**CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course aims at introducing students to the contemporary sociological theories with the aim of highlighting the relevance of both in the contemporary society. Special emphasis would be paid on how sociologists in different eras engaged their respective societies to derive a theory and how these theories continued to remain relevant as times and power dynamics changed. Whereas independent, critical analysis of the works by the students would be highly appreciated, students should first try to understand the text on its own terms before pointing out the shortcomings.

**Grade breakup:**

Class participation and attendance 10%

Quizzes 20%

Mid-term exam 30%

Final Exam 40%

**REQUIRED READING:**

Farganis, James (ed) 2004 *Readings in Social Theory- The Classical Tradition to Post-Modernism 4th edition* Boston: McGraw Hill

Additional readings will be assigned as we progress through the course.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

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| **Week 1** |  |
| Farganis, J. (2004) “Chapter 7. Functionalism” in J. Farganis (ed.) *Readings in Social Theory- The Classical Tradition to Post-Modernism 4th edition.* Boston: McGraw Hill pp. 181-191; 201-217;  **Supplementary Reading**  Ritzer, G. & Goodman, D. J. (2003) *Sociological Theory* Sixth Ed. Boston: McGraw Hill ‘7, Structural Functionalism, Neofunctionalism, and Conflict Theory’ pp. 226- 264  **Week 2**  Exchange Theory & Rational Choice  “Chapter 9 Exchange Theory and Rational Choice” pp. 263-279  Abell, P. (2000) “Sociological Theory and Rational Choice Theory” in Turner, B. S. (ed) (2000) *The Blackwell Companion to Social Theory*Oxford: Blackwell pp. 223-244  Ritzer, G. & Goodman, D. J. (2003) *Sociological Theory* Sixth Ed. Boston: McGraw Hill ‘12, Exchange, Network, and Rational Choice Theories’ pp. 226-264 |  |
| **Week 3** |  |
| Phenomenological Sociology and Ethnomethodology  **Reading**  Farganis, J. (2004) “Chapter 10. Phenomenological Sociology and Ethnomethodology” in J. Farganis (ed.) *Readings in Social Theory- The Classical Tradition to Post-Modernism 4th edition* Boston: McGraw Hill pp. 303-348  **Supplementary readings**  Schutz, A. (1972) *The Phenomenology of the Social World* London: Heinemann  Turner, R. (ed.) (1974) *Ethnomethodology: Selected Readings* Harmondsworth:Penguin |  |
| **Week 4** |  |
| Feminism and Sociology |  |
| Reading:  Farganis, J. (2004) “Chapter 12. Feminist Theory” in in J. Farganis (ed.) *Readings in Social Theory- The Classical Tradition to Post-Modernism 4th edition*Boston: McGraw Hill pp. 369-393  Supplementary Readings:  Ritzer, G. & Goodman, D. J. (2003) *Sociological Theory* Sixth Ed. Boston: McGraw Hill  ‘13, Contemporary Feminist Theory” By Patricia Madoo Lengermann and Jill Niebrugg-Brantley pp.436-479  **Week 5** |  |
| Critical Social Theory |  |
| **Reading**  Farganis, J. (2004) “Chapter 13. Critical Theory” in J. Farganis (ed.) *Readings in Social Theory- The Classical Tradition to Post-Modernism 4th edition*Boston: McGraw Hill pp. 397-422  **Supplementary readings**  Delanty, G. (1999) *Social Theory in a Changing World*Cambridge: Polity Press Chapter 3 “Discourse and Democracy: Habermas’s theory of modernity”  **Week 6-7** |  |
| Michel Foucault and Postmodernism: Power, Subjectivity and Knowledge | |
| **Reading**  Farganis, J. (2004) “Chapter 14. Post-Modernism” in J. Farganis (ed.) *Readings in Social Theory- The Classical Tradition to Post-Modernism 4th edition* Boston: McGraw Hill pp. 423-450  Bourdieu, P (1998) *Practical Reason* Stanford University Press: Stanford pp. 1-13; 31-34 (Social Space and Symbolic Space) & (Appendix: Social Space and Field of Power)  **Supplementary readings**  Foucault, M. (1978) 'Method' in Foucault, M. *The Will to Knowledge - The History of Sexuality: Volume One* London: Penguin 92-102  Foucault, M. (1980) “Two Lectures” in C. Gordon (ed.) *Michel Foucault Power / Knowledge: Selected Interviews and other Writings*, 1972 -1977New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf pp. 78-108  Foucault, M. (1980) *Power / Knowledge: Selected Interviews and other Writings, 1972 - 1977* Gordon, C. (ed.) New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf  Foucault, M. (1982) “Afterword: the Subject and Power”, H. Dreyfus and P. Rabinow *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics* Harvester: Sussex pp. 208-226  Foucault, M. (1985) *The Use of Pleasure: The History of Sexuality* Volume 2  Harmondsworth: Penguin pp. 3-13  Foucault, M. (2001) “Power/Knowledge” in S. Seidman and J. Alexander (eds) *The New Social Theory Reader* London: Routledge pp. 69-75  Gandhi, L. (1998) *Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction St Leonards”* Allen and Unwin pp. 81-101  **Week 8**  Progress review; Mid-term exam  **Week 9**  Pierre Bourdieu: Social Practices, Symbolic Power and Social Fields  **Readings**: Jenkins, R. (1992) *Pierre Bourdieu* London: Routledge pp. 66-102 (Ch. 4: Practice, Habitus and Field)  Ritzer, G. & Goodman, D. J. (2003) *Sociological Theory* Sixth Ed. Boston: McGraw Hill (‘Pierre Bourdieu’s Reflexive Sociology’ A5-A7 (Appendix))  Ritzer, G. & Goodman, D. J. (2003) *Sociological Theory* Sixth Ed. Boston: McGraw Hill  ‘17 Structuralism, Poststructuralism, and the Emergence of Postmodern Social Theory’ pp579-594; pp.598-616  **Week 11** |  |
| Risk Society, Reflexive Modernization and Globalisation  **Reading**  Beck, U. (1992) “From Industrial Society to the Risk Society: Questions of Survival, Social Structure and Ecological Enlightenment”, *Theory, Culture and Society*Vol 9: 97-123  Ritzer, G. & Goodman, D. J. (2003) *Sociological Theory* Sixth Ed. Boston: McGraw Hill ‘16 Contemporary Theories of Modernity’ pp.541-552; 569-578  **Week 12**  Post postmodernism (metamodernism) |  |

Vermeulen, Timotheus and Robin van den Akker. "[Notes onmetamodernism](http://aestheticsandculture.net/index.php/jac/article/view/5677/6304)", *Journal of Aesthetics and Culture" 2010.*

Turner, L. Metamodernist Manifesto <http://www.metamodernism.org/>

**Week 14**

Wind-up, final paper discussion

**Week 15**

Final paper submission; presentations