



The mission of Morehouse College is to develop men with disciplined minds who will lead lives of leadership and service.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In accordance with the rich history of sociology conducted in the AUC, this course is rooted in the theoretical contributions and legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois. Often referred to as the "forgotten" father of sociology, Du Bois' contributions are systemically overlooked in the field of sociology in exchange for the largely white and exclusive works of the so-called "Chicago School" (i.e. Park, Mead, Becker, Goffman, and Merton). Du Bois called these these theorists "car window sociologists," meaning they never engaged with the communities they were proposing to investigate. In *The Scholar Denied*, Dr. Aldon Morris unapologetically refers to Du Bois as the father of modern sociology. Therefore, in his honor, the course proceeds in 3 distinct ways: Deniers, Disciples, and Developers.

First, I will provide a succinct overview of the theorists who were largely promoted as Du Bois was **denied**. As budding sociological scholars, it is important to be able to engage with theory that has "shaped" the discipline of sociology even as it largely disadvantaged marginalized communities.

Second, we will review the "**disciples**" of Du Boisian sociology who created the next generation of critical, contemporary theories including color blind racism, settler colonialism, border identity, and the like. While not all of the theorist credit Du Bois, his focus on the color line and community based research is evident.

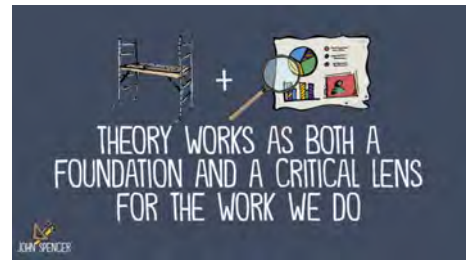
Third, we will end with **developers** of Du Boisian sociology. Every sociologist has their blind spots. Due to history, lived experience, and the like, Du Bois could not possibly create a one-size-fits-all theoretical model. In fact, he regularly challenged his students to develop their own theoretical frameworks. Some areas that Du Bois had not considered include Black Feminist Theory, Critical Race Theory, Intersectionality, Queer/Quare Theory, and the like.

At semester's end, I hope that you will achieve a substantive understanding of sociological theory and how it can guide your own research. Most importantly, I hope you will connect intellectually with theories that represent the lived realities of the communities you wish to serve.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you will:

- Articulate the influence of W.E.B. Du Bois in shaping contemporary sociological theory;
- Be familiar with contemporary sociological theorists and their work;
- Understand the historical context within which sociological theory/ ideas have developed;
- Know how to critically examine theoretical frameworks for their validity and utility; and
- Actively theorize the social world around you.



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, the College will announce any closures via the emergency notification system and/or through local news outlets. Absent an official closure, students are not excused from attending class.

YOUR PROFESSOR

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COMMUNICATION

Keeping open lines of communication with my scholars is very important. Therefore, please use the following methods to reach out to me:

In-person: I love it when students meet me in my office. I have an array of Funko Pops, snacks, and art for you to enjoy. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm or by appointment.

Email: This is the most direct way of reaching me. I am generally prompt in my replies, but please give me 24 hours to respond during the week and 48 hours over the weekend.

Text: This is an equally direct way to contact me. Please make sure you identify yourself when you send the text. The number listed on the front of the syllabus is to my personal cell phone. Please do not text after 8 pm.

Phone: The least reliable way to contact me is by phone. I **never** pick up unknown numbers. Please never leave a voicemail message. I am almost certain I have an allergic to little icon on my phone.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

I believe learning happens in and outside of the classroom. There are several campus activities, discussions, and programs organized by your fellow scholars and by Campus Life.

If you find an interesting social media post in the form of a meme, short clip, Tik Tok video, and the like, please email me a copy of the item for **1 extra credit point**.

If you attend an event, lecture, discussion, and/or program that aligns with what you are learning in class, please submit a half-page summary of the event and how it connects to the course for **2 extra credit points**.

If you watch a documentary not assigned in this course, turn in a half-page summary of the documentary and how it connects to the course for **3 extra points**.

Extra credit is limited to 10 points so plan your efforts accordingly.

COURSE STRUCTURE

There are six course components:

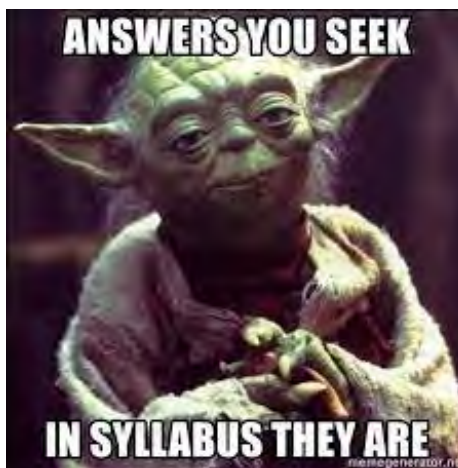
- Three Reading Summaries (15%)
- Eight Weekly Lecture Responses (25%)
 - Assignment-Part I (5%)
 - Assignment-Part II (20%)
 - Assignment-Part III (15%)
- Final Paper/Project (20%)

THREE READING SUMMARIES

You must sign up to summarize three readings from the course. There is a Google link to the readings available on Blackboard. Please look over the syllabus and pick three readings that you may find interesting. On the day the readings are due, you will be responsible for providing a summary of the reading. In your summary, please share what you found interesting about the reading and if there was any way it can or should be improved.

WEEKLY LECTURE RESPONSES

Beginning Four, you must respond to the weekly discussion prompt. In your response, you must include a quote from two of readings from that week. While we will discuss the question in class, please use this time to let me know your individual thoughts. You do not have to respond to the prompt, just use this time to respond to the weekly topic.



COMPUTING POLICIES

Blackboard undergoes maintenance from time to time. It is your responsibility to read messages from IT Services that pertain to this information and adjust accordingly. In the meantime, please do the following:

- Printout and keep records of all your submission reports;
- Keep backups of all your files;
- Call IT Services at (404) 507-8633 or email servicedesk@morehouse.edu for any technical problems;
- All papers must be submitted in DOC/DOCX format;
- Given the availability of campus labs and IT support, computer problems are not a valid excuse for late work. It is your responsibility to assure that you have regular and reliable computer and Internet access.

FINAL PROJECT (4 PARTS)

To familiarize you with some outstanding contemporary Black sociologists, you will select one from a list to research. To help you complete the final project, you will need to finish three assignments. Assignment #1 is to select a contemporary sociologist. For Assignment #2, you will find and summarize five (5) articles/chapters by the individual you selected. For Assignment #3, you must write 10-15 thoughtful interview questions you would ask and identify 3-8 videos. Finally, you must write about what you learned from that sociologist and apply what you've learned to a contemporary topic.

PERSONAL NOTE

Believe it or not, I remember what it was like to be in college. I am the first in my family to go to college and I put a great deal of pressure on myself to be perfect and "do everything right." If you are experiencing some personal challenges throughout the semester, I cannot stress the importance of meeting with me. I do not need to know the details. I just want to help figure out a way to help you overcome this particular challenge that is interfering with your educational growth.

Week	Date(s)	Topic	Reading/Assignments
1	Aug 17 th	Intro & Syllabus Review	Introductions, Syllabus Review, & Tools for Success
2	Aug 22 nd	What is Theory?	Abend (2008) The Meaning of Theory [BB]
	Aug 24 th	HBCU's Role	Morris (2020) The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois: The Centrality of Historically Black Colleges and Universities [BB]
3	Aug 29 th	Who is Aldon Morris?	Documentary: Aldon Morris: The Scholar Affirmed <i>Scholar Denied</i> , Preface & Introduction [B]
	Aug 31 st	Why Du Bois?	<i>The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois</i> , Preface: Finding Du Bois & Introduction [B] <i>Scholar Denied</i> , The Rise of Scientific Sociology in America, Chap 1 [B]
4	Sept 5 th	Washington's Role & The Chicago School	Labor Day
	Sept 7 th		<i>Scholar Denied</i> , The Conservative Alliance of Washington & Park, Chapter 4 [B] <i>Scholar Denied</i> , The Sociology of Black America: Park vs. Du Bois, Chapter 5 [B] Discussion: Does Washington have to be villainized?
Assignment #1: Select a Contemporary Sociologist Due September 11th by 11:59 pm			
5	Sept 12 th	Double Consciousness: The Phenomenology of Racialized Subjectivity	<i>The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois</i> , Chapter 1 Theorizing Double Consciousness
	Sept 14 th		Anzaldúa (1987) How to Tame a Wild Tongue [BB] Gaines (2017) Nina Simone's Quadruple Consciousness [BB] Discussion: Is Double Consciousness exclusive to race?
6	Sept 19 th	Racial and Colonial Capitalism	McMillan Cottom (2020) Where Platform Capitalism and Racial Capitalism Meet: The Sociology of Race and Racism in the Digital Society [BB]
	Sept 21 st		<i>The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois</i> , Chapter 2 Discussion: Is there evidence of racial and colonial capitalism at Morehouse?
7	Sept 26 th	Public Sociology and Du Bois's Evolving Program for Freedom	<i>The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois</i> , Chapter 4
	Sept 28 th		Brooks & Wright III (2020) Augustus Granville Dill: A Case Study in the Conceptualization of Black Public Sociology [BB] Discussion: Public Sociology and Attention Seeking Sociology?
8	Oct 3 rd	A Manifesto for Contemporary Du Boisian Sociology	Fall Break (No class)
	Oct 5 th		<i>The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois</i> , Chapter 5 Discussion: How is the Semester Progressing So Far?
9	Oct 10 th	Theorizing Black Feminist Sociology	<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Introduction, Black Feminist Sociology is the Past, Present, and Future of Sociology Period [B] <i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 1, An Interview with Patricia Hill Collins [B]
	Oct 12 th		<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 2, Lessons from Ida B. Well-Barnett [B] <i>New Black Sociologist</i> , Chapter 8, Poking and Prying with a Purpose: [B] Discussion: Does centering women always equal decentering men?
10	Oct 17 th	Theorizing Social Media	<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 8, #BlackGirlMagic and Its Complexities [B] <i>New Black Sociologists</i> , Chapter 1, #SayHerName: Why Black Women Matter in Sociology [B]
	Oct 19 th		<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 19, For a Black Feminist Digital Sociology [B] <i>New Black Sociologists</i> , Chapter 15, The Evolution of #Black Lives Matter [B] Discussion: What is the role of Black Twitter and Black TikTok today?
Assignment #2: Find and summarize five (5) articles by the sociologist you selected Due by October 23rd by 11:59 pm			

Week	Date	Topics	Readings/Assignments
11	Oct 24 th	Theorizing Race and Sexual Identity	<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Ch 23, We Major: Black Trans Feminism Fights Back [B] <i>New Black Sociologists</i> , Ch 3, James Baldwin and the Lay Race Theorist Tradition [B]
	Oct 26 th		<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 10, Black Feminist Sociology & the Politics of <i>Space & Place</i> at the Intersection of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality [B] Johnson & Henderson (2005) Queering Black Studies/"Quaring" Queer Studies [BB] Discussion: How would you theorize Queer identities at Morehouse College?
12	Oct 31 st	Theorizing the Body	<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 5, Reflections on Re-Creating Biological Race and the Entrapment of Black People [B] <i>New Black Sociologist</i> , Chapter 9, When and Where I Always Enter: An Auto-Ethnographic Approach to Black Women's Body Size Politics in Academia [B]
	Nov 2 nd		<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 22, Too Intersectional: What Black Feminism and Disability Studies Can Build Together [B] <i>New Black Sociologist</i> , Chapter 12, A Love Letter to Black Graduate Students [B] Discussion: How would we theorize Black Men's Bodies at Morehouse?
13	Nov 7 th	Theorizing Class	<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 9, Learning, Teaching, Re-Membering and Enacting Black Feminist Sociology at a Black Women's College [B] <i>New Black Sociologist</i> , Chapter 17, Black in Business and Ain't It Grand: Sharon M. Collins and the Re-Imagination of Black Professional Life [B]
	Nov 9 th		<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 12, Family Background and the Meanings of Economic Autonomy for Black Lesbian Women [B] <i>New Black Sociologist</i> , Chapter 16, William Julius Wilson and The Study of the "New" Diversity Elite Colleges [B] Discussion: "You see class in action at Morehouse in the following ways....."
Assignment #3: Turn in a list of 10-15 Interview Questions & 3-8 Videos Due November 13th by 11:59 pm			
14	Nov 14 th	Theorizing Comedy	Guzman (2020) Talking Shit, Egos, and Tough Skin: Humor Among Elite Black Men [BB] Pérez (2022) The Souls of White Jokes-Chapter 2 [BB]
	Nov 16 th		Nestorhoff (2021) We Had a Little Real Estate Problem-Chapter 2 [BB] Discussion: When is it not okay to laugh?
15	Nov 21 st	What it is like "out there"?	<i>New Black Sociologists</i> , Chapter 12—A Love Letter to Black Graduate Students [B] Martinez-Cola (2020) Collectors, Nightlights, and Allies, Oh My! [BB]
	Nov 23 rd	Family Break Time (No Class)	
16	Nov 28 th	Theorizing the Global Diaspora	<i>Black Feminist Sociology</i> , Chapter 14, Black Feminist Piety: A Framework for Engaging Islam in Black Feminist Sociology [B] <i>New Black Sociologists</i> , Chapter 20, The New Black Sociology: Bringing Diasporic & Internationalist Perspective [B] Discussion: If you could, what would you study from a global perspective?
	Nov 30 th	Pastries & Preguntas w/ Professor MC	
Final Theorist Report due December 9th by 11:59 pm			