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.

**Recommended Texts:**
   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/

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 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. What follows 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

This course is centered on discussion on the readings and learning to connect social theory to practice, i.e. how the world gets constructed through social forces. The emphasis in the course is reading the assigned articles and getting engaged in lively discussions around the ideas raises in these texts. I will ask students to think conceptually with theory and also try to link it to their specific disciplines. That is, how does an archeologist think about theory?

1. Attendance and Class Participation. 10%
Late arrivals and departures will count as an absence. Please be on time. We meet once a week and have a lot of material to cover.

2. Weekly Summaries. 30%
All students must write a one-page summary of two of the four readings that were assigned for that day. This should be single-spaced. You should provide a summary of the main points of the article, including definitions of key terms. **This should be uploaded to Canvas by 8 PM Wednesday.** By the end of the term, you will approximately 10 single-spaced pages on theoretical works.

3. Oral Presentations. 10%.
Each student will make one presentation from the readings. You will sign up for it during Week One. The oral presentation should be approximately 15 minutes long and should be conducted in the manner of a conference paper. You can do a Power Point presentation. The presentation will include the following:
(a) biographical information on the author;
(b) the questions/arguments raised in the text;
(c) the use of evidence in support of the arguments;
(d) your assessment of the article by identifying weaknesses and strengths

4. Short Essay. 50%.
Each student will write a 1000-1500-word essay on a topic that we cover in class. You should turn in your short essay between Weeks 6-9.

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, they may retake it the following year.

Week One Introduction to Course
All PDFs have been uploaded to canvas. you will be able to find many articles on jstor as well.

1. Kant, Immanuel. “What is Enlightenment”
http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html

2. Loomba, Ania. “Postcolonialism”


4.Recommended:
Frantz Fanon. “On Concerning Violence” in The Wretched of the World

Watch prior to Class:
Video: Edward Said On Orientalism (watch prior to class)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MYYDEj4fIU

Week Two Anthropology & Colonialism


Watch Butler’s video before class:

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

4. Athreya, Sheela. “Picking a Bone with Evolutionary Essentialism,” Anthropology News, September 18, 2018


**Week Three**

**Speaking for Others**


5. Watch online Gayatri Spivak on “The trajectory of the subaltern in my work?”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZHH4ALRFHw

**Week Four**

**Feminist Theory**

1. Lerner, Gerda. “Introduction,” and “Patriarchy” in The Invention of Patriarchy PDFs of the following articles are from of Feminist Theory Reader; Local and Global


**Week Five**

**Feminist Identities/Politics**

All the readings are from the Feminist Theory Reader on Canvas

1. Anne Stoler. “Placing Race in the History of Sexuality.”
2. Lauren Berlant. “Cruel Optimism.”


5. Abu-Lughod, Lila. “Orientalism and Middle East Feminist Studies”

**Watch Before Class:**

**Video: Achille Mbembe “Raceless Future”**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkqmAi1yEpo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkqmAi1yEpo)

**Week Six Subaltern Studies/Colonialism**


**Week Seven Power**


2. Michel Foucault. Bio-power and Biopolitics


**Week Eight Theories of the State**


Week Nine  Globalization and Neoliberalism


Week Ten  Development

