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, practice theorists, neo-Marxists, and poststructuralists have handled (or refused to answer) these issues and 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 nation. 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 take home exams for this course. The midterm exam will be 5 double-spaced pages. The final exam will be 6 double-spaced pages. More specific guidelines about these (take home) exams will follow.

Midterm Exam: Due on March 21, 11 am
Final Exam: Due on May 8, 11:30 am

Reading response memos: Students will write 300-word responses to the texts. You will write eight of these memos. You will write them after you hear the professor lecture on the text. They will be uploaded on bcourses. Each response memo will be worth three points. Further guidelines on memos will follow.

Texts: The reader is available at Copy Central (Telegraph Ave.). It is also available digitally:
Evaluation:
Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 35%
Reading memos: 24%
Section participation: 10%
Bonus for surviving the semester: 1%

Academic honesty
Before you embark on any assignment for this course, check the code of academic integrity at http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/conduct.pdf.

The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be an F grade for the course.

Written assignments must include complete bibliographies and follow proper citation practices (including page numbers for direct quotes from scholarly texts). Avoid verbatim repetition (or even repetition through slight altering) of the texts we are reading, as much as possible. When you feel you have to use direct quotes, make sure you use quotation marks.

TEXTS

January 17
Introduction
No readings assigned

GRAND SYNTHESES IN POST-WAR THEORIZATION

January 19-24. Functionalism


January 26-31. Dramaturgy

February 2-7. Practice and Reproduction


February 9-14. Practice and Reproduction


II. HISTORICIZING THEORY (AND THE LIMITS OF HISTORICIZATION)

February 16-21. The Market and Counter-Movements


February 23. Neo-Marxism: Council Communism


February 28-March 2. Neo-Marxism: State and Civil Society


March 7-9. Sociologizing Neo-Marxism


March 14. REVIEW

March 16-21. Post-structuralism


III. THEORIZING FROM THE MARGINS

March 23-April 4. Race and Racialization


April 6-11. Race and Nation


April 13-18. Gender and Sexuality


April 20. Labor and Feminism


April 25-27. Ecology, Race/Nation, and Feminism