

Social Theory II ANTH 689

Dr. Lamia Karim

Wed 6-8:50 PM

Condon 313

Office Hours Tuesdays 2-4 PM

Condon 375

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Social Theory II is a survey course on contemporary social and cultural theories from the second half of the twentieth century. In this course, we debate the following topics and questions. What is the purpose of social theory? What are the ways that social theory can aid us in analyzing forms of knowledge and the problems that beset our world? There are three parts to this course: (a) postcolonial and subaltern theories; (b) theories of race/sex/gender and body; and (c) theories of the state/globalization/modernity. The approach is to carefully read the texts, synthesize the ideas, and learn the debates that animate the canon we call social theory.

Required Texts:

All articles are posted under Canvas or are available via jstor at uoregon library.

Ruth Behar. *Translated Woman* (read over Spring Break)

Freud, Sigmund. *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*

Knauff, Bruce. 2004. *Genealogies of the Present*. New York & London: Routledge.

We will not be able to discuss all the chapters in Knauff's text but by the end of the term, you should have read the full book.

Barnard, Alan. 2002. *Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology*. New York & London: Routledge.

Online Resources:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>

Emory University has several blogs on postcolonial studies. These are valuable sites of information.

<https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/postcolonialstudies/terms-issues/>

All assigned articles will be available under Canvas.

You are welcome to bring articles that you find of interest to my attention!

Note that plagiarism is not tolerated at the UO. Please be aware that it is a violation of the student code of conduct. Please familiarize yourself with UO's policy on plagiarism.

If you have a documented disability and need accommodation, please contact Disability Services and notify the instructor.

Course Objectives:

- Explain why social theory is important, and what theory explains.
- Trace the major theoretical frameworks in Cultural/Social Anthropology from the 1960s to the present to the framework of intellectual history.
- Analyze specific theoretical frameworks such as evolutionism, cultural relativism, functionalism, structuralism, French structuralism, Marxism, materialism, world-systems theory, cultural ecology, psychological anthropology, feminism, and symbolic and interpretive anthropology.
- Explain how these frameworks dialogue with each other.
- Identify the relevance of early social history to current debates in Anthropology and related disciplines (Sociology, Folklore, Gender Studies, Ethnic Studies, etc.).

Social theory is a complex subject. Following is a suggested guide on how to read the texts.

- What is the question being explored?
- What is the explanation being offered?
- Assess the evidence in support of the author's propositions.
- How well does the author deliver on the arguments?
- Who are the author's interlocutors and how does author engage with previous theories?

Close reading of texts is also expected in this course.

- Identify parts of the text that you want to explore further in class.
- Identify unclear and difficult concepts so we can go over them in class
- Identify areas that you think explain the author's propositions well.

You are strongly encouraged to meet with professor during her office hours.

* Professor reserves the right to add/delete some readings based on class interest.

Course requirements

1. **10%** of the grade is based on attendance. Late arrivals and departures will count as an absence.
2. **20%** of the grade is based on oral participation. 10% is based on general participation, and 10% is based on presentations. Each student will make two presentations on the readings. The first date should be during the first 4 weeks of classes. Each student will show to the class via a summary/outline and questions for class discussion on the readings via Canvas. Provide a summary of the main points of the reading, including definitions of key terms. You should comment on the strengths and/or the weaknesses of the author's arguments. The oral presentation should also include a profile of the author and the context of the publication. The oral presentation should be approximately 10 minutes.

The deadline is 6 PM Tuesday.

Exams

3. There are two exams in the course for a total of 70% of your grade. The midterm is 35% of your grade. It is a theoretical analysis of *Translated Woman*. Final Exam is due at the end of the term and is worth 35% of the grade. Exams will

require synthesizing the materials, comparing, contextualizing, and critiquing them. You may also bring external theoretical perspectives to the exams.

4. For the **Final**, you have two options:

- i. An annotated bibliography of ten to twelve articles/books based on the readings. This will help you in developing your Theory Position Paper.
- ii. I will give you a topic for the Final Paper.

Grades: 600-level courses in the Department of Anthropology are graded. To pass the course, it is necessary to get at least a B-. If the student does not pass the course, s/he may retake it the following year.

Week One

Introduction to Course

Fanon, Frantz. 1963. "Concerning Violence," in *The Wretched of the Earth*, Grove Press: New York, pp. 35-106 (to be uploaded)

Said, Edward. "Overlapping Territories, Intertwined Histories," *Culture and Imperialism*, New York: Vintage Books, 4-14.

Video: Edward Said *On Orientalism* (watch prior to class)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVC8EYd_Z_g

Week Two

Anthropology & Colonialism

1. Asad, Talal. 1973. "From the History of Colonial Anthropology to the Anthropology of Western Hegemony," *The Anthropology of Politics: A reader in Ethnography, Theory and Critique*, Joan Vincent (ed.) 2002, MA and New York: Blackwell, 133-142

2. James, Wendy. "Anthropologist as a Reluctant Imperialist," *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter*, Amherst, New York: Humanity Books

3. Knauff, Bruce. 1996. "Stories, Histories, and Theories," *Genealogies of the Present in Cultural Anthropology*, London & New York: Routledge, 9-40

4. Loomba, Ania. 1998. "Situating Colonial and Postcolonial Studies," *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*, London & New York: Routledge, 7-82.

Read Loomba for an understanding of postcolonial theory, its origins and debates.

Week Three

Subaltern Histories

1. Chakrabarty, Dipesh. *Provincializing Europe*, Introduction, pp. 1-23.

The following essays are from *Coloniality at Large: Latin America and the Postcolonial Debate*, Mabel Morano, Enrique Dussel, and Carlos E. Jauregui, Duke University Press: Durham & London (2008).

2. Scott, David. 2004. "Conscripts of Modernity" in *Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment*, Duke University Press, pp. 98-131 (to be uploaded)
3. Mignolo, Walter. "The Geopolitics of Knowledge and the Colonial Difference," 225-258

4. Spivak, Gayatri. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" and "Looking Forward, Looking Back"

Background Reading:

Knauft, Bruce. "Pushing Anthropology Past the Posts: Critical Notes on Cultural Anthropology and Cultural Studies as Influenced by Postmodernism and Existentialism," *Genealogies of the Present in Cultural Anthropology*, London & New York: Routledge, pp. 63-104.

Week Four

Theories of the State

The following essays are from *The Anthropology of the State: A Reader*, Aradhana Sharma and Akhil Gupta (eds.), 2006, MA & New York: Blackwell.

1. Weber, Max. "Bureaucracy," pp. 49-70.
2. Gramsci, Antonio. "State and Civil Society," pp. 71-85.
3. Althusser, Louis. "Ideology and the Ideological State Apparatuses," pp. 86-112.
4. Foucault, Michel. "Governmentality," pp. 131-143 (to be uploaded)
5. Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. "Racial Formation," and "The Racial State" in *Racial Formation in the United States*, Routledge: New York & London, pp. 53-94 (to be uploaded)
6. Brown, Wendy. "Finding the Man in the State," *The Anthropology of the State: A Reader*, Aradhana Sharma and Akhil Gupta (eds.), 2006, MA & New York: Blackwell, pp. 187-210.

Midterm Due: Do a postcolonial reading of *Translated Woman*

Week Five Modernity/Urban Life

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish*, 3-31, and 195-230

Benjamin, Walter. "The Arcades Project," pages will be assigned
Chronicle of Higher Education

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Walter-Benjamin-s-Afterlife/145291>

de Certeau. "The Practice of Everyday Life"

Pierre Bourdieu. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, pp. 16-22, 78-87

Recommended:

Harvey, David. *Rebel Cities*

Week Six

Globalization and Neoliberalism

1. Appadurai, Arjun. "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy," *Theory Culture & Society*, 1990, 7 (2-3), pp. 295-310
PDF available at UO jstor

The following essays are from *The Anthropology of the State: A Reader*, Aradhana Sharma and Akhil Gupta (eds.), 2006, MA & New York: Blackwell.

2. Friedman, Jonathan. Globalization.
3. Gledhill, John. Neoliberalism

4. Fernandes, Leela. 2018. "Introduction" *Feminists Rethink the Neoliberal State.*, New York University Press.

Week Seven

Feminist Theory

1. Lerner, Gerda. "Introduction," and "Patriarchy" in *The Invention of Patriarchy*
2. Freud, Sigmund. *Three Theories of Sexuality*
3. Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality*, Vol. 1
4. Butler, Judith. " "Imitation and Gender Insubordination," 119-137, *Judith Butler Reader*, Sarah Salih, eds. MA and New York: Blackwell
5. Stoler, Ann. "Placing Race in the History of Sexuality," *Race and the Education of Desire*.

Week Eight

Feminist Standpoint Theory

The following articles are all available on jstor at uoregon library. Please download.

1. Hartsock, Nancy. "The Feminist Standpoint: Toward a Specifically Feminist, Historical, Materialism," *Feminist Theory Reader; Local and Global perspectives*, C.R. McCann, s. Kim, New York, Routledge, 2003: 292-307.
2. Crenshaw, Kimberle. "Mapping the Margins": Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color," *Stanford Law Review*, 43 (6), 1241-1299
3. Mohanty, Chandra. "Under Western Eyes," *Feminist Review*, 30 (Autumn 1998), 61-88.
4. Scott, Joan. "The Evidence of Experience," *Critical Inquiry*, 1991, 17 (4); 773-797.

Highly recommended:

Read Parts I and III.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 2002. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*, New York: Routledge.

<http://www.genderrepository.in/jspui/bitstream/123456789/1252/1/black-feminist-thought-by-patricia-hill-collins.pdf>

Week Nine

Development

1. Escobar, Arturo. *Encountering Development*, Introduction (to be uploaded)
2. Grosfugal, Ramon. "Developmentalism, Modernity, and Dependency Theory in Latin America," *Coloniality at Large: Latin America and the Postcolonial Debate*, Morana, Dussell and Jauregui (eds.), 2008, Durham & London: Duke University Press.
3. Ferguson, James. "The Anti-Politics Machine," pp. 270-286.
4. Karim, Lamia. "Power/Knowledge in Microfinance," in *Microfinance and Its Discontents: Women in Debt in Bangladesh*

Week Ten

Race, Class, Sexuality and Gender

The following four articles are available on jstor at uoregon libraries.

1. Visweswaran, Kamala. "Race and the Culture of Anthropology," *American Anthropologist*, 1998, 100(1):70-83.
2. Sacks, Karen Brodtkin. "Toward a unified theory of race, class and gender," *American Ethnologist*,
Alcoff, Linda. "The Problem of Speaking for Others," *Cultural Critique*, Winter 1991-1992; 52-32
3. Puar, Jasbir. "Mapping US Homonormativities," *Gender, place and culture: a journal of feminist geography*. 2006, 13(1): 67-88
4. Narayan, Uma. "Essence of Culture and a Sense of History," *Decentering the Center: Philosophy for a Multicultural, Postcolonial and Feminist World*, Uma Narayan and Sandra Harding (eds). Bloomington: Indiana Press, 2000, 8-100.

Knauft, Bruce. "Multiculturally Speaking: Beyond Essentialism and Relativism," *Genealogies of the Present in Cultural Anthropology*, London & New York: Routledge, 249-276

Recommended:

Video: Achille Mbembe "Raceless Future"

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

Final Papers due, June 15. Send as an attachment to my email.