

Spring 2019
TuTh 9:30-11:00
Dwinelle 145

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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

Parsons, Talcott. 1951. *The Social System*. New York: Free Press. Pp. 26-36.

Merton, Robert. "Manifest and Latent Functions." Pp. 328-334 in Charles Lemert (ed.) *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings*.

Dramaturgy

Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Anchor Books. Selections.

Practice and Reproduction

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1990 [1979]. *The Logic of Practice*. Stanford University Press. Selections.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1987 [1980]. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Selections.

II. HISTORICIZING THEORY (AND THE LIMITS OF HISTORICIZATION)

Economy, Society, and Institutions

Polanyi, Karl. 2001 [1944]. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston: Beacon Press. Pp. 71-80, 136-209, 298-299.

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

Gramsci, Antonio. 1971. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. Pp. 206-276.

Burawoy, Michael. 2003. "For a Sociological Marxism: The Complementary Convergence of Antonio Gramsci and Karl Polanyi," *Politics and Society* 31/2: 193-261.

Wright, Erik Olin. 2010. *Envisioning Real Utopias*. London: Verso. Pp. 110-149.

Poststructuralism

Foucault, Michel. 1980 [1976]. "Two Lectures" in *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-77*. Brighton: Harvester. Pp. 78-108.

Foucault, Michel. 1995 [1975]. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage Books. Pp. 135-228.

III. THEORIZING FROM THE MARGINS

Race and Racialization

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. 2004. "From Bi-racial to Tri-racial: Towards a New System of Racial Stratification in the USA." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 27: 931–950.

Wacquant, Loïc. 2005. "Race as Civic Felony." *International Social Science Journal* 181: 127-142.

Gender

MacKinnon, Catharine A. 1982. "Feminism, Marxism, Method, and the State: An Agenda for Theory." *Signs* 7/3: 515-544.

Patricia Hill Collins. 1986. "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought." *Social Problems* 33/6: S14-S32.

Post-Colonialism

Go, Jullian. 2013. "For a postcolonial sociology." *Theory and Society* 42/1: 25–55.