

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL  
Spring, 2014

# Advanced Sociological Theory

(SOCI 800)

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Section 001 Mondays, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm Hamilton 151

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Andrew Perrin

Office: Hamilton 159

Office hours: Tuesday, 9:30–11:00 or by appointment

Phone: 919-962-6876

E-mail: [andrew\\_perrin@unc.edu](mailto:andrew_perrin@unc.edu) • <http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu>

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to provide an overview of current sociological theory with a special emphasis on the theory of the public sphere.

## READINGS AND RESOURCES

### *Required Books*

**Seyla Benhabib.** *The Claims of Culture: Equality and Diversity in the Global Era* (Princeton University Press, 2002).

**Jürgen Habermas.** *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society* (MIT Press, 1989).

**Ronald Jacobs and Eleanor Townsley.** *The Space of Opinion: Media Intellectuals and the Public Sphere* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

**Isaac Ariail Reed.** *Interpretation and Social Knowledge: On the Use of Theory in the Human Sciences* (University of Chicago Press, 2011).

**Pierre Rosanvallon.** *Democracy Past and Future* (Columbia University Press, 2006).

### *Supplementary Readings*

All other readings are available either on the web or on the course Sakai website.

## FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

**Course Participation.** You must read and carefully consider all the materials listed for each class session and come to class ready to discuss them actively. This is not a lecture course but a discussion.

**Seminar Paper and Class Leadership.** You will be part of one or more groups responsible for preparing and distributing a short, pithy, even polemical paper to the class and using it to focus discussion during one class session. Groups will be formed the first week of class.

**Final Paper.** You must write a final paper for the class. The final paper should be useful to your current intellectual focus and should engage with the questions we explore during the course. The purpose of this paper is to link your research focus with theoretical questions. Length, style, and substance are all negotiable based on how the paper fits into your intellectual development.

### *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%

### *Honor Code*

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS COURSE IS COVERED BY THE UNC HONOR CODE (see <http://www.unc.edu/depts/honor/studinfo.html>). I take academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, plagiarism—very seriously. There will be no excuses or second chances; if you have plagiarized the *ideas* or *words* of someone else without giving credit, you will be referred to the Student Attorney General. The usual sanction for the first offense of academic dishonesty is suspension from the university for a semester. If you have questions as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, check <http://www.unc.edu/depts/honor/plagiarism.html> or consult me.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **January 13:** Foundations and Introductions

- Hermann Schweppenhäuser and Rainer Köhne. “From a Monograph on ‘Aspects of Language.’” pp. 161–176 in Friedrich Pollock, Theodor W. Adorno, and Colleagues. *Group Experiment and Other Writings: The Frankfurt School on Public Opinion in Postwar Germany*. Edited, Translated, and Introduced by Andrew J. Perrin and Jeffrey K. Olick. PDF on Sakai.
- Evans, M. S. (2012). “Who Wants a Deliberative Public Sphere?” *Sociological Forum*, 27(4), 872895. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1573-7861.2012.01360.x/full>
- Ferree, M. M., Gamson, W. A., Gerhards, J., and Rucht, D. (2002). “Four models of the public sphere in modern democracies.” *Theory and Society*, 31, 289324. <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1023%2FA%3A1016284431021>

**January 27:** Jürgen Habermas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, entire.

**February 3:** Oskar Negt and Alexander Kluge, *Public Sphere and Experience: Toward an Analysis of the Bourgeois and Proletarian Public Sphere* (PDF on Sakai), Foreword and Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 6.

### **February 10:** Critical Responses to Habermas I

- Nancy Fraser, “What’s Critical about Critical Theory? The Case of Habermas and Gender.” *New German Critique* No. 35, Special Issue on Jürgen Habermas (Spring - Summer, 1985), pp. 97-131. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/488202>

- Michael Warner, “Publics and Counterpublics.” *Public Culture* 14:1, Winter 2002. [http://muse.jhu.edu/login?auth=0&type=summary&url=/journals/public\\_culture/v014/14.1warner.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/login?auth=0&type=summary&url=/journals/public_culture/v014/14.1warner.html)
- Pauline Johnson, “Enlightenment and Romantic Legacies: Habermas’ Postmodern Critics.” *Contemporary Political Theory* 5 (2006), 68–90. <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/cpt/journal/v5/n1/abs/9300166a.html>

**February 17:** Benhabib, Chapters 1, 3, 5, and 6

**February 24:** French and American Pragmatism

- Noortje Marres, “Issues Spark a Public into Being. A Key But Often Forgotten Point of the Lippmann-Dewey Debate.” in Latour and Weibel, eds., *Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005). PDF on Sakai.
- Boltanski, L., and Thvenot, L. (1999). “The Sociology of Critical Capacity.” *European Journal of Social Theory*, 2(3), 359377. <http://est.sagepub.com/content/2/3/359.short>
- Blokker, P., and Brighenti, a. (2011). “Politics between justification and defiance.” *European Journal of Social Theory*, 14(3), 283300. <http://est.sagepub.com/content/14/3/283.refs>
- Honneth, A. (2010). “Dissolutions of the Social : On the Social Theory of Luc Boltanski and Laurent Thèvenot.” *Constellations*, 17(3). <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8675.2010.00606.x/full>
- **Recommended:** Silber, I. F. (2011). “Emotions as regime of justification?: The case of civic anger.” *European Journal of Social Theory*, 14(3), 301320. <http://est.sagepub.com/content/14/3/301.short>

**March 3:** Chantal Mouffe, *Agonistics: Thinking the World Politically* (London: Verso, 2013), Chapters 1, 5, and 6

**March 17:** Rosanvallon, entire

**March 24:** Pragmatics of Deliberation

- Lee, C. W. (2011). “Five Assumptions Academics Make About Public Deliberation, And Why They Deserve Rethinking.” *Journal of Public Deliberation*, 7(1). <http://www.publicdeliberation.net/jpd/vol7/iss1/art7/>
- Dryzek, J. S. (2005). “Handle With Care: The Deadly Hermeneutics of Deliberative Instrumentation.” *Acta Politica*, 40, 197211. <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/pal/ap/2005/00000040/00000002/art00004>
- Lezaun, J., and Soneryd, L. (2007). “Consulting Citizens: Technologies of Elicitation and the Mobility of Publics.” *Public Understanding of Science*, 16, 279297. <http://pus.sagepub.com/content/16/3/279.short>

**March 31:** Jeffrey Alexander, selections from *The Civil Sphere* (Oxford University Press, 2006). <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195162509.001.0001/acprof-9780195162509> Introduction, Chapters 5, 12, 15, 16,17, 20 (and others as they look interesting to you)

**April 7:** Reed, entire

**April 14:** Jacobs and Townsley, Chapters 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9

**April 21:** Reserved for later decision or follow-up