

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL
Fall, 2003

Social Theory

(SOCI 200)

Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00–12:15 Hamilton 151

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Office hours: Monday, 10:00–12:00; Thursday, 9:00–10:30
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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. Two team-based presentations of readings and discussion leadership
3. An in-depth writing project; select either:
 - Three short, critical essays, each considering the work of one theorist; or
 - One final paper considering at least two theorists and contributing an original comparative or applied argument.

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; and
- Organizing and directing class discussion of the readings for the 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 a provocative basis for the class discussion. The seminar paper should *not* be primarily a summary, nor primarily a list of discussion questions.

Grading Policy

The main principle is this: *Nobody sees, or cares about, your grades in graduate classes.*

For the qualitatively inclined, the grading policy is essentially this: students who excel *both* in classroom elements of the course (e.g., seminar papers, presentations, discussion) *and* in the writing project will receive **H** grades. This is unlikely to be more than 2 or 3 students in a class, although it can of course vary. Students who excel in one or the other, but not both, will receive grades in the **P+** to **H-** range. The vast majority of students will receive a **P**, which represents substantive mastery, at a Ph.D. level, of sociological theory—a significant accomplishment.

For the quantitatively inclined, think in these terms:

Assignment	Grade percentage
Attendance & Participation	30%
Team presentations	20%
Final Paper	50%

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. You are *not* required or expected to read them for the class.

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 soc200fall103@listserv.unc.edu.

Required Books

Jean Baudrillard. *The Spirit of Terrorism: And Requiem for the Twin Towers* (Verso, 2002).

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).

Émile Durkheim. *Suicide* (Free Press, 1997).

Michel Foucault. *Discipline and Punish* (Vintage, 1979).

Michel Foucault. *History of Sexuality, vol. 1* (Vintage, 1990).

Sigmund Freud. *The Ego and the Id* (Norton, 1990).

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).

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).

Herbert Marcuse. *Eros and Civilization: A Philosophical Inquiry into Freud* (Beacon Press, 1974).

Max Weber (ed. Gerth and Mills). *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (Oxford University Press, 1958).

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.

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

I have put several personal copies of this book in the Odum Lab for graduate students' use.

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

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

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 26 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. [www http://www.nytimes.com/2002/05/19/opinion/19PATT.html](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 www

August 28 Enlightenment, Modernity, and Social Theory

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

Recommended:

- Berman, 87-120, 287-348

- Rose Laub Coser, *In Defense of Modernity* (Stanford, 1991)

September 2 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*

September 4 Antinomies of Modernity

- Durkheim, *Suicide*:
 - Book Two, Chapters 1, 5, and 6
 - Book Three, Chapters 2 and 3

Recommended:

- Rose Laub Coser, "The Greedy Nature of *Gemeinschaft*," in Powell and Robbins, eds., *Conflict and Consensus* (Basic Books)
- Gladys Rothbell, "Only a Housewife," in Blau and Goodman, eds., *Social Roles and Social Institutions* (Westview Press)

September 9 *When the cat's away...*

I will be out of town for this class. Judith Blau will lead the discussion.
Durkheim's *Elementary Forms*

- Fields, "Individuality and the Intellectuals: An imaginary conversation between W.E.B. Du Bois and Emile Durkheim." *Theory and Society* 31 (2002): 435–462. <http://ipsapp007.lwonline.com/content/getfile/5152/34/3/fulltext.pdf>
- Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*:
 - Introduction
 - Book I, Chapter 1

Recommended:

- Fields, Translator's introduction to 1995 edition, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* [WWW](#)
- Durkheim and Mauss, *Primitive Classification*

September 11 Durkheim's *Elementary Forms* cont.

Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*:

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

Special class: Lecture/Discussion, "Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, September 11, and Durkheim's *Elementary Forms*" (Andrew Perrin)

September 16 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 18 Marx, early writings

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

September 23 Marx, economic writings

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

Recommended:

- Marx & Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*

September 25 Marx, historical analysis

- *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*

September 30 Weber: The Power of Ideas

- Kalberg, Translator’s Introduction to *The Protestant Ethic. . .*
- Weber, “Science as a Vocation,” in *From Max Weber* [WWW](#)

October 2 Weber

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

October 7 Weber, *Class, Status, Party and Bureaucracy*, in *From Max Weber* [WWW](#)

October 9 Freud, *The Ego and the Id*

October 14 Bourdieu

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

October 16 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) [WWW](#)

October 21 Michel Foucault

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish:*

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

October 23 Fall Break

October 28 Michel Foucault

- *History of Sexuality*, vol. I

October 30 20th Century Marxism

- Georg Lukács, “The Phenomenon of Reification,” pp. 83–110 in *History and Class Consciousness: Studies in Marxist Dialectics* [WWW](#)
- Louis Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses,” in *Lenin and Philosophy* [WWW](#)

November 4 The Frankfurt School

- Horkheimer and Adorno, “The Concept of Enlightenment,” in *Dialectic of Enlightenment*
- Horkheimer and Adorno, “The Culture Industry,” in *Dialectic of Enlightenment*
- Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization* (selections) [WWW](#)

Recommended:

- Habermas, “Civil Society and the Political Public Sphere,” in Calhoun et al., *Contemporary Social Theory*, pp. 359–376 [WWW](#)
- Horkheimer, *Critical Theory*
- Adorno, *Introduction to Sociology*
- Marcuse, *One Dimensional Man*
- Habermas, “Three Normative Models of Democracy,” in *The Inclusion of the Other*
- Habermas, *Communication and the Evolution of Society*

November 6 The “Micro” Tradition in Europe: Georg Simmel

- Simmel, “The Stranger” and “The Conflict in Modern Culture” from Don Levine, ed., *Georg Simmel on Sociology and Social Forms* [WWW](#)
- Simmel, “The Importance of Numbers for Social Life,” from Kurt Wolff, ed., *The Sociology of Georg Simmel* [WWW](#)

Recommended:

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

November 11 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 13 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) [WWW](#)
- 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.* [WWW](#)

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 18 Post-colonial theory

- Tsenay Serequeberhan, “Colonialism and the Colonized: Violence and Counter-violence,” pp. 55–86 in *The Hermeneutics of African Philosophy* (Routledge, 1994) [WWW](#)

- Gayatri Spivak, “Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography,” pp. 197–221 in *In Other Worlds: Essays in Cultural Politics* (Routledge, 1988) [WWW](#)

Recommended:

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

November 20 Contemporary feminist thought

- Gayle Rubin, “The Traffic in Women,” in Reiter, ed., *Toward an Anthropology of Women* [WWW](#)
- Petchesky, “Fetal Images,” in Hermann and Stewart, eds., *Theorizing Feminism* [WWW](#)
- Kessler, “The Medical Construction of Gender: Case Management of Intersexed Infants,” in Hermann and Stewart. [WWW](#)

Recommended:

- Nancy Chodorow, *The Reproduction of Mothering*
- Ortner, “Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?” [WWW](#)
- Ortner, “So, *Is* Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?” [WWW](#)

November 25 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) [WWW](#)
- Baudrillard, *The Spirit of Terrorism: And Requiem for the Twin Towers*

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%3APSVP%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) [WWW](#)

November 26 Final Papers Due, 5:00 PM

November 27 Thanksgiving

December 2 Theorizing and Theory Construction

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

December 4 Wrap-up discussion