

Selected Topics in Social Theory

Sociology and Anthropology 850

Section: E100

Term: 2011 Spring

Instructor: Dr. Cindy Patton

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Discussion Topics: This course reviews some of the classic works in social/sociological theory and then moves quickly into mid-to-late 20th century frameworks from the German, French, and Anglo-American traditions, including social construction theory, social interaction theory, functionalism, post-structuralism, postmodernism. Students will select themes or concepts to follow through the works, and spending the bulk of the semester examining two theorists from quite different traditions (Anglo-American, French) who represent alternative approaches to the meso analytic space in which daily life is lived: Erving Goffman and Pierre Bourdieu

Grading: Students will be expected to read all required materials and attend all classes prepared to discuss these materials (10%). In addition, students will complete a sequence of written assignments, including reader responses (10%), key term essays (30%), a comparative concepts essay (10%), an integrative paper on a topic to be approved (30%), and a final portfolio (10%).

Grading and Academic Honesty:

All assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic honesty and misconduct procedures (S10.01-S10.04). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies available on the SFU website: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/index.htm>

Required Texts: Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckman, *The Social Construction of Reality, A Treatise on the Sociology of Knowledge*. Penguin.

Guy Debord, *Society of the Spectacle*. Zone Books: New York

Erving Goffman, *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*. Random House: New York.

Books required for purchase (additional works will be available through ebooks or other full text sources):

Recommended Texts: Erving Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*
Giorgio Agamben, *Means without End: Notes on Politics*

Ebooks and other sources on the following authors: Wittgenstein, Mannheim, Levi-Strauss, Mauss, Garfinkel, Foucault, Bourdieu, J.L. Austin, Parsons, Freud, and others to be identified by students.

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Minimum of 72 units including SA 350, a GPA of at least 3.25 and consent of the instructor.

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in

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2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.