

University of California, San Diego  
Department of Sociology  
Winter, 2018  
SSB 414  
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SOCIOLOGY G202/POLITICAL SCIENCE 212

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THEORY

Textbooks:

Antonio Gramsci, <u>Selections from the Prison Notebooks</u>	(International)
Michel Foucault, <u>Discipline and Punish</u>	(Vintage)
Michel Foucault, <u>History of Sexuality</u> , vol. 1	(Vintage)
Damien Cahill & Martijn Konings, <u>Neoliberalism</u>	(Polity)
Pierre Bourdieu, <u>Distinction</u>	(Harvard)

This course is meant as an introduction to some of the central issues in the contemporary study of society. It is not meant to be a comprehensive survey of theories. It is based on some of the most important works of the last 60-80 years that have been built upon, and contributed to, the development of sociology and social theory. The topics that these works treat have become central to a wide range of social and political thought: intellectual and cultural production; critical theory and the re-evaluation of classical social thought; post-colonialism and cultural studies; the development of neoliberalism; normalization and social control; the body and power; social reproduction through education; stratification and culture; feminist theory. Nonetheless, there are many areas we are forced to overlook here: sociology of knowledge and science; interaction and its interpretation; comparative historical theory; sociology of emotions.

Selections marked with a star (\*) will be posted on the TritonEd site for the class.

**Requirements: THREE short papers, at least 7 pages.** The writing component of the course is very important. Topics will be provided for each paper two weeks in advance.

**SOCI 202/POLI 212**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**II. REWORKING THE MARXIST LEGACY, I - CULTURE AND HEGEMONY**

Gramsci, Selections from the Prison Notebooks, 5-23,  
52-61, 102-120, 125-90, 210-18, 227-38, 257-68,  
275-76, 343-66, 381-410

Stuart Hall, "Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race  
and Ethnicity," Journal of Communication Inquiry  
(1986), n. 2: pp. 5-27  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jcia/10/2>

**III. REWORKING THE MARXIST LEGACY, II - POSTCOLONIALISM &  
CULTURAL STUDIES**

Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State  
Apparatuses," from Lenin and Philosophy  
<http://www.marx2mao.com/Other/LPOE70ii.html#s5>

\*Stuart Hall, "Signification, Representation, Ideology:  
Althusser and the Post-Structuralist Debates"  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15295038509360070>

\*Stuart Hall, "The Problem of Ideology - Marxism  
without Guarantees," Journal of Communication  
Inquiry (1986), n. 2: pp. 28-44  
<http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/jcia/10/2>

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Postcoloniality and the Artifice  
of History: Who Speaks for 'Indian' Pasts?"  
[http://www.jstor.org/stable/2928652?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2928652?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "From Civilization to  
Globalization: The 'West' as a Shifting Signifier  
in Indian Modernity"  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14649373.2012.636877>.

**IV. REWORKING THE WEBERIAN LEGACY - CULTURE, RATIONALITY, & CRITICAL THEORY**

\*Horkheimer, "Traditional and Critical Theory," from Critical Theory [POSTED]

\*Horkheimer and Adorno, "The Culture Industry," from Dialectic of Enlightenment [POSTED]

\*Habermas, "Technology and Science as Ideology," from Toward a Rational Society [POSTED]

**V. KNOWLEDGE, POWER, & NORMALIZATION IN TOTAL INSTITUTIONS**

\*Foucault, "Truth and Power," from Power/Knowledge [POSTED]

Foucault, Discipline and Punish, 3-69, 101-3, 126-31, 135-228, 231-308

**VI. POWER/KNOWLEDGE & THE "END" OF IDEOLOGY**

Foucault, History of Sexuality, volume 1, all

\*Foucault, "Two Lectures," from Power/Knowledge [POSTED]

**VII. NEO-LIBERALISM, CAPITALISM, AND SOCIETY**

Cahill & Konings, Neoliberalism, all  
[Also online at Roger, UCSD Library]

**VIII. REWORKING THE DURKHEIMIAN LEGACY, I - HABITUS, FIELD, & PRACTICE**

Bourdieu, Distinction, pp. 1-125

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**IX. REWORKING THE DURKHEIMIAN LEGACY, II - STRATIFICATION  
AND CULTURAL CAPITAL**

Bourdieu, Distinction, pp. 125-256, 466-500

**X. FEMINISM AND SOCIAL THEORY**

\*bell hooks, Feminist Theory: from Margin to Center  
[POSTED]

Judith Butler, Gender Trouble, Chapter One  
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ucsd/reader.action?docID=180211&ppg=39>

Elizabeth Grosz, "The Practice of Feminist Theory,"  
<https://read.dukeupress.edu/differences/article/21/1/94-108/97692>

Rosi Braidotti, "A Critical Cartography of Feminist  
Post-postmodernism"  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08164640500090319>

Rosi Braidotti, "Nomadism with a difference: Deleuze's  
legacy in a feminist perspective"  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01248440>