

**ANTHROPOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY 275**  
**EXPLORATION IN SOCIAL THEORY**  
**Fall 2006**

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(C109; #3931 Office hours: T TH 10:30-12:00 or most anytime)

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(C107; #3932; Office hrs: T, TR, 12:30-2pm; W 12-2pm, and by appt.)

Course Statement

Social theory is the conceptual backbone of both anthropology and sociology. The purpose of this seminar is to study classic and contemporary contributions to social theory and to explore how these contributions have informed the development and practice of anthropology and sociology. This course is being co-taught by an anthropologist and a sociologist in order to provide the interpretive perspectives of both disciplines. We will take turns lecturing and leading discussions, and participate in all seminar meetings.

Participation in seminar discussions is mandatory and will be one of the criteria for determining your course grade (10%). The seminar will also require the completion of four essay papers (20% each) and a seminar presentation of one essay paper (10%). In addition to meeting on Tuesdays and Thursday we will meet on Monday evenings four times during the semester in order to provide the necessary time to discuss essays and other seminar material.

Required Texts

- Jackson, Michael. 1998. Minima Ethnographica. U. of Chicago Press, Chicago
- Ritzer, George 2004. Sociological Theory 6'th edition. McGraw Hill: Boston.
- Taussig, Michael. 1988. The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America.  
U. of North Carolina Press.

Grading

Essay #1	.....	20%
Essay #2	.....	20%
Essay #3	.....	20%
Essay #4	.....	20%
Presentation	.....	10%
Class Participation	...	10%

Thursday	8/24	Overview of course goals and material
Tuesday	8/29	Durkheim Discuss chapter 3 in Ritzer (Durkheim)
Thursday	8/31	Durkheim Discuss handouts (Durkheim)
Tuesday	9/5	Durkheim, epistemology and religion Discuss handout (Durkheim)
Thursday	9/7	Culture Discuss handouts (Geertz, Wagner)
Tuesday	9/12	Structural Functionalism Discuss handouts (Rapaport)
Thursday	9/14	Structural functionalism Discuss handouts (Rapaport)
Tuesday	9/19	Marx, reification and commodity fetishism Discuss Chapter 2 in Ritzer (Marx) <b>Seminar meets between 5:00 and 7:00 PM for Presentations and discussion of essay #1</b>
Thursday	9/21	Taussig, Part I and II
Tuesday	9/27	Taussig (continued)
Thursday	9/28	Taussig, Part III
Tuesday	10/3	Taussig finished
Thursday	10/5	Marx's dialectical materialism Discuss handout (Marx)
Tuesday	10/10	Marx and alienation Discuss handout (Marx) <b>Seminar meets between 5:00 and 7:00 PM for Presentations and discussion of essay #2</b>
Thursday	10/12	Critical Theory Discuss chapter 13 in Farganis and handout (Habermas)

Tuesday	10/17	Fall Break
Thursday	10/19	Symbolic Sociology Discuss chapter 10 in Ritzer
Tuesday	10/24	Jackson, Preamble
Thursday	10/26	Jackson, Returns
Tuesday	10/31	Jackson, Digressions and Assays
Thursday	11/2	Jackson, Here/Now
Tuesday	11/7	Symbolic Sociology Discuss chapter 11 in Ritzer and handout (Mead)
Thursday	11/9	Phenomenology Discuss chapters 4 and 5 in Farganis
Tuesday	11/14	Weber Discuss chapter 4 in Ritzer <b>Seminar meets between 5:00 and 7:00 PM for Presentations and discussion of essay #3</b>
Thursday	11/16	Weber Discuss handout (Weber)
Tuesday	11/21	Hermeneutics and post modern theory Discuss handouts (Gadamer, McGowan)
Thursday	11/23	Thanksgiving break
Tuesday	11/28	Postmodernist social theory Discuss chapter 17 in Ritzer
Thursday	11/30	Postmodernist social theory Text, history, myth
Tuesday	12/5	Final class meeting <b>Seminar meets between 5:00 and 7:00 PM for Presentation and discussion of essay #4</b>