Western society, where he focused on individuals behaviors in society (Coser, 2003). Weber explored many facets of modernity which led him to developing one of his most famous concepts, bureaucracy (Poling, 2021). Weber was also deeply concerned with the process of rationalization and how it impacted society. He explored how the modern world was becoming increasingly rationalized with bureaucracy and scientific thinking that shapes every aspect of life. He often questioned the consequences of rationalization on human behavior and values. Weber got into the issues of authority and power within society as well. He was very interested in different forms of authority, such as traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational, and how they influenced social order. Weber also heavily focused on the importance of social action in society. Where he aimed to understand why people behave the way they do and how social structures and institutions influence their choices. He believed motivations were guided by meeting personal desires and social forces in society.

Weber's major concerns and theoretical interests were driven by his desires to comprehend the intricate interplay between culture, institutions, and individual behavior in the context of modern society. His work continues to be influential in the sociology world today. Max Weber made several theoretical contributions to the fields of sociology, economics, and political science. As previously discussed, Weber's concept of rationalization is a cornerstone of his work. He examined how modern society has become increasingly rationalized which has led to the rise of bureaucracy. Weber also analyzed the characteristics of bureaucracy such as hierarchy, rules, and specialization which had their implications for social organizations and efficiency. Weber also stressed the importance of verstehen. Where he discussed the impact of studying people, at the macro level of society but also to understand what's going on at the microlevel interactions and individuals (Raskoff, 2011). Another key contribution of Weber’s is his theory of social action emphasized the importance of understanding why individuals act in certain ways and also the role of subjective meanings in shaping human behavior. He distinguished between four different types of social action: purposeful-rational, value-oriented, emotional/affective, and traditional. Weber also identified three types of authority: traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational. Where he explained how these different forms of authority influence social structures and power relations. This framework is still widely used today. Max Weber’s theoretical contributions continue today to be very influential in various fields. By providing valuable insights into the complexities of modern society, culture, and human behavior.

Max Weber’s theoretical contributions remain highly relevant in studying and understanding society today for various reasons. His insights into rationalization, bureaucracy, and the overall impact on modernization are still very applicable as we grapple with the consequences of rapidly changing technology and globalization that we are seeing into today's world. Weber classification of authority types provides a framework for analyzing power dynamics in contemporary politics and organizations. Weber's emphasis on the importance of the individual's perspectives and meaning resonates with ongoing need to understand diverse cultural and social contexts in a very globalized world.

Furthermore, his approach to social stratification, considering class and status, helps society today analyze the complex social hierarchies and inequalities seen. Weber's historical and comparative methods remain valuable for contextualizing current social phenomena. His warning about dehumanizing effects due to rationalization is particularly relevant as we consider the impact of technology on personal autonomy and creativity. In essence, Weber's work provides enduring tools and concepts for comprehending the multifaceted nature of contemporary society and its ongoing transformations.

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**UE 3**

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SOCL-401: Sociology Theory

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Pierre Bourdieu was a prominent French sociologist, where he focused his main concerns towards finding out why social inequalities are reproduced overtime, how retention of wealth occurs, and why the prestige and power of the elites are generally accepted by the lower classes. Bourdieu's theoretical interests were very complex between social structures and cultural practices. Bourdieu wanted his work to liberate social actors from oppressive social and mental conditions and also recognize that society today could be organized differently and become more effective and functionable. Bourdieus also introduced the concept of habitus. Which refers to individuals' development of habits, taste, and dispositions based on these individuals life experiences. Bourdieu focused on explaining how habitus affects and contributes to social structures and inequalities. Following, Bourdieu stressed his findings regarding cultural capital. Where he examined what kind of capital is valued and by who it is valued too. Also the three different kinds of cultural capital. Beginning with objectified which is best explained by material goods such as books and computers that are associated with cultural capital. Next, institutionalization which is created by a social institution which signals official acknowledgement of a particular valued knowledge. Lastly, Bourdieu explains the most important cultural capital: embodied. Which is expressed through someone's body, lives with someone's social being and is also connected to habitus (Ramsey, 2023). Overall Bourdieu's major concerns revolve around understanding relationships between social structures, individuals behaviors, and cultural practices.

Pierre Bourdieu made several key contributions that significantly influenced and impacted the field of sociology. Which begins with his introduction of social fields. Which is a series of social settings in which individual actors operate. These fields are created by social networks and the objective positions within settings that individuals or groups currently occupy. These fields help explore how individuals navigate and position themselves within these social fields. Another major contribution Bourdieu accomplished involves his concepts of habitus(Bourdieu, 1986).Which is an overall reflection of the kinds of capital individuals have accumulated. Also noted that the symbolic capital that we acquire within a field shapes whether were included or whether were excluded from the social group. Habitus plays a crucial role in reproducing social structures and inequalities. The final sociological contribution Bourdieu brought is his concept of taste which is part of habitus. This regards an individual's preference or overall fondness towards something. These preferences include items such as cars, clothes, food, drinks, or any given object that has multiple variations. This socially derived concept explains that those superior in wealth tastes do not affect or change another individual that is not “superior to wealth” taste. But those superior utilize their taste to pretend they are spiritually superior. (Bourdieu, 1984). Overall, Bourdieu's work has created a lasting impact on sociological understanding which has provided the tools for connecting individuals behavior, cultural practices, and social structures(Bourdieu, 1986).

Pierre Bourdieu's works continue to influence and impact societal issues today. Based on his contributions that are heavily targeted for a society and social life that is currently on display. Such as Bourdieu cultural capital helps individuals comprehend how certain groups of people have advantages over other individuals. For example, individuals can have an education advantage due to the lack of resources some may have over the other, these resources include books, wealth, and cultural practices. Additionally, his concept of habitus remains a great contribution in understanding cultural preferences. Due to the rise and increase of social media and online platforms, individuals find a new way to express their “taste” and preferences. By this a digital habitus is produced, based on how individuals interact differently online rather than in person. This impacts the social dynamics and contributions to the formation of a digital habitus. By applying Bourdiues contributions towards societal issues and trends in today's culture it can easily be determined that his works are still in full effect and use. These works still serve as a framework within the field of sociology to understand social inequalities and cultural dynamics within today's culture and society (Truong & Weill, 2012).

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