

SOC 302: Topics in Contemporary Theory
Instructor: Dr. P. Cormack
Winter, 2022

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Description:

This course considers that major sociological theorists from the post-World War II period of sociology. Topics include the micro-order, power, surveillance, inequality, race, gender, sexuality, culture, and media. Students are required to read primary source materials. It is highly recommended that students bring the book/readings to each class to follow along as passages are discussed.

Assessment:

Mid-term exam (20%) – MARCH 2
Essay (30%) – due APRIL 11 (see moodle for essay assignment).

- 5% penalty per day (including weekends) for late essays.

Final exam (50%)

Reading Schedule:

January 19: Goffman, “The Interaction Order”, pp. 355-364.
January 24: Goffman, Chapter 1, Presentation of Self in Everyday Life (moodle)
January 26: Goffman, “Teams”, pp. 344-351.
January 31: Goffman, “Characteristics of Total Institutions” (moodle)
February 2: Foucault, “The Body of the Condemned”, pp. 371-374.
February 7: Foucault, “Panopticon”, pp. 374-378.
February 9: Foucault, “The Subject and Power”, pp. 380-388.
February 14: Bourdieu, “Sociology in Question”, pp. 393-398.

February 16: Bourdieu, "Belief and the Body", pp. 403-406.

BREAK

February 28: Bourdieu, "Forms of Capital" (moodle)

March 2: MIDTERM EXAM

March 7: Fanon, "The Wretched of the Earth", pp. 461-464.

March 9: Said, "Orientalism", pp. 466-470.

March 14: Smith, "The Conceptual Practices of Power", pp. 492-496.

March 16: Smith, "The Authority of the Male Voice" (moodle)

March 21: Butler, "Bodies that Matter", pp. 497-503.

March 23: Connell, "Masculinities", pp. 512-518.

March 28: Habermas, "Legitimation Crisis" and "Theory of Communicative Action", pp. 548-556.

March 30: Debord, "The Society of the Spectacle", pp. 578-582.

April 4: Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Simulations", pp. 585-588.

April 6: Baudrillard, "The Masses: The Implosion of the Social in the Media", pp. 589-594.

April 11: Hall, "Encoding/Decoding", pp. 423-425.

April 13: REVIEW

FINAL EXAM - TBA