**Theoretically Speaking . . .**

This assignment is to help you explore the variety of sociological perspectives and theoretical frameworks that many sociologists utilize to explain what they observe in the field. From the following list below, please select one classical theorist and two contemporary perspectives. (Please note that this is by no means a full list, so please feel free to choose others you might find, as long as you can prove that they can indeed be identified as classic theorists and/or contemporary perspectives or theories of sociology).

Once you have made your selection, in your own words, you will write a brief report (1-3 pages) providing a background of the classical theorist (i.e., background, education, and contribution to sociology) and the two contemporary perspectives you have chosen (origin of theory/perspective, main points of theory, and critiques of theory). Please also indicate your personal opinions of the classical theorist and the two contemporary perspectives you selected, explaining: 1) why you chose this particular theorist and theories/perspectives; 2) what you agree and disagree with; and 3) why you agree and/or disagree (please make sure to use supporting evidence to back up your claim).


**This assignment is due on Monday, February 7, 2011.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email ([ssattarz@umd.edu](mailto:ssattarz@umd.edu)) or call (202.642.4782) Professor Sattarzadeh.

**Classic Theorists** (choose at least one)
- Auguste Comte
- Émile Durkheim
- Harriet Martineau
- Karl Marx
- George H. Mead
- Georg Simmel
- Herbert Spencer
- Max Weber

**Contemporary Theories/Perspectives** (choose at least one)
- Black Feminist Theory
- Conflict Theory
- Critical Theory
- Critical Race Theory
- Cultural Relativism
- Development Theory
- Exchange Theory
- Legitimacy Theories
- Rational Choice
Network Theory
Status Characteristics Theory
Feminist Theory
International Relations
Cultural
Liberal
Macrosociology/microsociology
Marxian
Neo-Liberal
Psychoanalytic
Radical
Social Movement Theory
Socialist
Third-Wave
Functionalism/Neo-Functionalism
Neo-Marxism
Hegelian
Human Rights
Analytical
World Systems/Historical Marxism
Neo-Weberianism
Phenomenology/Ethnomethodology
Postmodernism
Post-Structuralism
Structuralism
Structuration Theory
Symbolic Interactionism