

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL  
Fall, 2002

# Social Theory

(SOCI 200)

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Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30–1:45    Hamilton 151

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## COURSE OVERVIEW

### *Course Goals*

1. To acquaint students with the idea of sociological *paradigms* and the tools for understanding and evaluating specific paradigms;
2. To introduce students to the “sociological canon” of major works in sociological theory;
3. To demonstrate the importance of sociological theory as a part of sociological research and practice; and
4. To consider critically the possibilities for empirical application and testing of social theory.

### *Requirements*

1. Attendance and active participation in class discussions
2. Weekly reading notes, due at the beginning of Tuesday’s class
3. Two team-based presentations of readings and discussion leadership (in lieu of that week’s reading notes)
4. An in-depth writing project; select either:
  - Three short, critical essays considering the work of one theorist each; or
  - One final paper considering at least two theorists and contributing an original comparative or applied argument.

| Assignment                 | Grade percentage |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Attendance & Participation | 10%              |
| Reading notes              | 20%              |
| Team presentations         | 20%              |
| Writing Project            | 50%              |

### *Team Presentations*

A team of students will be responsible for organizing the discussion of readings during each class session. These students, working together, are responsible for:

- Preparing a “seminar paper,” to be distributed by e-mail to the rest of the class no later than 12:00 noon the day before class. The seminar paper need not be a polished product; it should raise ideas, issues, concerns, and opportunities presented by the readings, and thereby form the basis for the class discussion; and
- Organizing and directing class discussion of the readings for the class.

## READINGS AND RESOURCES

I have put many of the required and recommended books on reserve in the Sociology and Political Science Library, 271 Hamilton Hall. Many of the articles and chapters from other sources are available there as well.

Most required readings that are not in the books listed below are available for download from the course readings site, <http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu/readings>. You will need a username and password to access this site; these will be provided in class.

The recommended readings listed under many class sessions are suggestions for further reading in the field. Students presenting on those dates, and those with particular interests in the areas, may find them useful.

There will be a course e-mail list set up to facilitate out-of-class discussion of readings and other issues. The course list e-mail address will be [soc200fall02@listserv.unc.edu](mailto:soc200fall02@listserv.unc.edu).

### *Required Books*

- Jean Baudrillard.** *The Gulf War Did Not Take Place* (Indiana University Press, 1995).  
*Note: Indiana University Press offers a 40% discount to students who order this book from their website. Go to <http://iupress.indiana.edu> and enter the sale code **stdt**.*
- Pierre Bourdieu.** *Logic of Practice* (Stanford University Press, 1990).
- Émile Durkheim.** *The Division of Labour in Society* (Free Press, 1984).
- Émile Durkheim (trans. Cosman).** *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (Oxford University Press, 2001).
- Michel Foucault.** *Discipline and Punish* (Vintage, 1979).
- Sigmund Freud.** *Totem and Taboo* (Dover Thrift Editions, ).
- Erving Goffman.** *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (Anchor Doubleday, 1959).
- Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno (trans. Edmund Jephcott).** *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (Stanford University Press, 2002).
- Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels (ed. Tucker).** *The Marx-Engels Reader, 2nd ed.* (W. W. Norton, 1978).
- Max Weber (trans. Kalberg).** *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Roxbury, 2002).
- Max Weber (ed. Gerth and Mills).** *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (Oxford University Press, 1958).

### *Recommended Books*

Readings from these books will be available with the rest of the reserve reading for the course; you may wish to buy them if they strike you as particularly interesting. Older ones may well be available used, either in the bookstore or over the Internet.

- Andrew Abbott.** *Time Matters: On Theory and Method* (University of Chicago Press, 2001).
- Anne C. Herrman and Abigail J. Stewart, eds..** *Theorizing Feminism: Parallel Trends in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (Westview Press, 2001).
- Georg Lukács.** *History and Class Consciousness* (MIT Press, 1972).

**Ferdinand Tönnies, trans. Jose Harris.** *Community and Civil Society* (Cambridge University Press, 2001).

### Textbooks

I have not assigned a textbook for this course; take your pick of one or more of these six if you would like a convenient reference.

**Craig Calhoun, et al.** *Classical Sociological Theory* (Blackwell, 2002).

**Craig Calhoun, et al.** *Contemporary Sociological Theory* (Blackwell, 2002).

**Lewis Coser.** *Masters of Sociological Thought* (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1972).

**George Ritzer.** *Sociological Theory, 4th ed.* (McGraw-Hill, 1996).

**Jonathan Turner.** *The Structure of Sociological Theory, 6th ed.* (Wadsworth, 1998).

**Malcolm Waters.** *Modern Sociological Theory* (Sage, 1994).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### August 20 Introduction and course organization

- Why theory?
- Organization of presentation dates

Readings (available online or in class):

- Orlando Patterson, "The Last Sociologist," *New York Times* May 19, 2002. <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/19/opinion/19PATT.html>.
- Judith Stacey, "Virtual Truth with a Vengeance," *Contemporary Sociology* 28:1 (January, 1999): 18–23

### August 22 Enlightenment, Modernity, and Social Theory

- Kant, *Was ist Aufklärung?* ("What is enlightenment?") <http://www.english.upenn.edu/~mgamer/Etexts/kant.html>
- Berman, *All That is Solid Melts Into Air*, pp. 15–36 and 120–129
- Bauman, *Modernity and the Holocaust*, pp. 6–18
- *Get started on next week's Durkheim reading!*

Recommended:

- Berman, 87–120, 287–348
- Coser, *In Defense of Modernity* (Stanford, 1991)

### August 27 Progress to Modernity: Durkheim

- Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. 11–87; 101–174

Recommended:

- Durkheim, remaining parts of *The Division of Labor in Society*
- Coser, "Introduction" to *The Division of Labor in Society*
- Durkheim, *Suicide*

### August 29 Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft

- Tönnies, *Community and Civil Society*, Book One

Recommended:

- Rose Laub Coser, “The Greedy Nature of *Gemeinschaft*,” in Powell and Robbins, eds., *Social Roles and Social Institutions* (Basic Books)
- Gladys Rothbell, “Only a Housewife,” in Powell and Robbins

**September 3** Durkheim’s *Elementary Forms*

- Fields, Translator’s introduction to 1995 edition, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*
- Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*:
  - Introduction
  - Book I, Chapter 1

**September 5** Durkheim’s *Elementary Forms* cont.

Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*:

- Book II, Chapters 1, 4, 8, and 9
- Conclusion

**September 10** Marx’s early writings

(All from *The Marx-Engels Reader*)

- “For a Ruthless Critique of Everything Existing”
- “On the Jewish Question”
- “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*: Introduction”

**September 12** Marx, early writings

- “Theses on Feuerbach”
- “The German Ideology: Part I,” pp. 146–175, 189–200

**September 17** Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

**September 19** Marx’s Critique of Capitalism

- *Grundrisse*, pp. 228–232
- *Capital*, vol. I, pp. 302–361, 403–415
- *Capital*, vol. III, pp. 439–441

**September 24** Weber: The Power of Ideas

- Kalberg, Translator’s Introduction to *The Protestant Ethic . . .*
- Weber, “Science as a Vocation,” in *From Max Weber*

**September 26** Weber

Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

**October 1** Weber, *Class, Status, Party and Bureaucracy*, in *From Max Weber*

**October 3** Freud, *Totem and Taboo*

Chapters II and III

**October 8** Freud

- “Repression”
- “The Unconscious”
- “Fetishism”

**October 10** Bourdieu

Bourdieu, *Logic of Practice*, pp. 1–65

**October 15** Bourdieu

- *Logic of Practice*, pp. 112–134
- “The Logic of Fields” and “Interest, Habitus, Rationality,” from Bourdieu and Wacquant, *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology* (University of Chicago Press, 1992)

**October 17** No class (October break)

**October 22** Michel Foucault

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*:

- Part Two
- Part Three, Chapter 3
- Part Four, Chapter 1

**October 24** Michel Foucault

- Foucault, “The Discourse on Power,” in *Remarks on Marx* (New York: Semiotext(e), 1991)
- Foucault, “The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century,” in Rabinow, ed., *The Foucault Reader*

Recommended: *History of Sexuality*, vol. 1

**October 29** 20th Century Marxism

- Georg Lukács, “The Phenomenon of Reification,” pp. 83–110 in *History and Class Consciousness: Studies in Marxist Dialectics*
- Antonio Gramsci, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, pp. 238–39, 245–264

Recommended:

- Louis Althusser, *Lenin and Philosophy*

**October 31** The Frankfurt School

- Horkheimer and Adorno, “The Concept of Enlightenment,” in *Dialectic of Enlightenment*
- Horkheimer and Adorno, “The Culture Industry,” in *Dialectic of Enlightenment*
- Habermas, “Civil Society and the Political Public Sphere,” in Calhoun et al., *Contemporary Social Theory*, pp. 359–376

Recommended:

- Horkheimer, *Critical Theory*
- Adorno, *Introduction to Sociology*
- Marcuse, *One Dimensional Man*
- Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*
- Habermas, “Three Normative Models of Democracy,” in *The Inclusion of the Other*
- Habermas, *Communication and the Evolution of Society*

**November 5** The “Micro” Tradition in Europe: Georg Simmel

- Simmel, “The Stranger” and “The Metropolis and Mental Life,” from Don Levine, ed., *Georg Simmel on Sociology and Social Forms*
- Simmel, “The Importance of Numbers for Social Life,” from Kurt Wolff, ed., *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*

Recommended:

- Lewis Coser, *The Functions of Social Conflict*
- Simmel, *The Sociology of Money*
- Simmel, *Conflict and the Web of Group Associations*

**November 7** The “Micro” tradition in the US: Goffman

- Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, Chapters I, VI, and VII

Recommended:

- Goffman, *Frame Analysis*
- Goffman, *Asylums*
- Goffman, *Stigma*

**November 12** American Structural-Functionalism: Parsons & Merton

- Parsons, “An Outline of the Social System”, pp. 30–79 in Parsons et al., eds., *Theories of Society* (New York: Free Press, 1961)
- Merton, “Manifest and Latent Functions,” “The Unanticipated Consequences of Social Action,” and “The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy,” from Sztompka, ed., *Robert K. Merton on Social Structure and Social Science*.

Recommended:

- Coser, “Sociological Theory From the Chicago Dominance to 1965.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 2(1976): 145–160. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0360-0572%281976%292%3C145%3ASTFTCD%3E2.0.CO%3B2-M>

**November 14** Post-modern theory

- “The Death of Modern Architecture” and “What is Post-Modernism” by Charles Jencks, in Cahoon, ed., *From Modernism to Postmodernism: An Anthology* (Blackwell, 1996)
- Take the virtual tour of the Canadian embassy in Washington: <http://www.canadianembassy.org/english/embassy/tour.asp>
- Seidman, “The End of Sociological Theory: The Postmodern Hope.” *Sociological Theory* 9:2 (Fall, 1991): 131–146. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0735-2751%28199123%299%3A2%3C131%3ATEOSTT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-K>
- Baudrillard, *The Gulf War Did Not Take Place*, 23–87

Recommended:

- Antonio, Robert. 1991. “Postmodern Storytelling versus Pragmatic Truth-Seeking,” *Sociological Theory* 9: 154–63. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0735-2751%28199123%299%3A2%3C154%3APSVPTT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-C>
- Slavoj Žižek, “Class Struggle or Postmodernism? Yes, please!” in Judith Butler, Ernesto Laclau, and Slavoj Žižek, *Contingency, Hegemony, Universality: Contemporary Dialogues on the Left* (Verso, 2000)
- Christopher Norris, *Uncritical Theory: Postmodernism, Intellectuals and the Gulf War* (1992)

Which selections?

**November 19** Post-colonial theory

- Mamdani, Introduction to *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton, 1996)
- Said, “The Voyage In and the Emergence of Opposition” and “Collaboration, Independence, and Liberation,” from *Culture and Imperialism*

**November 21** Contemporary feminist thought

- Gayle Rubin, “The Traffic in Women,” in Reiter, ed., *Toward an Anthropology of Women*
- Sherry Ortner, “Is Woman to Man as Nature is to Culture?,” in *Making Gender*
- Petchesky, “Fetal Images,” in Hermann and Stewart, eds., *Theorizing Feminism*
- Salzinger, “From High Heels to Swathed Bodies: Gendered Meanings Under Production in Mexico’s Export-Processing Industry,” in Hermann and Stewart

Recommended:

- Nancy Chodorow, *The Reproduction of Mothering*
- Ortner, “So, *Is* Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?”

**November 26** Rational Choice

- Coleman, *Foundations of Social Theory* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1990), pages 1–44
- Chwe, *Rational Ritual*, Chapter 2

**November 28** No class (Thanksgiving)

**December 3** Theorizing and Theory Construction

- Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Chapters V and VII
- Abbott, “What Do Cases Do?” and “From Causes to Events,” in *Time Matters*