

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 3404G 002 - MODERN SOCIAL THEORY**

TERM: Fall Term 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael E. Gardiner
SSC 5424 (phone 661-2111, ex. 85139; e-mail: megardin@uwo.ca)

CLASS TIME & LOCATION: Thurs 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; SSC 5220

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm (or by appointment)

REQUIRED TEXTS

Tim May, *Situating Social Theory* (2nd ed.) (Buckingham: Open University Press, 2008)
Ben Agger, *Critical Social Theories: An Introduction* (2nd ed.) (Boulder: Paradigm Press, 2006)
Custom Course Package for Sociology 3404F 001 (available from the campus bookstore)

Prerequisite(s):

Sociology 2240E or both Sociology 2270A/B and 2271A/B and enrollment in third year of Honors Specializations or Honors Double Major in Sociology. Unless you have either the requisites from this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s):

Sociology 4404F/G.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended as a survey of the central trends within contemporary, and especially critical social theory, focussing in particular upon the intellectual context and influences that have precipitated these developments, and their broader application within the discipline of sociology.

REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

This course will be run on a seminar basis. Each student will be expected to give one oral presentation based on a class reading and submit each in written form one week after the presentation is given (1500 words, 5-6 pages, double-spaced). This will be critical synopses of the reading designed to raise specific questions for debate and analysis, using primary texts where possible. The seminar report will be worth 20% of the final grade. Students must submit an outline of the proposed term paper, of minimum two pages (can be in point-form and must include a bibliography listing at least six publications), worth 10% of the final grade, and due Oct. 20th (in class). The major term paper (3000 words, 12 pages), worth 44% of the final grade, will be due Dec. 7th (by 12 noon). (*Comments on major term papers will only be provided if requested in advance of or with submission.*) Students must also submit a summary (minimum one page; maximum two) of the assigned readings for each class (*excluding* the reading one is presenting on, and *excluding* the glossaries, which are for your reference), each worth 1%, for a total of 11%. The final 15% will be awarded for general class participation. All written submissions (except notes) must be typed and in 12 scale font, which may be hand-written. (The only acceptable excuses for missed deadlines will be for documented medical reasons or family bereavement/illness; late papers will otherwise be penalized 5% per day; there will also be no comments forthcoming on late papers without legitimate excuse.) All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted may be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to licensing agreement,

currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com). The instructor reserves the right to require individual students to submit electronic versions of their essays to Turnitin.com.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a deep and broad understanding of modern and contemporary social theory
- Understand how social theory informs other branches of sociology
- Significantly develop their critical and creative thinking & writing skills
- Develop presentation skills (clearly express ideas and arguments orally & lead discussions)

COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS

(Note: 'and' constitutes **one** reading. CCP = Custom Course Package; PDF = online on WebCT OWL)

DAYS	TOPICS	ASSIGNED READINGS
Sept. 8	Orientation	
Sept. 15	Enlightenment roots; recent trends in social theory	May, 'Introduction' and chap. 1; May, chap. 2; Agger, chap. 1
Sept. 22	Ethnomethodology and symbolic interactionism	May, chap. 3; May chap. 4; selections from <i>The Goffman Reader</i> (CCP).
Sept. 29	Anthony Giddens and structuration theory	May, chap. 5; Giddens, 'Interview three: structuration theory' (CCP); Selections from <i>The Constitution of Society</i> (CCP).
Oct. 6	Pierre Bourdieu	May, chap. 6; Bourdieu, 'Vive la crise! For heterodoxy in social science' (PDF); Bourdieu, 'Landmarks' (CCP).
Oct. 13	The critical theory of the Frankfurt School	Agger, 78-93; Adorno and Horkheimer, 'The culture industry', (CCP); Marcuse, 'The new forms of control', (CCP).
Oct. 20	Jürgen Habermas	May, chap. 8 and Agger, 93-98; Habermas, 'An interview with Jürgen Habermas' (PDF); Outhwaite, 'Glossary', (CCP).
Nov. 3	Feminist social theory	May, chap. 9 and Agger, 99-113; Smith, 'Women's experience as a radical critique of sociology' (CCP); Alcoff, 'Cultural feminism versus post-structuralism' (CCP).
Nov. 10	Cultural studies and multicultural social theory	Agger, 69-73 and 113-139; Duggan, 'Making it perfectly queer', (CCP); West, 'The postmodern crisis of black intellectuals' (CCP).
Nov. 17	Michel Foucault and poststructuralism	May, chap. 10; Foucault, 'Truth and power', (CCP); Foucault, selections from <i>Discipline and Punish</i> (CCP); Lemert and Gillan, 'Concepts used by Foucault' (glossary) (CCP).
Nov. 24	Postmodern social theory	May, chap. 11; Agger, 34-55 and 139-143; Lyotard, 'The postmodern condition' (CCP); Baudrillard, 'Simulacra and simulations' (CCP).
Dec.1	Critiques of critical social theory; applications and extensions	Agger, chap. 7; Agger, chap. 8.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Oral presentation:	20%
Term paper proposal:	10%
Notes:	11%
Participation:	15%
Final paper:	44%

Total: 100%

Laptop Policy

Use of laptop, tablet computers, or smart phones is not permitted during class time.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

CUSTOM COURSE PACKAGE READING LIST

1. Erving Goffman, in *The Goffman Reader*, ed. by Charles Lemert and Ann Branman, Oxford: Basil Blackwells, 1997: 95-107; 129-146.
2. Anthony Giddens, 'Interview three: structuration theory', in *Conversations with Anthony Giddens: Making Sense of Modernity*, Anthony Giddens and Christopher Pierson, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1998: 75-93.
3. Anthony Giddens, selections from *The Constitution of Society: Outline of the Theory of Structuration*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1984: 281-304; 373-377.
4. Pierre Bourdieu, 'Landmarks', in *Other Words: Essays Towards a Reflexive Sociology*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1999, 34-55.
5. Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, 'The culture industry', in *The Cultural Studies Reader*, ed. by Simon During, London & New York: Routledge, 1993: 29-43.
6. Herbert Marcuse, 'The new forms of control', in *One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society*, Boston: Beacon Press, 1964: 1-18.
7. 'Glossary', by William Outhwaite, in *The Habermas Reader*, ed. by William Outhwaite, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1996: 368-71.
8. Dorothy E. Smith, 'Women's experience as a radical critique of sociology', in *The Conceptual Practices of Power: A Feminist Sociology of Knowledge*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990: 11-28.
9. Linda Alcoff, 'Cultural feminism versus post-structuralism', in *Culture/Power/History: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory*, ed. by Nicholas B. Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry B. Ortner, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993: 96-122.
10. Lisa Duggan, 'Making it Perfectly Queer', *Socialist Review*, 22, 1992: 11-32.
11. Cornel West, 'The postmodern crisis of black intellectuals', in *Cultural Studies*, ed. by Lawrence Grossberg, Cary Nelson, and Paula A. Treichler, New York: Routledge, 1992: 689-705.
12. Charles Lemert and Garth Gillan, 'Appendix: concepts used by Foucault', in *Michel Foucault: Social Theory and Transgression*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1982: 127-138.
13. Michel Foucault, 'Truth and power', in *The Foucault Reader*, ed. by Paul Rabinow, New York: Pantheon Books, 1984: 51-75.
14. Michel Foucault, selections from *The Foucault Reader*, ed. by Paul Rabinow, New York: Pantheon Books, 1984: 206-225.
15. Jean-François Lyotard, 'The postmodern condition', in *The New Social Theory Reader: Contemporary Debates*, Steven Seidman and Jeffrey C. Alexander (eds.), Routledge: London and New York, 2001, 166-175.
16. Jean Baudrillard, 'Simulacra and simulations', in *Jean Baudrillard: Selected Writings*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988, 166-184.

PDF LIST (POSTED ON WEBCT OWL)

1. Pierre Bourdieu, 'Vive la crise! For heterodoxy in social science', *Theory and Society*, 17, 1988, 773-787.
2. Jürgen Habermas, 'An Interview with Jürgen Habermas', *Theory, Culture and Society*, 13(3), 1996, 1-17.