SOC 102
SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY II

In this course, we will discuss the works of major late 20th century (and early 21st century) theorists, their analyses, the methodologies they use and their social prescriptions. How do they study social processes? What are their major findings and arguments? How does the social world work? How can society be improved? We will look at how functionalists, micro-sociologists, poststructuralists, neo-Marxists, and practice theorists have answered these questions in conflicting ways.

After completing two thirds of the course, we will ask: how does all of this theorization apply outside of mainstream Western society? This will bring us to theories of race, gender, and post-colonialism. Class and section discussion will highlight how we might use these theories to think about our own lives and recent events and processes.

Assignments:

You will write two midterm papers (5 pages each) and one final paper (8 pages) for this course. More specific guidelines about these (take home) papers will follow.

You will also write (300-word) weekly reading responses (as a part of your section grade).

First paper: Due on February 21, 11 am

Second paper: Due on April 4, 11 am

Final paper: Due on May 15, 2:30 pm

Texts: The reader is available at Copy Central (Bancroft Ave.). The books (The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life; The Logic of Practice; Distinction) can be purchased at the Cal Student Store.

Evaluation:
Paper 1: %25
Paper 2: %25
Final paper: %30
Section participation and reading responses: %20
I. GRAND SYNTHESSES IN POST-WAR THEORIZATION

Functionalism


Dramaturgy


Practice and Reproduction


II. HISTORICIZING THEORY (AND THE LIMITS OF HISTORICIZATION)

Economy, Society, and Institutions


Neo-Marxism: State, Civil Society, and Alternatives to Capitalism


Poststructuralism

III. THEORIZING FROM THE MARGINS

Race and Racialization


Gender


Post-Colonialism