

Advanced Sociological Theory

Sociology and Anthropology 850

Section: G100

Term: 2001 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Ann Travers

Discussion Topics: A central area of theoretical inquiry and discussion in western thought concerns the parameters and make-up of the public sphere. Of particular importance and historical resonance are issues pertaining to the construction of boundaries between the public and private and around the construction of inclusion and exclusion in terms of asserted and ascribed identities. These matters of boundary construction relate to characterizations and normative visions of the public sphere itself; how it is constituted and for what purpose.

Key struggles in western history - by groups of persons denied formal and informal access on the basis of so-called identifying characteristics - have concerned access to the public sphere. Struggles over such access continue and are developing in interesting new ways. Post-colonial critics, queer theorists, ecologically based challengers, critical pedagogues, writers and activists exploring the new social spaces fostered by the internet and various theorists who claim to incorporate all of these challenges join the more traditional left, feminist and anti-racist critiques of the exclusive nature of public space.

We're going to try to get a grip on all these issues and theoretical trends in this course and inevitably, we're going to fail to do so. But we will hopefully leave the room at the end of the semester able to participate in the conversation about public space with a deeper understanding of the historical location of the public sphere and a greater critical awareness of the challenges involved in defining and defending public space.

Grading: 30%: 500 word email to class list on six readings - no more than one email per week, however. Due Friday at noon prior to the class that reading is assigned for. (Pass/No-Pass)

10%: Contribution to Course Annotated Bibliography. Provide one relevant source, published after 1996, with 250 word annotation to be added to course web page. No specified submission date but first in policy with no duplications. Will be added to course web page as submitted. (Pass/No Pass)

10%: 10 Minute Presentation on an assigned reading. Presentation Dates to be negotiated. (Graded according to criteria negotiated in class).

50%: To be negotiated between you and me.

Required Texts: A package of readings will be available for sale at the Burnaby Campus bookstore.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

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 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.