

Spring 2024
TuTh 2:00-3:30 pm
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, 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, colonialism, and ethnicity. 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 22, noon

Final Exam: Due on May 6, 2:30 pm

Reading response memos: Students will write 200- to 300-word responses to the texts. You will write 6 (six) 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.). The store will also make it available digitally. (The link will be posted on bcourses).

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 16

Introduction

No readings assigned.

GRAND SYNTHESSES IN POST-WAR THEORIZATION

January 18-23. 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*.

January 25-30. Dramaturgy

Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Anchor Books. Selections. Pp. 1-30, 77-85.

February 1-8. Practice and Reproduction

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1990 [1979]. *The Logic of Practice*. Stanford University Press. Pp. 52-97, 112-121, 215.

February 13-15. Practice and Reproduction

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1987 [1980]. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. 1-32, 54, 92-96, 106-176, 479-481.

II. HISTORICIZING THEORY

February 20-22. The Market and Counter-Movements

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.

February 27. Neo-Marxism: Council Communism

Gramsci, Antonio. 1977. *Selections from Political Writings, 1910-1920*. New York: International Publishers. Pp. 34-37, 260-264. (“The Revolution against “Capital”,” “The Factory Council”)

February 29-March 5. Neo-Marxism: State and Civil Society

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

March 7-12. Sociologizing Neo-Marxism

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.

March 14. REVIEW

March 19-21. Post-structuralism

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

April 2-4. 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.

April 9-11. Race, Ethnicity, and Colonialism

Fanon, Frantz. 2008 [1952]. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Pp. vii-23, 89-119, 185-197.

Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 2014. *Racial Formation in the United States*.
London: Routledge. Pp. 105-158.

Sabbagh-Khoury, Areej. 2022. "Citizenship as Accumulation by Dispossession: The Paradox of Settler Colonial Citizenship." *Sociological Theory* 40/2: 151-178.

April 16-18. Gender and Sexuality

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

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

April 23-25. Ecology, Labor, Race/Nation, and Feminism

Watkins, Susan. 2018. "Which Feminisms?" *New Left Review* 109: 5-76.

Fraser, Nancy. 2021. "Climates of Capital: For a Trans-Environmental Eco-Socialism." *New Left Review* 127: 94-127.