

SOC 3780: Social Theory

MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am
Multipurpose Center 110

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Office Hours: Mondays, 8:00-9:00; 10:30-12:30; Tuesdays, 8:00-9:00; Thursdays 8:00-9:00

Please Note: These are times that I will be in my office. However, you are welcome to stop by between 8am and 4pm, and if my office door is open, we can meet. If it is shut then I am unavailable. You may, of course, contact me (email or phone) for an appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course we will survey the theorists who have become the intellectual founders of sociology. We will contextualized their ideas with reference to the Enlightenment and the rise of modernity. Not only will we explore the historical importance of their great works, but we will discuss their continuing importance for understanding the contemporary world. We will also learn how contemporary social theorists have responded to these foundational thinkers and how our contemporary social worlds necessitate re-thinking key social theoretical concepts and ideas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Aside from providing you will an introduction to intellectual history, social theory teaches us critical thinking, fact analysis, and evaluation of information. All useful in our daily lives. Overall, the course has three primary objectives:

- ✓ to develop factual knowledge of social theory;
- ✓ to enhance critical thinking skills; and
- ✓ to enhance essay writing skills.

REQUIRED READING:

Seidman, Steven. 2008. *Contested Knowledge: Social Theory Today*. 4th Edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell. ISBN: 978-1-4051-7001-7

Other readings are listed in the course schedule (below), or will be announced as the course progresses.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Critical Papers (2 pages):

Essay on Marx	8.5%	Sept. 10
Essay on Durkheim	8.5%	Sept. 17
Essay on Weber	8.5%	Sept. 24
Essay on Rorty	8.5%	Oct. 1
Essay on Foucault	8.5%	Oct. 8
Essay on hooks or Smith	8.5%	Oct. 22
Essay on Harvey	8.5%	Oct. 29
Essay on Fraser	8.5%	Nov. 5
Essay on Beck or West	8.5%	Nov. 19
Essay on Said or Bourdieu	8.5%	Dec. 3
Attendance/Participation	15%	
Total	100%	

TURNITIN.COM: All written assignments must be **uploaded to turnitin.com** by the due date. Turnitin is an online database and software program that assesses written assignments for plagiary. More details will be provided in class.

To enroll, go the www.turnitin.com, create an account and then enroll. The class ID is: **3045388** and the password is: **SOC3780**.

**ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO
TURNITIN.COM AND IN HARDCOPY AT THE START OF CLASS ON
THE DUE DATE.**

Critical Papers: There are 10 critical paper assignments in this course. In each one, you will critically evaluate a social theorist in a short, double-spaced essay of about 2 pages. More information will be provided in class. You are encouraged to read secondary and/or primary sources not found on this syllabus. I also encourage you to speak with me during my office hours.

Salon Days: On the days that critical papers are due we will hold small group discussions, or “salons.” It is crucial that all students arrive on time with their critical essay papers in hand. Any student who does not bring a paper to class will not be permitted to submit that paper, nor will that student be permitted to take part in that day’s class. The student will receive zero on that paper and his/her attendance/participation score will be very low as a consequence.

Attendance: Throughout the course, I will take attendance. If you are not in class during one of these checks, you may provide documentation (e.g., doctor’s note) explaining your non-attendance. In other words, all absences from class must be explained and all requested documentation must be provided.

Participation: You are required to participate in all class and small group discussions to the best of your ability. You will be evaluated according to the usefulness of your contribution as well as on how diplomatically you treat your fellow students (and me). If you submit shoddy work, you will not be deemed to be participating to the best of your ability.

GRADING:

100-93 = A	73-76 = C
90-92 = A-	70-72 = C-
87-89 = B+	67-69 = D+
83-86 = B	63-66 = D
80-82 = B-	60-62 = D-
77-79 = C+	59-below = F

Assignments: All assignments must be typed; handwritten assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

Make Up Tests, Late Assignments, and Extensions: Upon receipt of valid documentation, a make up test will be held for those students who were unable to write a test. Late papers are only accepted upon receipt of valid documentation (e.g. illness = medical note from a physician). All documentation must be submitted within one week of the missed exam, unless this is impossible. Since all due dates of assignments are known well in advance, I expect each student to organize her/his time to complete the assignments when due. If you are experiencing difficulties in the class, please see me in advance of the due date for an extension on an assignment.

Email communication: Please do not send multiple emails within a 24 hour period. I will answer emails as quickly as possible, but in some instances you may have to wait a day or so. When sending an email, please ensure that all your questions or concerns are addressed in a single message.

Office Hours: Any student who needs to speak with me in person must make every reasonable effort to attend my office hours. Office hours are not be used to gather information about missed lectures. If you miss a lecture, please speak with students who were in attendance about course content.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Week One Aug. 23, 25, 27

Introduction, pp. xi-xv

Introduction to Part I, pp. 3-4

Chapter One: The Idea of Society: The Enlightenment & Comte, pp. 5-15

Week Two Aug. 30, Sept. 1, 3

Chapter Two: The Revolutionary Theory of Karl Marx, pp. 16-29.

Petrović, Gajo. 1963. "Marx's Theory of Alienation." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. 23(3): 419-426.

Week Three Sept. 8, 10

Chapter Two: The Revolutionary Theory of Karl Marx, pp. 16-29.

Week Four Sept. 13, 15, 17

Chapter Three: The Promise of Sociology: Durkheim, pp. 30-41

Week Five Sept. 20, 22, 24

Chapter Four: The Ironic Social Theory of Max Weber, pp. 42-54

Afterward, pp.55-57

Weber, "Politics as a Vocation"

http://www.ne.jp/asahi/moriyuki/abukuma/weber/lecture/politics_vocation.html

Week Six Sept. 27, 29, Oct. 1

Rorty, Richard. 1989. "Introduction," "Private Irony and Liberal Hope," and "Solidarity." In *Contingency, Irony and Solidarity*. New York: Cambridge University Press. xiii-xvi; 73-95; 189-198.

Jacobs, Ronald and Philip Smith. 1997. "Romance, Irony and Solidarity." *Sociological Theory*. 15(1): 60-80.

Week Seven Oct. 4, 6, 8

Chapter Twelve: Foucault's Disciplinary Society, pp. 171-183.

Week Eight Oct. 11, 13, 15

Introduction, pp. 199-200

Chapter Fourteen, Feminist Theory, pp. 201-221.

bell hooks 1996. "Sisterhood: Beyond Public and Private." *Signs*. 21(4): 814-829.

Other readings TBA

Week Nine **Oct. 18, 20, 22**

Campbell, Marie. 2003. "Dorothy Smith and Knowing the World We Live In." *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 30(1): 3-22.

Other readings TBA

Week Ten **Oct. 25, 27, 29**

Chapter Twenty: Harvey, pp. 289-292

Harvey, David. 2007. "Neoliberalism as Creative Destruction." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 610:22-44.

Week Eleven **Nov. 1, 3, 5**

Fraser, Nancy. 1995. "From Redistribution to Recognition: Dilemmas of Justice in a "Post-Socialist" Age." *New Left Review*. I/212(July-August): 68-93.

Young, Iris Marion. 1997. "Unruly Categories: A Critique of Nancy Fraser's Dual Systems Theory." *New Left Review*. I/222(March-April): 147-160.

Week Twelve **Nov. 8, 10, 12**

Beck, Ulrich. 2002. "The Terrorist Threat: World Risk Society Revisited." *Theory, Culture and Society*. 19(4): 39-55.

Beck, Ulrich. 2002. "Living in the World Risk Society." *Economy and Society*. 35(3): 329-345.

Beck, Ulrich. 1989. "On The Way To The Industrial Risk-Society? Outline Of An Argument." *Thesis Eleven*. 23: 86-103.

Week Thirteen **Nov. 15, 17, 19**

Chapter Fifteen, Critical Race Theory, pp. 222-234

Cornel West. 2001. "Demystifying the New Black Conservatism" AND "Beyond Affirmative Action: Equality & Identity." In *Race Matters*. Beacon: Boston, MA.

Week Fourteen **Nov. 22**

Chapter 17, Colonial Discourse Studies, pp. 250-258

Appelrough, Scott and Laura Desfor Edles. 2008. "Edward Said" In *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Pine Forge: Los Angeles.

Week Fifteen **Nov. 29, Dec. 1, 3**

Chapter 10, Pierre Bourdieu, pp. 140-147; Other reading TBA

STUDENT DISABILITY NOTICE

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), in Room 205C of the Sharwan Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SSD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.

HEOA Compliance

HEOA Compliance statement: The sharing of copyrighted material through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, except as provided under U.S. copyright law, is prohibited by law. Detailed information can be found at <http://www.suu.edu/it/p2p-student-notice.html>.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

In case of emergency, the University's Emergency Notification System (ENS) will be activated. Students are encouraged to maintain updated contact information using the link on the home page of the *mySUU* portal. In addition, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Emergency Response Protocols posted in each classroom. Detailed information about the University's emergency management plan can be found at <http://www.suu.edu/emergency>.

DISCLAIMER:

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.