

**Sociology 920:516:01**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Rutgers University**  
**(Spring 2016)**

Professor : Zakia Salime  
Time: M 9.30am/12.30pm  
Office Hours: M-W 1-2pm  
Room : 137 Davison Hall  
Email : zsalime@sociology.rutgers.edu

**Required Readings**

Ben Ager. *Critical Social Theories: An Introduction* (Westview Press, 1998)  
David Harvey. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Inquiry into the Origin of Cultural Change* (Blakwell, 1990)  
Foucault Michel. *History of Sexuality* (Vintage/Random House, 1990[1976])  
Deborah Cowen. *The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade* (Minnesota, 2014)  
Pierre Bourdieu. *The Logic of Practice* (Stanford, 1980)  
(Blakwell, 1990)  
Salwa Ismail. *Political Life in Cairo's New Quarters* (Minnesota, 2006).

All other required readings are on **Sakai**.

**Highly recommended**

Michel Foucault. *Society Must be Defended* (Picador, 1997)  
Boaventura de Sousa Santos. *Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide* (Routledge, 2014)

**Course Description**

This course is designed to provide a broad overview of contemporary debates in social theory. It offers an extensive introduction to different schools of thought that have had a deep influence on the debates in social theory. The course aims at providing you with the conceptual tools that enable you to read, write, and think critically about social dynamics at the intersections of class, race, culture, gender, economics, and politics. We will explore contemporary social debates through the influence of Semiotics, Symbolic Interaction, Structuralism, Functionalism, and Structural-Functionalism, Critical Theory, Critical Race Studies, Governmentality Studies, Poststructuralism, Postmodernism, Postcolonial and Subaltern Studies, as well as Feminist Theory and Public Sociology. We will explore texts as they tackle questions of structure and agency; culture and politics; knowledge and power; systems; the psychological and emotional bases of domination; subjects and subjectivities; and gender, race and diasporic identities.

**Course objectives**

This course will allow students (1) become familiar with the main conceptual and theoretical frameworks that have influenced social research broadly defined; (2) improve their critical thinking through cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary analyses of social forces as they work to produce structures of domination, subjects, policies and institutions; (3) locate their own work

and interests within/and in relation to these perspectives; (4) understand sociology as a discipline that has been shaped by other theoretical approaches.

**Class Format:** The class is organized as a seminar with students taking an active role in the discussions. This entails reflecting on the readings, participating in the class discussions and bringing provocative thoughts and questions to the class on a weekly basis.

### **Course Requirements**

1) A weekly reaction. Students must do **ALL** of the assigned readings; post a 2-3 page memo/reaction piece about the readings. I expect you to write about **EACH** chunk of required reading, no matter how short or long. I also encourage you to include at least two explicitly formulated questions that you would like to see raised during class discussion. **Briefs must be posted to the course's website on Sakai by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.** Fifty percent of your final grade will be based on class participation and the quality of these memos. Your attendance is required every week.

2) A Final Paper, due on the last day of class on May 5. I suggest the following:

1) A 20-page research paper, in which you explicitly utilize one or more of the theoretical frameworks discussed in this class to animate your analysis;

2) A 20-page literature review in which you go beyond the syllabus to explore more richly debates in a particular vein of theorizing or applications of concepts in that theoretical vein;

3) A 20-page critical essay reviewing and explicitly juxtaposing different theoretical frameworks we have explored during the semester and placing them in constructive dialogue with each other;

Whichever of these options you choose, you must discuss your goals with the course instructors **by March 8.** Papers are **due on/or before May 5 with no exception.**

### **Class policy and Academic Integrity**

Keep in mind those basics:

We earned membership in this class; we must be respectful of all the voices that will be expressed.

Make sure to use the forums open by the instructors in a way that reflects your respect to the ethics of academic debate.

My policy about plagiarism is **F**

#### **Academic Integrity**

I follow the Rutgers University's policy on academic integrity. Please explore the website indicated below to become more familiar with this policy:

[http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI\\_Policy\\_9\\_01\\_2011.pdf](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf)

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

#### **Diversity**

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and

affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have Instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

## Schedule of Classes (Subject to revisions)

### January 25                    **Function, Structure, Agency**

- Talcott Parsons, "Actions and Social Systems," pp. 321-324 in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings* [Excerpt from *The System of Modern Societies*]
- Robert K. Merton, "Manifest and Latent Functions," pp. 328-334 in Lemert, ed., *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings* [Excerpt from *Social Theory and Social Structure*]
- Ferdinand de Saussure, "Signs and Language," pp. 55-63 in Jeffrey Alexander and Steven Seidman, eds., *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates* (Cambridge, 1990)
- Raewyn Connell, "Why Classical Theory is Classical?" *AJS*. 102(6) (1997): 1511-57

Watch: Century of the Self

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ3RzGoQC4s>

### February 1    **Phenomenology, Ethnomethodology, Symbolic Interaction**

- Herbert Blumer, "Society as Symbolic Interaction," pp. 334-341 in James Farganis, *Readings in Social Theory*
- Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann, "Society as a Human Product," pp. 418-423 in Charles Lemert, ed., *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings* [from *The Social Construction of Reality*]
- Harold Garfinkel, *Studies in Ethnomethodology*, pp. 1-4, 35-49, 79-94
- Erving Goffman, "The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life," [selections], pp. 341-50 in James Farganis, *Readings in Social Theory* (McGraw-Hill, 2008)
- Erving Goffman, "On Face-Work," pp. 358-363 in Charles Lemert, ed., *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings* [From *Interaction Ritual*]
- Erving Goffman, *Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience*, pp. 1-47

### February 8    **Problematizing Modernity, Knowledge, and the Enlightenment**

- Timothy Mitchell, "The Stage of Modernity," pp. 1-34 in Timothy Mitchell, ed., *Questions of Modernity* (Minnesota, 2000)
- Timothy Mitchell, *Colonizing Egypt* (California Press 1989) (excerpts)
- Edward Said, *Orientalism* (Vintage Book 1979) Introduction
- Ben Ager, "The Disciplinary Positioning of Theory" pp 1-33
- David Harvey, *The Conditions of Postmodernity*, pp 211-307

### February 15                    **Modernity, Postmodernism and Poststructuralism**

- Jacques Derrida, "Difference," pp. 61-79 in Peggy Kamuf, ed., *A Derrida Reader: Between the Blinds* (Columbia, 1991)
- Jean Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Simulations" pp. 166-184 in Mark Poster, ed., *Selected Writings* (Stanford, 2001)

Jean-François Lyotard, "The Postmodern Condition" (excerpts), pp. 330-341 in Jeffrey Alexander and Steven Seidman, *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates* (Cambridge, 1990)

David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*, pp 3-117

Ben Agger, *Critical Social Theories*. Chapter 2-3

**Watch the movie:** *The Piano*. 1992. Directed by Jane Campion

## **February 22            Feminist Critique**

Donna Haraway, "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective." *Feminist Studies* (14:3. 1988): 575-599

Saba Mahmood, "The Subject of Freedom," pp. 1-39 in *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* (Princeton 2005)

Lila Abu Lughod, "Zones of Theory in the Anthropology of the Arab World." *Annual Review of Anthropology* (1989) 18: 267-306

Judith Stacey and Barrie Thorne, "The Missing Feminist Revolution in Sociology," *Social Problems* 32, 4 (April 1985): 301-316

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble, Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (Routledge 1990) (excerpts)

Judith Butler, *Frames of War When is Life Grievable* (2009, Verso) (excerpts)

**Watch:** Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "The Trajectory of the Subaltern in My Work"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZHH4ALRFHw>

**Watch:** Judith Butler, "Why Bodies Matter"?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD6vifFTDLY>

## **February 29            Hegemony, Culture, Ideology**

Antonio Gramsci, "Culture and Ideological Hegemony," pp. 47-54 in Jeffrey Alexander and Steven Seidman, eds., *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates*

Antonio Gramsci. 1971 (1929-1936). "Intellectuals and Hegemony." Excerpts. Charles Lemert (ed) 1999. *Social Theory: The Multicultural and Classic Readings*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 259-261

Antonio Gramsci, "State and Civil Society," from *Prison Notebooks*

Marcia Landy. "Gramsci Beyond Gramsci: the Writings of Toni Negri" *Boundary 2*(21-2) (Summer 1994):63-97

Jurgen Habermas, "Further Reflections in the Public Sphere," pp 421-440 in Craig Calhoun, ed., *Habermas and the Public Sphere* (MIT, 1992)

Michael Burawoy, 2004. "Public Sociologies: Contradictions, Dilemmas and Possibilities," *Social Forces*. 82(4)1603-1618

Link: <http://burawoy.berkeley.edu/Public%20Sociology,%20Live/Burawoy.pdf>

## **March 7            Pierre Bourdieu, Structure and Agency**

Pierre Bourdieu and Loic J. D. Wacquant, *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*, pp. 7-19, 36-41  
Pierre Bourdieu, *The Logic of Practice*, Book I, pp. 23-111, 135-141 (Stanford, 1990)  
Pierre Bourdieu, "The Forms of Capital," pp. 241-258 in J. G. Richardson, ed., *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education* (Greenwood, 1986)  
Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction*, pp. 1-7, 372-396 (Harvard, 1984) [read and print only these pages!]  
Pierre Bourdieu, "The Logic of Fields," pp. 94-115 in his *Invitation to Reflexive Sociology* (Chicago, 1992)

### **Highly recommended**

Anthony Giddens, *Modernity and Self-Identity: Self and Society in the Modern Age* (Stanford, 1991)

### **March 12-20 Spring Break**

#### **March 21 Michel Foucault**

Michel Foucault, "Lecture Two: 14 January 1976," in *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977*, pp. 92-108  
Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality*  
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 3-7, 195-230 ("The body of the condemned," and "Panopticism") (Vintage, 1979)

**Watch:** video *Justice vs. Power - Noam Chomsky vs. Michel Foucault*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mj2VJ7oexKc&feature=related>

#### **March 28 Race, Critical Race Theory and Postcolonial Encounters**

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, *Racial formations in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1980s* (Routledge & Kegan Paul Inc) (excerpts)  
Stuart Hall, "When was the Postcolonial?" In the *Postcolonial Question*. Edited by Iain Chambers and Lidia Curti (Routledge 1996) Pp 242 -260  
Ann Laura Stoler. *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Order of Things* (Duke 1995) (excerpts)  
Ben Agger, *Critical Social Theory*, Chapters 7-8

**Watch:** *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985), directed by Stephen Frears, (94 min)  
OR: *Sammie and Rosie Get Laid* (1992), directed by Stephen Frears (97 min)

**Watch:** *The color of fear*  
[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=the+color+of+fear+](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+color+of+fear+)

#### **April 4 Governmentality and Power**

Michel Foucault, "Governmentality," pp. 87-104 in Graham Burchell, Colin Gordon and Peter Miller, eds., *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality* (Chicago 1991)  
Michel Foucault, "Docile Bodies," pp. 179-204 in *The Foucault Reader*

Louise Amoore. "Algorithmic War: Everyday Geographies of the War on Terror" *Antipode* (41)1(2009):49-69

Nicholas Mirzoeff. "Invisible Empire: Visual Culture, Embodied Spectacle, and Abu Ghraib". *Radical History Review* 95 (Spring 2006): 21-44

Tayyab Mahmud, "Debt and Discipline" *American Quarterly* 64(3) (September 2012): 469-493

**Watch:** *Justice vs. Power - Noam Chomsky vs. Michel Foucault*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mj2VJ7oexKc&feature=related>

**Watch:** *The Madness of King George* (1994), dir. by Nicholas Hytner (107 min)

## **April 11 Colonial Representations, Postcolonial Encounters**

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (Grove Weidenfield, 1967) (Excerpts)

Mbembe Achile, "Necropolitics," *Public Culture* 15(1) (Winter 2003): 11-40

Gayatri Spivak. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" Pp 271-313 in *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, edited by Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg (University of Illinois 1988)

McClintock, Ann. *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality* (Routledge 1995) (excerpts)

**Watch:** The Road to Guantanamo

**Watch:** Butler's talk on Edward Said and Mahmood Darwish, American University in Cairo

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLgIXtaF6OA&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLgIXtaF6OA&feature=player_embedded)

## **April 18 State, Violence, Neoliberal Encounters**

Salwa Ismail. *Political Life in Cairo's new Quarters* (Minnesota Press, 2006)

## **April 25**

Deborah Cowen. *The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade* (Minnesota, 2014)

**Mai 2, No class**

**Final Paper Due on May 5**