

Sociology 612: Contemporary Sociology Theory

Thursdays, 1:30-4:00 Saunders 229

THE SYLLABUS

Required Books:

- Calhoun, Craig, et al (eds.) *Contemporary Sociological Theory* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2002. (Available on Amazon and at UHM bookstore.)
- C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination* (Oxford University Press, 2000).
- Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality: An Introduction* (New York: Vintage, 1990).

There will be a variety of internet materials, as indicated in the syllabus.

January 15 Introduction

The goals of the course; what is expected of me; what is expected of you. (You may find the [Glossary](#) helpful for this course. For an overview, see Manicas, "[The Rise and Fall of Scientism.](#)" and "The Social Science Disciplines: The American Model."

January 22, 29 After Parsons

Read: Talcott Parsons, "Toward a General Theory of Action" (handout); and materials on this site including: "Parson's Glossary," "[Structural Functionalism](#)," "[Conflict Theories](#)." Luhmann, in Calhoun, pp. 139-152; ; C.W. Mills, *The Sociological Imagination (all)*. Excerpts from *The Power Elite*:
http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Book_Excerpts/PowerElite.html; "Power and Authority," "Definitions of Power/Authority."

First Essay Due 5 February. See assignments

February 5, 12 Micro-Sociology

Read: "[Agent-Centered Theory](#)," Calhoun, Part I; "[Garfinkel Glossary](#)," Handouts: Mehan and Wood, "The Ethnomethodology of the Human Reality Constructor"; "Alfred Schutz on Phenomenology and Social Relations," "Reading [Schutz](#),"

February 19 Exchange and Rational Choice Theory

Read: Calhoun, Part II; "Review: RCT"

Second Essay Due 26 February. See Assignments

February 26, March 5 Neo-Marxism/Post-Marxism

Read: Manicas, This site, [Varieties of Marxism](#), 20 Century Marxism, [Structure and Culture](#) (optional),. In Course Materials: Mike Davis, NLR essay, Adorno and Horkheimer, Althusser, Marcuse, Nicholson, Sayer; and Habermas, in Calhoun, Part VIII. See also relevant parts of my essay, "Rise and Fall of Scientism."

March 12 Bourdieu

Read: Calhoun, Part VI; Handout: Wacquant, "Toward a Social Praxeology."

March 19 Giddens

Read: Calhoun, Part V; This site, Manicas: [Giddens's Integration](#). (Optional) [Empirical Research and Structuration Theory](#) ; Manicas, *Rethinking Explanatory Social Science*, Introduction and Chapter 3 (Course materials); Berger and Luckman, in Calhoun, pp. 42-50.

Third Essay Due 2 April. See Assignments

Spring Break 23-27 March

April 2, 9 Foucault

Read: Foucault, *History of Sexuality* (all); Calhoun Bauman, pp. 429-440. This site: [Postmodernity: Preliminaries](#), [Postmodern Theory](#).

April 16 Social Construction: Race, Gender and Difference

Read: "Standpoint Theory," this site; Calhoun, Part VII, Iris Young; Handouts: Haraway, "Cyborg Culture and Fractured Identities," and Butler, "Imitation and Gender Subordination," Bauman, in Calhoun, pp. 429-440; Hacking, "Kind-making::The Case of Child Abuse." (handout)

Fourth Essay Due 30 April

April 23, April 30 Explanation and Understanding

Read: Manicas, *Understanding and Explanation* , Chapters 4, 5 in Course Materials. .

May 14 Final Paper Due

Reference:

Not Required. In addition to additional primary reading of key authors,
two recent
and very useful anthologies may be mentioned:

Bryan S. Turner (ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to Social heory*, 2nd Edition (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2000).

Anthony Elliot (ed.), *The Blackwell Reader in Contemporary Social Theory* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1999).

<http://webct.hawaii.edu>

<http://www.libstudy.hawaii.edu/manicas>

Office Hours: By appointment only at Interdisciplinary Studies, Krauss Hall 116. Call 956 7297 and get on my calendar.