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

**Online Resources:**
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
[https://plato.stanford.edu/](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/](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 he 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 submit 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
Video: Edward Said On Orientalism (watch prior to class)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVC8EYd_Z_g

Week Two
Anthropology & Colonialism
Read Loomba for an understanding of postcolonial theory, its origins and debates.

Week Three
Subaltern Histories

Background Reading:

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.
   4. Foucault, Michel. “Governmentality,” pp. 131-143 (to be uploaded)

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
   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.

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

Week Eight
Feminist Standpoint Theory
The following articles are all available on jstor at uoregon library. Please download.


Highly recommended:
Read Parts I and III.

Week Nine
Development

Week Ten
Race, Class, Sexuality and Gender
The following four articles are available on jstor at uoregon libraries.


**Recommended:**
Video: Achille Mbembe “Raceless Future”
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkqmAi1yEpo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkqmAi1yEpo)

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