

Sc. 716 Contemporary Social Theory (Boston College)  
Stephen Pfohl, Mc Guinn 416, 552-4135  
Spring 2007, Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4 PM and by appointment

## Contemporary Social Theory

This seminar is intended as a graduate level introduction to the practice of contemporary social theory. It concerns the historical production and consumption of interpretive perspectives used by twentieth and twenty-first century sociological writers to make sense of the multiple social worlds in which “we” live and die. It also concerns the ways in which social theories are themselves sociologically constructed. This occurs within complex and contradictory fields of social *power* and *knowledge*. As such, this course asks you to imagine theory as a ritual social construction of selective sense-making frameworks within and/or in resistance to the material ideological demands and institutional constraints of sex/gender, political/economic, and racial/ethnic/national hierarchies.

Seminar participants are expected to develop a working knowledge and critical evaluation of the central concepts, methodological implications, and practical-political consequences of theorizing in certain ways, but not others. What is included and what is sacrificed or silenced in the construction of particular theoretical worldviews? In exploring such issues, seminar participants are asked to reflexively analyze the advantages and limitations of their own theoretical perspectives. This course is not simply about the theories of others. It is also about how “we” as sociologists might make critical use of the conceptual tools and methods of social theorizing itself.

### Course Outline.

1. January 18  
**Introduction.**
2. January 25  
**Why Theory? Power/Knowledge and the Sociological Narrative.**

#### Readings:

1. C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1959, pp. 3-24, 143-164.\*
2. Stephen Pfohl, “The Reality of Social Construction,” Chapter 35 in James Holstein and Jay Gubrium, *Handbook of Constructionist Research*. Guilford Press, 2007, forthcoming.\*\*
3. Chris Weedon, “Feminism and Theory,” in *Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1997, pp. 1-11.\*

4. Charles Lemert, "Social Theory: Its Uses and Pleasures," in Charles Lemert, ed., *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classical Readings, Third Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2004, pp. 1-20.
5. Patricia Hill Collins, "Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination," from *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*, in Lemert, ed., pp. 536-546.
6. Steven Seidman, *Contested Knowledge: Social Theory Today, Third Edition*. Cambridge, MA, Blackwell, 2004, pp. vii-ix; 1-5.
7. Ramón Grosfoguel and Ana Margarita Cervantes-Rodríguez, "Unthinking Twentieth-Century Eurocentric Mythologies: Universal Knowledges, Decolonialization, and Developmentalism," Introduction to *The Modern/ Colonial/ Capitalist World-System in the Twentieth Century: Global Processes, Antisystemic Movements and the Geopolitics of Knowledge*, Westport, CT: Praeger, 2002, pp. xi-xxix.\*
8. Kenneth Allan, "Having a Thought" in *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*, Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. 2006, pp. ix- xiii.

#### Related Reference

Patricia Ticineto Clough, *Feminist Thought: Desire, Power and Academic Discourse*. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1994, pp. 1-11.

### 3. February 1

#### **Functionalism, Cybernetics, and the Middle American Range.**

##### Readings:

1. Talcott Parsons, "The Unit Act of Action Systems," from *The Structure of Social Action* (1949), in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 208-211.
2. Talcott Parsons, "Action Systems and Social Systems," from *The System of Modern Society* (1943) and "Sex Roles in the American kinship Society," (1971) in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 297-303 .
3. Talcott Parsons, Selections from *Talcott Parsons: On Institutions and Social Evolution*, Leon H. Mayhew, ed., University of Chicago Press, 1982, pp. 145-172, 296-326.\*
4. Robert K. Merton, "Manifest and Latent Functions," pp. 73-138 in *Social Theory and Social Structure*, New York: Free Press, 1968.\*
5. Robert K. Merton, "Social Structure and Anomie," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 225-238.
6. Steven Seidmen, "The Grand Theory of Talcott Parsons," in *Contested Knowledge*, pp. 67-80.
7. Kenneth Allan, Chapter 10, "Social Systems and Their Environments," in *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*, pp. 213-237
8. Nicolas Luhmann, "The Concept of Society," *Thesis Eleven*, No. 31 (1992), pp. 67-80.\*

##### Related References:

Jackie Orr, Chapter Three, "Keep Calm! for the Cold War: Diary of a Mental Patient," in *Panic Diaries: A Genealogy of Panic Disorder*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2006, pp. 79-164.\*

Patricia Ticineto Clough, "The Hybrid Criticism of Patriarchy," in *Feminist Thought*, pp. 12-34.

>Steve Joshua Heims, *The Cybernetics Group*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1991.

>M.J. Mulkey, *Functionalism, Exchange and Theoretical Strategy*. New York: Schocken Books, 1971, pp. 1-121.

>Jeffrey C. Alexander, *Neofunctionalism*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage, 1985.

>Mary Douglas, *How Institutions Think*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1986.

>Stephen Pfohl, "The Functionalist Perspective: Cybernetics, Negative Feedback, and the Benefits of Deviance," in *Images of Deviance and Social Control: a Sociological History*. New York: McGraw-Hill Inc., 1994, pp. 221-249.

#### 4. Feb. 8

### **Social and Behavioral Exchange: Control, Power and Structure.**

#### Readings:

1. George Homans, "The Sociological Relevance of Behaviorism," in R. L. Burgess and D. Bushell, Jr., eds., *Behavioral Sociology*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1969, pp. 1-24.\*
2. Peter Blau, *Exchange and Power in Social Life*. New York: John Wiley, 1964, pp. 14-17, 100-112.\*
3. Richard M. Emerson, "Operant Psychology and Exchange Theory," in R.L. Burgess and D. Bushell, Jr., eds., *Behavioral Sociology*, pp. 379-405.\*
4. Nancy C.M. Hartsock, "Exchange Theory: Critique from a Feminist Standpoint," in *Current Perspectives in Social Theory, Vol. 6*, New York: Jai Press, 1985, pp. 57-70.\*
5. Audre Lordre, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 440-443.
6. Georges Bataille, "The Notion of Expenditure," in *Visions of Excess: Selected Writings, 1937-1939*, trans. Alan Stoekel. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1985, pp. 116-129.\*
7. Stephen Pfohl, "Sacrificial Doublings and the Gift of Excess: Durkheim, Mauss, and the "Origins" of Poststructuralist Thought," *Epoche: The University of California Journal for the Study of Religions*, Vol. XXI, No. 2 (Winter 1998), pp. 15-29.\*
8. Michael Richardson, "Expenditure and the General Economy," in *Georges Bataille*. New York: Routledge, 1994, pp. 67-96.\*
9. Kenneth Allan, "Introduction to Section II: Social Structures and Systems," and Chapter 6, "Social and Population Structures," in *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*, pp. 119-145.
10. Steven Seidmen, "The Scientific Theory of ... Peter Blau," in *Contested Knowledge*, pp. 92-96.

#### Related References:

Patricia Ticineto Clough, "The Matrix of Feminist Criticism," in *Feminist Thought*, pp. 12-34.

>M.J. Mulkey, *Functionalism, Exchange and Theoretical Strategy*. New York: Schocken Books, 1971, pp. 122-239.

>Marcel Mauss, *The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Society*, (1925) trans. Ian Cunnison. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1974.

- >Georges Bataille, *The Accursed Shared, Vol. I*, trans., Robert Hurley, New York: Zone Books, 1988.
- >Michele Richman, *Reading Georges Bataille: Beyond the Gift*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985.
- >James Clifford, "On Ethnographic Surrealism," in *The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth Century Ethnography, Art and Literature*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1988, 117-151.
- >Denis Hollier, *Against Architecture: The Writings of Georges Bataille*, trans. Betsy Wing, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1989.
- >Stephen Pfohl, "The Double or Nothing, and "Elementary Forms of Ultramodern Social Life," in *Death at the Parasite Cafe: Social Science (Fictions) and the Postmodern*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992, pp. 105-153.
- >Annette Michelson, "Heterology and the Critique of Instrumental Reason," *October* 36 (Spring 1986), pp. 111-127.

## 5. February 15

### Theories of Conflict, Power, and Hauntings.

#### Readings:

1. Steven Seidmen, "The Scientific Theory of Randell Collins . . .," and "Critical Race Theory," in *Contested Knowledge*, pp. 86-92; 231-244.
2. Lewis Coser, *The Functions of Social Conflict*. Glencoe, Illinois: The Free Press, 1956, pp. 151-56.\*
3. Randall Collins, "A Theory of Stratification," pp. 49-61 in *Conflict Sociology*. New York: Academic Press, 1975.\*
4. Margaret M. Poloma, "Reflexive Sociology: A Critical Study of Society" (on Alvin Gouldner), pp. 256-269 in Margaret M. Poloma, *Contemporary Sociological Theory*. New York: Macmillan, 1979.\*
5. W.E.B. Dubois, "Double Consciousness and the Veil," and "Black Reconstruction and the Racial Wage," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 162-168; 238-241.
6. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper," and "Women and Economics" in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 168-174.
7. Dorothy Smith, "Knowing a Society from Within: a Woman's Standpoint," from *The Conceptual Practices of Power*, in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 388-391.
8. Michael Omi and Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, New York: Routledge, 1994, 9-50.
9. Avery Gordon, "her shape and his hand," in *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997, pp. 3-28.
10. Kenneth Allan, Chapter 5, "Emotion and Interaction Ritual Chains" and Chapter 7, "Gender Inequality," in *Contemporary Social and Social Theory*, pp. 95-115, 147-168.

#### Related References:

- >Dorothy E. Smith, *The Conceptual Practices of Power: A Feminist Sociology of Knowledge*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1990.
- >Homi K. Bhabha, "Remembering Fanon: Self, Psyche, and the Colonial Condition," in Barbara Kruger and Phil Mariani, eds., *Remaking History*, Port Townsend, Washington: Bay Press, 1989, pp. 131-148.
- >Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, trans. Constance Farrington. New York: Grove Press, 1963.
- >E. Franklin Frazier, *Black Bourgeoisie: the Rise of a New Middle Class in the United States*, New York: The Free Press, 1957.

- >Ralf Dahrendorf, *Essays in the Theory of Society*. Stanford, CA: Standord University Press, 1968.
- >C. Wright Mills, *The Power Elite*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1959.
- >Alvin W, Gouldner, *The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology*. New York; Avon Books, 1970.
- >Martin Luther King Jr., "The Power of Nonviolent Action," in Lemert (ed.), pp. 372-379.
- >Franz Fanon, "Decolonizing, National Culture and the Negro Intellectual," in Lemert (ed.), pp. 390-395.

## 6. February 22

### **Processes and Forms of Symbolic Interaction: the Self and its Others.**

#### Readings:

1. George Herbert Mead, "The Self, the I, and the Me," from *Mind, Self and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago, (1934), in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 224-229.
2. Herbert Blumer, "Society as Symbolic Interaction," pp. 145-154 in J.G. Manis and B.N. Meltzer, *Symbolic Interaction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1972.
3. Erving Goffman, "On Face-Work," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 331-337.
4. Kenneth Allen, "Introduction to Section I: The Social Situation and Its People," and Chapter 1, "Symbols, Meanings and the Social Self," in *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*, pp. 1-25.
5. William James, "The Self and Its Selves," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 157-162.
6. Charles Horton Cooley, "The Looking Glass Self," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 184-185.
7. Aime Cesare, "Between Colonizer and Colonized," Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 342-345.
8. Kenneth Allan, Chapter 4, "Performing the Self," in *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*, pp. 73-93.
9. C. Wright Mills, *White Collar*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1951, pp. 324-354.\*
10. Cornel West, "C. Wright Mills and W.E.B. Du Bois," in *The American Evasion of Philosophy: a Genealogy of Pragmatism*, Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1989, pp. 124-150.\*
11. Cornel West, "Beyond Multiculturalism and Eurocentrism," in *Prophetic Thought in Postmodern Times*. Monroe, Maine: Common Courage Press, 1993, pp. 3-30.\*
12. Steven Seidmen, "The Moral Sociology of C.W. Mills and Robert Bellah," in *Contested Knowledge*, pp. 97-116.
13. Simone de Beauvoir, "Woman as Other," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 339-341.

#### Related References:

Peter Adler and Patricia A. Adler, "Symbolic Interactionism," in Jack D. Doudlas et al, ed., *Introduction to the Sociologies of Everyday Life*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1980, pp. 20-61.\*

Margaret C. Poloma, "Acting in the Play of Life: Dramaturgy as Theory" pp. 147-162 *Contemporary Sociological Theory*.\*

>George Herbert Mead, *On Social Psychology: Selected Papers*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1964.

>Robert H. Laver and Warren H. Handel, *Social Psychology: the Theory and Application of Symbolic Interaction*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1977.

- >Norbert Wiley, The Semiotic Self. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994.
- >Norman K. Denzin, Symbolic Interactionism and Cultural Studies: The Politics of Interpretation. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1992.
- >David L. Miller, George Herbert Mead: Self, Language, and the World. Austin, University of Texas Press, 1973.
- >Hans Joas, G.H. Mead, A Contemporary Re-examination of His Thought, trans. Raymond Meyer. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1985.
- >Everett M. Rodgers, "The Chicago School," in A History of Communication Study: A Biographical Approach. New York: The Free Press, 1997, pp. 137-202.
- >C. Wright Mills, "Situated Actions and Vocabularies of Motive," pp. 439-452 in Power, Politics and People. New York: Oxford University Press, 1967.\*
- >John Eldridge, C. Wright Mills. New York: Tavistock, 1983.
- >David Frisby, "George Simmel: Modernity as Eternal Present," in Fragments of Modernity, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986, pp. 38-108.
- >Jurgen Habermas, The Theory of Communicative Action, Vol. One: Reason and the Rationalization of Society, trans. Thomas McCarthy. Boston: Beacon Press, 1981.
- >Jurgen Habermas, The Theory of Communicative Action, Vol. Two: Lifeworld and System: A Critique of Functionalist Reason, trans. Thomas McCarthy. Boston: Beacon Press, 1987.

## 7. March 1

### **Phenomenology, Ethnomethodology, Interpretive Sociology.**

#### Readings:

1. Alfred Schutz, "Commonsense and Scientific Interpretation of Human Action," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 14, 1 (September 1953), pp. 1-37.\*
2. Peter Berger and Thomas Luckman, *The Social Construction of Reality* (1966), in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 430-435.
3. Harold Garfinkel, "Reflexive Properties of Practical Sociology," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 430-435.
4. Anthony Giddens, "Elements in the Theory of Structuration," in *The Constitution of Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984, pp. 1-40.\*
5. Pierre Bourdieu, "Structures, Habitus, Practices," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 435-440.
6. Betty Friedan, "The Problem That Has No Name," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 325-358.
7. Jurgen Habermas, "Emancipatory Knowledge," from *Knowledge and Human Interests*; and "Social Analysis and Communicative Competence," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 380-383.
8. Trinh T. Minh-ha, "Infinite Layers/Third World?" in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 526-531.
9. Steven Seidman, "The Grand Theory of ... Peter Berger and Thomas Luckman," in *Contested Knowledge*, " and "The Critical Sociology of Anthony Giddens and Pierre Bourdieu," pp. 80-85, 142-153.
10. Kenneth Allan, Chapter 2, "Constructing Social Reality," Chapter 3, "Organizing Ordinary Life," and Chapter 12, "The Juggernaut of Modernity," in *Contemporary in Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*, pp. 27-47, 49-71, 263-286.

## Related References:

- "Robert C. Freeman, "Phenomenological Sociology and Ethnomethodology," in Jack Douglas et. al., *Introduction to the Sociologies of Everyday Life*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1980. \*
- >Harold Garfinkel, *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1967.
- >Dorothy E. Smith, *The Everyday World as Problematic: a Feminist Sociology*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1990.
- >Anthony Giddens, "Jurgen Habermas," pp. 124-139 in Quentin Skinner (ed), The Return of Grand Theory in The Human Sciences. London: Cambridge University Press, 1985.
- >Pierre Bourdieu, *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, trans. Richard Nice. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977.
- >Pierre Bourdieu and Loic J.D. Wacquant, *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.
- Derek Robbins, *The Work of Pierre Bourdieu*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1991.
- >Jack D. Douglas and Patricia A. Adler, Peter Adler, Andrea Fontana, C. Robert Freeman, Joseph A. Kotarba, *Introduction to the Sociologies of Everyday Life*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1980.
- >Hugh Mehan and Huston Wood, *The Reality of Ethnomethodology*, New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1975.
- >Aaron V. Cicourel, *Cognitive Sociology: Language and Meaning in Social Interaction*. New York: The Free Press, 1974.
- >Houston A. Baker, Jr., "Workings of the Spirit: Conjure and the Space of Black Women's Creativity," in *Workings of the Spirit*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991, pp. 69-101.
- >Stephen Pfohl, "Social Role Analysis: The Ethnomethodological Critique," *Sociology and Social Research*, 59, 3 (April 1975) pp. 243-265.
- >Helmut R. Wagner, "Introduction: The Phenomenological Approach to Sociology," pp. 1-50 to Alfred Schutz, *On Phenomenology and Social Relations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970.\*
- >Robert Wuthnow, James Davidson Hunter, Albert Bergesen and Edith Kurzweil, *Cultural Analysis: the Work of Peter L. Berger, Mary Douglas, Michel Foucault and Jurgen Habermas*. New York: Routledge, 1984.

## Boston College Spring Break

### 8. March 15

#### **Traces of Marxism: Theory and Practice.**

##### Readings:

1. Stuart Hall, "Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity," in David Morley and Kuan-Hsing Chen, eds., *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies*. New York: Routledge, 1996, pp. 411-440.\*
2. Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*. London: Oxford University Press, pp. 75-82, 95-100, 108-114, 122-135.\*
3. Steven Seidman, "The Critical Theory of Jürgen Habermas," in *Contested Knowledges*, pp. 121-133.
4. Patricia Ticineto Clough, "From Gynocentrism to Standpoint Epistemologies," in *Feminist Thought*, pp. 62-186.\*

5. Michael Omi and Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States*, pp. 53-76.
6. Georg Lukacs, "The Irrational Chasm Between Subject and Object," from *History and Class Consciousness*, in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 202-204.
7. Arthur Kroker, "Baudrillard's Marx," in Arthur Kroker and David Cook, *The Postmodern Scene*. New York: St. Martins Press, 1987, pp. 170-188.\*
8. Antonio Gramsci, "Historicity of the Philosophy of Praxis," "The Hegemony of Western Culture," and "Critical Notes on an Attempt at Popular Sociology," in *Selections from Prison Notebooks*, trans. Quinton Hoare and Geoffrey Nowll Smith. London: Lawrence and Wishart, 1971, pp. 404-407; 416-430.\*
9. Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Modern World-System," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 390-397.
10. Kenneth Allen, Chapter 9, "Global Capitalism and the Decline of American Hegemony," "Introduction to Section III: Modernity and Postmodernity," and Chapter 11, "Modernity and Reason," in *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*, pp. 191-211, 239-262.
11. Herbert Marcuse, "Repressive Desublimation," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 427-430.
12. Robin D.G. Kelley, "Foreward" to Cedric J. Robinson, *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000, pp. xi-xxxiii.\*

#### Related References:

Patricia Ticineto Clough, "From Gynocentrism to Standpoint Epistemologies," in *Feminist Thought*, pp. 62-86.

Stanley Aronowitz, *The Crisis in Historical Materialism: Class, Politics and Culture in Marxist Theory*, New York: Praeger Publishers, ix-xxiii; 3-44.\*

>David Held, *Introduction to Critical Theory*, pp.148-246 (on the critique of instrumental reason in Horkheimer, Adorno and Marcuse). Berkeley: University of California Press, 1980.

>Jean Baudrillard, *The Mirror of Production*, trans.Mark Poster. St. Louis: Telos Press, 1975, pp. 16-52.

>Anthony Giddens, *A Contemporary Critique of Historical Materialism*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981, pp. 1-25.

>Paul Buhle, "Marxism in the U.S.A.," pp. 81-104 in P. Buhle (ed), *C.L.R. James: His Life and His Work*. London: Allison and Busby, 1986.

>Josephine Donovan, "Feminism and Marxism," pp. 65-90 in *Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions of American Feminism*, New York: Frederick Ungar, 1985.

>Mike Gane: Jean Baudrillard: From Critical to Fatal Theory. New York: Routledge, 1991.\

>Susan Buck-Morss, *The Origins of Negative Dialectics: Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, and the Frankfurt Institute*. New York: The Free Press, 1977.

>Max Horkheimer, "Notes on Science and Crisis," in Lemert (ed.), pp. 226-230.

>Angela Davis, *Women, Race and Class*. New York: Random House, 1981.

>Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus," in *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1971, pp. 127-186.

>Stuart Hall, Bob Lumley and Gregor McLennan, "Politics and Ideology: Gramsci [and Althusser]" in Centre for Contemporary Culture Studies, *On Ideology*. London: Hutchinson, 1977, pp.45-75.

>C.L.R. James, "Black Power and Stokely," in Lemert, ed. *Social Theory*, pp. 456-465.

> Walter Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History," in *Illuminations*, trans. Harry Zohn. New York: Schocken Books, 1969, pp. 254-255

## 9. March 22

### **Social Psychoanalysis: Ritual Structures and the Unconscious.**

#### Readings:

1. Sigmund Freud, "The Psychological Apparatus and the Theory of Instincts," in Lemert (ed.); "Dream-Work and Interpretation," in Lemert (ed.), pp.; "Remembering, Repeating, and Working Through," in Lemert (ed.), pp.; Sigmund Freud, "The Return of the Repressed in Social Life," in Lemert (ed.), pp.; Sigmund Freud, "Civilization and the Individual," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 125-130; 130-134; 138-142; 142-145; 145-148.
2. Jacques Lacan, "The Eccentric Self and the Discourse of the Other," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 336-338.
3. Teresa Brennan, *History After Lacan*. New York: Routledge, 1993, pp. 1-25.\*
4. Paul Smith, "The Unconscious," in *Discerning the Subject*.\* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1988, pp. 70-82.\*
5. Avery Gordon, "distractions," in *Ghostly Matters*, pp. 31-60.
6. Nancy Chodorow, "Gender Personality and the Reproduction of Mothering," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 401-404.
7. Jane Gallop, *Reading Lacan*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985, pp. 13-30.\*
8. Elizabeth Grosz, *Jacques Lacan: A Feminist Introduction*. Routledge, 1990, pp. 1-23.\*

#### Related References:

>Jane Gallop, *The Daughter's Seduction*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1982.

>Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guatari, *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*, trans. Helen R. Lane, Robert Hurley and Mark Seem. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983, pp. 1-50. Also "Preface" by Michel Foucault, pp. xi-xiv, and "Introduction" by Mark Seem, pp. ix-xxiv.

>Robert Bock, *Sigmund Freud*. New York: Tavistock, 1983.

>Teresa Brennan, *Interpretation of the Flesh: Freud and Femininity*. New York: Routledge, 1992.

>Elizabeth Grosz, *Jacques Lacan: A Feminist Introduction*. New York: Routledge, 1990.

>Erik Fromm, "Psychoanalysis and Society," in Lemert, ed. *Social Theory*, pp. 241-243.

>Jane Flax, *Thinking Fragments: Psychoanalysis, Feminism, Postmodernism in the Contemporary West*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.

>Carl Jung, "Approaching the Unconscious," in *Man and His Symbols*. New York: Dell Publishing, 1964.

>Anthony Elliot, *Social Theory and Psychoanalysis in Transition: Self and Society from Freud to Kristeva*. New York: Blackwell, 1992.

C. Fred Alford, *Melanie Klein and Critical Social Theory*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1989.

>Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization: A Philosophical Inquiry into Freud*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1966.

>Nancy Chodorow, "Individuality and Difference in How Women and Men Love," in Anthony Elliot and Stephen Frosh, eds., *Psychoanalysis in Contexts*. New York: Routledge, 1995, pp. 89-105.

10. March 29

**Subjects of Power and Knowledge: Genealogy, History, Discourse.**

Readings:

1. Michel Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History" in *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice*, edited by Donald F. Bouchard. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1977.\*
2. Michel Foucault, "Power as Knowledge," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 465-471.
3. Michel Foucault, "Discourse on the West," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 409-413.
4. Nancy Harstock, "Foucault on Power: A Theory for Women," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 487-494.
5. Jackie Orr, "Panic Diary: (re)constructing a partial poetics of disease," in James A. Holstein and Gale Miller (eds.), *Reconsidering Social Constructionism*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1993, pp. 441-482.\*
6. Stephen Pfohl and Avery Gordon, "Criminological Displacements," *Social Problems*, Vol. 33, 6 (October/December 1986), pp. S94-S113. (Video-essay, 1985, to be shown in class.)
7. Steven Seidmen, Chapter 12 "Michel Foucault's Disciplinary Society," in *Contested Knowledge*, pp. 178-191.
8. Chris Weedon, "Discourse, Power and Resistance", in *Feminist Theory and Poststructuralist Practice*, pp. 104-131.\*
9. Kenneth Allan, Chapter 13, "Defining the Possible and Impossible," in *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*, pp. 287-309.

Related References:

>Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, trans. Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage, 1979.

>Hubert L. Dreyfus and Paul Rabinow, *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*. Chicago: University of Chicago, 1986.

>James Miller, *The Passion of Michel Foucault*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993.

>Irene Diamond and Lee Quinby, eds., *Feminism and Foucault: Reflections on Resistance*. Boston, Northeastern University Press, 1988.

>Andrew Herman, *The "Better Angels" of Capitalism: Rhetoric, Narrative and Moral Identity Among Men of the American Upper Class*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1999.

**April 5 No Boston College classes— Holy Thursday.**

11. April 12

**Structuralism, Semiotics, Cultural Critique.**

Readings:

1. Emile Durkheim and Marcel Mauss, "Primitive Classifications and Social Knowledge," from *Primitive Classification* (1903), in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 83-90.
2. Emile Durkheim, "The Cultural Logic of Collective Representations," from *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (1912), in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 90-99.
3. Kenneth Allen, "Introduction to Section IV: Identity Politics," and Chapter 16, "Race Matters," in *Contemporary Social and Sociological Theory*, pp. 353-382
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5. Judith Butler, "Imitation and Gender Insubordination," in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory*, pp. 557-568.
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- >Helene Cixous and Catherine Clement, "Exchange," pp. 135-160 in *The Newly Born Woman*, trans. Betsy Wing. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1986.
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14. May 3

### **Postmodernity, Postmodernism, and the Coloniality of Power.**

Readings:

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4. Avery Gordon, "there are crossroads," in *Ghostly Matters*, pp. 193-208.
5. Ramón Grosfoguel, "Geopolitics of Knowledge and the Coloniality of Power," in Stephen Pfohl, Aimee Van Wagenen, Patricia Arend, Abigail Brooks, and Denise Leckenby, eds., *Culture, Power and History: Studies in Critical Sociology*, Leiden: Brill, 2006, pp. 479-506.
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- >Patricia Williams, *The Alchemy of Race and Rights*. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 1990.
- >Arthur and Marilouise Kroker, eds., [Panic Encyclopedia: The Definitive Guide to the Postmodern Scene](#). New York: St. Martins Press, 1988.
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- >Zygmunt Bauman, *Postmodern Ethics*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1993.
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- >Sadie Plant, *The Most Radical Gesture: The Situationist International in a Postmodern Age*. New York: Routledge, 1992.
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- >Scott Lash and John Urry, *Economies of Signs and Space*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 1994.
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>Ann Game and Andrew Metcalfe, *Passionate Sociology*. London: SAGE, 1996.

>William Bogard, *The Simulation of Surveillance: Hypercontrol in Telematic Societies*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996, pp. 1-53.

> Walter Mignolo, *Local Histories/ Global Designs*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000, pp. 1-50.

### **Course Requirements:**

1. This a graduate-level seminar. *All participants are expected to engage rigorously with all assigned readings and actively contribute to course discussion*. Participants are also required to rotate roles as seminar discussion leaders, with each participants taking shared responsibility for leading the discussion twice during the semester. Discussion leaders are expected to meet before class sessions to discuss issues pertinent to a given week's themes and to prepare brief "discussion-opening" remarks and questions. (5%)
2. Participants enrolled for credit are expected to complete 3 short (3 page) analytic reaction papers. Each short paper is to address issues of importance in a given week's seminar themes and readings. These short essays may reflect on the analytic advantages and problems associated with a given perspective and/or apply a theoretical perspective to interpret or explain a particular social phenomenon. The first essay must be submitted by March 1st. (45%)
3. Participants enrolled for credit are also to complete one 15-20 page "theoretical" essay. Each essay is to display a critical knowledge of at least two different contemporary theoretical perspectives addressed in the seminar. Essays are to demonstrate an ability to use selected theoretical frameworks to "make sense" and/or critique a particular sociological concern or problem. A short (1 page) proposal summarizing the paper topic must be prepared for class on March 15th. In-class presentations on seminar papers-in-progress will be made during the month of April. Papers must be submitted no later than Monday, May 14th, 5:00 PM. (50%)