Syllabus
SC215 Social Theory
Fall 2014

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 11:00-11:50am
Gasson Hall 205
Professor Bates – batesju@bc.edu
Office: McGuinn 410A
Office Hours: Monday 12:00pm-2:30pm, Friday 12:00pm-1:30pm and by appointment.

Social Theory is designed to introduce students to three major historical theorists in the social sciences: Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim. It will also introduce students to contemporary social theorists, such as Michel Foucault, Patricia Hill Collins and Judith Butler. The theories will be examined chronologically and conceptually; highlighting the historical context in which the theories were written as well as key concepts that can be applied to social issues today.

Course Expectations
1. This is a reading and participation intensive course. Readings are due on the date they are listed. Come to class with HARD COPIES of the readings and be ready to discuss them.
2. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate
3. A doctor, school administrator or other certified official must verify an absence in order for it to be excused. Notes from parents or other legal guardians will not be accepted
4. DO NOT come to class more than five minutes late unless you have permission from the professor. After the class has been in session for five minutes the door will be shut. DO NOT ENTER IF THE DOOR IS CLOSED.
5. On the weekdays, I will routinely check my email once in the afternoon and once in the evenings, On the weekends, I will check my email once in the evening.

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS
1. No computers will be allowed out in class. If you have a special reason why you need to use a computer to take notes, please schedule a meeting with me.
2. No phones are allowed out in class. If you have a phone out in class it will negatively impact your participation grade.

Grades
1. 15% Class Participation
   Class attendance is obligatory and is a part of your participation grade. This grade will also include contributions to class discussion, and pop-quizzes (if needed). Two of the pop-quiz grades will be dropped.
2. 40% Exams
   Exam 1 will be worth 20% of your grade and will be an in class short-essay exam on 10/20/14. Exam 2 will be worth 20% of your grade and will also be an in class short essay exam on 11/14/14.

3. 15% Final Project Outline
   This assignment will be handed out on 10/27/14 and due on 11/24/14.

4. 30% Final Project – Will be due on the day of the final.
   This assignment will be handed out on 10/27/14 and due on the day of the final.

Grade Scaling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82-85</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-81</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62-65</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58-61</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54-47</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53-00</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lateness Policy

Extensions on assignments will only be given in exceptional circumstances with documentation from a coach or dean. For every day late, a half letter grade will be taken from the total grade. Assignments will not be accepted more than a week late.

Make-up Assignments/Exams

The university requires that make-up exams be given only in exceptional circumstances. They may be negotiated only in the event of an excused absence constituted by: (1) an EMERGENCY, defined as a death in the family or a contagious/incapacitating illness, or (2) an out-of-town sports event for athletes. In such cases, you will need to produce a note from your dean, or coach.

Extra Credit

There will be opportunities for extra credit in each section of the syllabus (from Marx to Critical Race Theory). You may only turn in one extra credit for each section (i.e. one extra credit for the Marx section) and it must be turned in before we move on to the next section of the syllabus.

For extra credit, you may email me a video, or article on a topic, or current event, you think is relevant to the section’s theorist (i.e. a video on street harassment for the feminist theory section) and a two-page write up summarizing the content and how it is relevant to the section’s theory. If you get credit, the video or article will be posted to the canvas module corresponding to your extra credit (unless you would not like it posted).

For each extra credit given, you will get a point added to your final grade.
Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a standard of utmost importance in this class. Guidelines for academic integrity in written work are posted on the Boston College website at:

bc.edu/bc_org/avp/enmgt/stserv/acd/univ.html#integrity

If you have any questions pertaining to the academic integrity guidelines, please come and talk with me. If you are caught violating Boston College’s policies on academic integrity, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment and the appropriate Dean will be notified in accordance to the rules set forth by Boston College.

Disability Policy

Boston College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and integrated access for students with disabilities to all available academic, social and recreational programs and activities. Appropriate support and referral services are provided by the Disability Services Office, which serves students with hearing, visual, mobility, medical and psychiatric concerns.

If you are a student with a documented learning disability or ADHD and want accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connor Family Learning Center. If you are seeking accommodations for any other disability, including temporary disabilities please contact Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-2470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

The Classroom as a Safe Space/Ally

Social theory is a welcoming, supportive and safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) students.

Books To Buy


Readings marked with an (*) indicates that it is from one of these books

Books on Reserve:


_E. Reserve Readings:_ To access e-reserve readings either go to the canvas website or (a) go to the libraries home page; (b) click on “more catalog search options;” (c) click on “Course/On-line Reserves;” and (D) Search by my last name, Bates.

**Reading Schedule**

*Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any point during the course*

I. **Introduction to Social Theory**

- Wednesday 9/3 – A Review of the Syllabus
- Friday 9/5 – A Review of the Canvas Website and Writing Expectations

II. **Karl Marx**

- **Monday 9/8** – An Introduction to Marxist Theory
  Reading:
  1. *Marx, Durkheim, Weber* – “The Historical Context of Karl Marx’s Work” (pp. 27-33)*

- **Wednesday 9/10** – Historical Materialism
  Reading
  1. *Marx, Durkheim, Weber* – “The German Ideology” (pp. 33-40)*
  2. *Marx-Engels Reader* – “Ideology in General, German Ideology in Particular” (pp. 148-155)

- **Friday 9/12** – Historical Materialism Continued
  No Reading
Monday 9/15 – Development of Capitalism
Reading
1. *Contested Knowledge* – “Das Kapital: The Logic of Social Revolution (pp. 22-26)

Wednesday 9/17 - Development of Capitalism Continued
1. *The Marx-Engels Reader,* “Wage Labour and Capital” (pp. 203-217)

Friday 9/19 – Class Struggle
Reading
1. *Social Theory,* “The Manifesto of Class Struggle” (pp. 43-50)*
2. *Social Theory,* “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte” (pp. 39-43)*

III. Emile Durkheim

Monday 9/22: An Introduction to Durkheim’s Theory
Reading
1. *Marx, Durkheim, Weber* – “The Historical Context of Emile Durkheim’s Work” (pp. 120-125)*

Wednesday 9/24 – Mechanical and Organic Societies
Reading
2. *Social Theory* - “Mechanical and Organic Solidarity” (pp. 73-77)*

Friday 9/26 – Anomie
Reading
1. *Marx, Durkheim, Weber* – “Abnormal Developments in the Division of Labor” “Causes of Anomie” (pp. 149-151, 185-188)*
2. *Social Theory,* “Anomie and the Modern Division of Labor” (pp. 77-78)*

Monday 9/29 – Social Facts
Reading
2. *Social Theory,* “Sociology and Social Facts” (pp. 78-81)*
Wednesday 10/1 - Suicide as a Social Fact
Reading
1. Marx, Durkheim, Weber – “Durkheim’s Study of Suicide” (pp. 163-184)*

Friday 10/3 – Suicide
Reading
1. Social Theory - “Suicide and Modernity” (pp.81-89)*

IV. Max Weber

Monday 10/6 – An Introduction to Weber’s Theory
Reading
1. Contested Knowledge – “The Iconic Theory of Max Weber” (pp. 42-54)
2. Marx, Durkheim, Weber – “Debate with Marx” (pp. 215)*

Wednesday 10/8 – Class, Status and Party
Reading
1. Marx, Weber, Durkheim – “Class, Status and Party” (pp. 232-240)*
2. Social Theory – “Class, Status, Party” (pp. 119-124)*

Friday 10/10 – The Protestant Ethic and Capitalism
Reading

Monday 10/13 NO CLASSES

Wednesday 10/15 - The Protestant Ethic Continued
Reading
1. Social Theory – “The Spirit of Capitalism and the Iron Cage” (pp. 104-108)*

Friday 10/17 - Types of Domination
Reading
1. Marx, Weber, Durkheim – ”Weber's Political Writings and the Theory of Legitimate Domination” (282-293)*
2. Social Theory – “The Types of Legitimate Domination” (116-119)*

Monday 10/20 Exam 1
V. Talcott Parsons and Functionalist Theory

- **Wednesday 10/22** – Functionalist Theory
  Reading
  1. *Contested Knowledge* – (pp. 64-73)

- **Friday 10/24** - The Writings of Talcott Parsons
  Reading
  1. *Social Theory*, “Sex Roles and the American Kinship System” (pp. 304-307)*

VI. C. Wright Mills and Critique of Functionalist Theory

- **Monday 10/27** – “The Sociological Imagination”
  Reading
  1. *Social Theory* – “The Sociological Imagination” (pp. 354-358)*

- **Wednesday 10/29** – “The Sociological Imagination” Continued
  Reading
  1. *The Sociological Imagination* – Chp. 1 “The Promise” (pp. 3-24)

- **Friday 10/31** – “The Sociological Imagination” Continued
  No Reading

VII. Erving Goffman, Performance of Self

- **Monday 11/3** – Symbolic Interactionism
  Reading

- **Wednesday 11/5** – Writings of Goffman
  Reading
  1. *The Goffman Reader* – Chapter 6 “The Mortified Self” (pp. 55-73)

- **Friday 11/7** – Erving Goffman Continued
  No Reading

VIII. Judith Butler and Performance of Gender

- **Monday 11/10** Introduction to Judith Butler
  Reading
  1. *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory* – Chp.17 “Embodying Sex: Judith Butler (1956-)” (pp. 365-375)
Wednesday 11/12 Writing of Judith Butler
Reading
  1. *Social Theory* – “Imitation and Gender Insubordination” (pp. 562-573)*

Friday 11/14 Exam 2

IX. Michel Foucault, Power and Discourse
  ➢ Monday 11/17– Introduction to Michel Foucault
    Reading
    1. *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory* – Chp.12
       “Defining the Possible and Impossible: Michel Foucault (1926-1984)” (pp. 275-284)

  ➢ Wednesday 11/19– Discipline and Punish
    Reading
    1. *Social Theory* – “Biopolitics and the Carceral Society” (pp. 417-422)*

  ➢ Friday 11/21 – Review and Discussion
    No Reading

Monday 11/24 –Final Project Outline Due – Film Screening

Wednesday 11/26 - Thanksgiving

Friday 11/28 - Thanksgiving

X. Patricia Hill Collins and Critical Race Theory
  ➢ Monday 12/1 – Critical Race Theory
    Reading
    1. *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction* – “Hallmark Critical Race Theory Themes” (pp. 19-34)

  ➢ Wednesday 12/3 – Writing of Patricia Hill Collins
    Reading
    1. *Social Theory* – “Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination” (pp. 541-552)*

  ➢ Friday 12/5 – Review and Discussion
    No Reading
XI. Review of Projects, Other Theories
   - Monday 12/8
   - Wednesday 12/10

XII. Final Projects due on the Final Exam Date (See University Exam Schedule)