

# Sociological Theory II

Instructor: Fatmir Haskaj

Sociology 102

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM – 10:59 AM, Aug 25, 2021 - Dec 10, 2021

Location: Dwinelle, room 145

Office hours/location: TBD

bCourse home page: <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1505948>

## Description

This course is the second half of the year-long sequence in Sociological Theory. The first half of the course focuses on the works and ideas of the “classical” thinkers Marx, Weber, Durkheim and Simmel. It is assumed that you are familiar and comfortable with the classical theories which are always lurking in the background. This semester we will read a broader range of scholars that are often considered ‘modern’ or ‘contemporary’ and organized weekly according to several schools of thought such as structural functionalism, exchange theory, symbolic interactionism, and postmodernism to name but a few. Yet, there is no official consensus on what sociological theory and even these categories are contested. Hence, we will buttress our analytical edifice by mapping a trajectory through much of the twentieth century along a vaguely chronological timeline. This will help us organize, sort, and contextualize the vast accumulation of knowledge, ideas and debates we call theory. However, we will not be pedantic in our timeline and what will determine our path are the ideas more so than time periods. What will become apparent is that much of today’s concerns, debates and conflicts have been present for some time and have been grappled with by sociologists. Hopefully, traversing these well-worn paths of thought will leave us a bit wiser to face the dizzying array of experiences and concepts that modern life produces and churns.

This class is formally a lecture, I would like us to interact as much as possible and so be prepared to be called upon from time to time. We will have class discussions as well and you are always free to ask questions at any point during lecture.

## **Classroom Policies:**

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**Masks:** Masks always required.

**Cellphones:** No cellphones. No pictures of notes or recording of the lecture allowed. No texting. This covers all electronic devices such as PDAs, etc...If you must receive or make a call kindly leave the classroom.

**Lecture Notes or Slides:** When I have them, I will post them to bCourses after the lecture. However, they are not comprehensive representation of the ideas we will cover in class. I would not rely upon them alone as a study aid. There is no substitute for attending lecture.

## Required readings:

There is only one required book detailed below. There will be one copy of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition on reserve. There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition which might suffice in a pinch, but I strongly recommend the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

- Required Reader: Edles, Laura Desfor and Scott Appelrouth. *Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era* 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.  
ISBN-13: 978-1452203607  
ISBN-10: 1452203601
- Articles will be available on bCourse for download. Check each weekly module and the syllabus.

## Sections begin on Tuesday, September 7:

In addition to attending lecture, you must register and attend section.

## Assignments and Grading:

- Discussion Sections: Students are expected to regularly attend and complete all assignments in weekly discussion sections led by the GSI.
- Term Paper: Each student is expected to write a 10-page paper (2500 +/- words) double spaced, 12 point times new roman font with 1" margins. The paper should be based on one of the topics or theorists covered in class. The paper is due before the holiday break and will be vetted by "Turnitin" for plagiarism.
- Exams: There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final. Both examinations will have essay-style questions and will require not only knowledge of the course material but also the capacity to analyze various paradigms and perspectives. **All students will take the exams on specified dates: exceptions will not be granted unless the requests conform with the accommodations policy of the campus.**
- Writing Sample: A sample of your writing from a previous college level class, preferably sociology, is to be uploaded to bCourses for extra credit. This paper serves as a guide for the Theory Writing Program which is a GSI lead resource designed to help you write a stellar term paper. More information will be available on bCourses under the relevant assignment.

\*Note: Sociology 102 is a writing intensive course. To support your writing skills the UC Berkeley sociology department has designed a special dedicated support program composed of faculty and GSIs. The "writing sample" will help us identify those likely to benefit from support. If invited to join, **please note that it is optional and you are under no obligation to accept the offer.** Writing sections meet weekly and can be taken for 1 additional credit or no credit and will be graded P/NP.

### Grading Structure

Writing Sample: .25 point

Term Paper: 19.75 points

Midterm: 30 points

Final: 30 points  
Section (GSI determined): 20 points  
Total=100

### **Academic Honesty:**

Plagiarism and cheating will result in disciplinary proceeding. If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism and what the consequences are read this: [Definitions & Examples of Academic Misconduct | UC Berkeley: Division of Student Affairs](#). The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be a grade of 0% on the assignment and reporting to Student Judicial Affairs which may result in a permanent mark on your record.

# Class Schedule

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## **Week 1: Introduction**

Thursday August 26

- Course overview
- Edles, Laura Desfor and Scott Appelrouth. 2015. *Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era (STCE)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. pp. 15-22. (Start from “How can we navigate sociological theory?”)\*

\*Note: from now on the reader for this course, *Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era*, will be abbreviated as “STCE”.

- ✓ Assignment: Upload writing sample to bCourse. A paper from a previous course in sociology will suffice.

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## **Week 2: Theory...what?**

Tuesday August 31

- Harrington, A. ed. 2005. “Introduction: What is Social Theory?” in *Modern Social Theory: An Introduction*, pp.1-12.
- <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2012/aug/19/thomas-kuhn-structure-scientific-revolutions>

Thursday September 2

- Zeitlin, Irving M.. “The Enlightenment” in 1994. *Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory*, 6th ed. New York: Prentice-Hall. pp. 1-6.
- Burke, Edmund. 1909–1914. *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, *The Harvard Classics*, ed. Charles W. Eliot. New York: P.F. Collier & Son. par. 279, 280.
- Nietzsche, Friedrich. 1990. *The Birth of Tragedy and The Genealogy of Morals*, trans. Francis Golffing New York: Doubleday Anchor Books. pp. 170–73, 180–82, 189–94.

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### Week 3: Theory and Ideology

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Tuesday September 7

- “The Romantic Conservative Reaction” in Zeitlin, Irving M.. 1994. *Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory*, 6th ed. New York: Prentice-Hall. pp. 45-52, 78-86.

Thursday September 9

- “Karl Marx” in Zeitlin. 1994. *Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory*, 6th ed. New York: Prentice-Hall. pp. 139-151.

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### Week 4: Structural Functionalism

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Tuesday September 14

- Parsons. STCE. Chapter 2, pp. 25-41, 55-59
  - *Sex Roles in the American Kinship System (1943)*
  - \*Note: skip “Categories of the Orientation and Organization of action” (1951) on pages 41-55.**

**Optional:** A. Huaco (1966) The functionalist theory of stratification: Two decades of controversy, *Inquiry*, 9:1-4, 215-240, DOI: 10.1080/00201746608601459

Thursday September 16

- Merton. STCE Pp. 59-79.
  - *Manifest and Latent Functions (1949)*
  - *Social Structure and Anomie (1967)*

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### Week 5: Exchange and Rational Choice

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Tuesday September 21

- Scott, J. (2000). Rational choice theory. *Understanding contemporary society:*

Theories of the present, 129, 671-85.

Tuesday September 23

- Homans & Coleman. STCE. Chapter 4, pp.179-232.
  - *Social Behavior as Exchange (1958)*
  - *Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital (1988)*

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### Week 6: Symbolic Interactionism & Dramaturgy

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Tuesday September 28

- Blumer, STCE, Chapter 5, pp.235-254
  - *The Methodological Position of Social Interactionism (1969)*

Thursday September 30

- Goffman, STCE, Chapter 5, pp. 255-284
  - *The Presentation of the Self in Everyday Life (1959)*
  - *The Nature of Deference and Demeanor (1956)*
  - Optional:** *Asylums (1961)*

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### Week 7: Symbolic Interactionism & Dramaturgy continued...

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Tuesday October 5

- Hochschild, STCE, Chapter 5, pp. 294-321
  - *Working on Feelings (2003)*

Thursday October 7

- *The Managed Heart (1983)*

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### Week 8: Midterm

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Tuesday October 12:

- Review

Tuesday October 14:

- Exam

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### Week 9: Phenomenology and Standpoint Theory

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Tuesday October 19

- Shultz, STCE, Chapter 6, pp. 323-340
  - *The Phenomenology of the Social World (1967)*
- Berger and Luckmann, STCE, Chapter 6, pp. 340-359

- *The Social Construction of Reality (1966)*

**\*Note: Skip pages 360-374 on Garfinkel**

Thursday October 21

- Smith, STCE, Chapter 6, pp. 375-389
  - *Institutional Ethnography (2005)*
  - *The everyday World as Problematic (1987)*

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### Week 10: Critical Theory

Tuesday October 26

- STCE, Chapter 3, pp. 81-105
  - **Suggested:** Agger, B. (1991). Critical Theory, Poststructuralism, Postmodernism: Their Sociological Relevance. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 17, 105-131. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2083337>

Thursday October 28

- STCE, Chapter 3, pp. 106-127
  - *Eclipse of Reason (1947)*
  - *The Culture Industry Reconsidered (1975)*
  - *One-Dimensional Man (1964)*

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### Week 11: Critical Theory continued...

Tuesday November 2

**\*Note: Skip pages 127-163 on Habermas**

- Patricia Hill Collins. STCE, pp. 164-178
  - *Black Feminist Thought (1980)*

Thursday November 4

- Holiday- No Classes

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### Week 12: Post-Structuralism

Tuesday November 9

- STCE, Chapter 7, pp. 391-418
  - *Discipline and Punish (1975)*

Thursday November 11

- STCE, Chapter 7, pp. 319-454

- *Outline of a Sociological Theory of Art Perception (1968)*

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### Week 13: Post-modernism

Tuesday November 16

- STCE, Chapter 8, pp. 481-493, 503-518
  - *The Postmodern Condition (1979)*

Thursday November 18

- Harvey, David. 1989. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*. Blackwell. pp. 1-65

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### Week 14: Post-modernism

Tuesday November 23

- Harvey, David. 1989. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*. Blackwell. pp. 327-59
- **Papers Due**

Thursday November 25

- Holiday No Class

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### Week 15: Post-modernism

Tuesday November 30

- Berman, Marshall. 1982. "Preface" and excerpts from "Introduction" and "Marx and Modernism" in *All That is Solid Melts Into Air: The Experience of Modernity*. New York: Simon and Schuster, p. 5-12, 15-36, 87-105, 148-155.

Thursday December 2

- Tsing, A.L. 2015. *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*. Princeton U. Press. Pp. 1-6, 17-25.

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### Week 16: RRR

Tuesday December 7

- No class

Thursday December 9

- No class

### **Week 17: Final Exam**

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- **Final Exam December 14, 3-6pm**