

**Social Theory: AS 275 Fall 1998**

**Course Statement**

This course aims to prepare you for upper-division course work in anthropology and sociology by examining the key contributions to anthropological and sociological theory. Class meetings will be a combination of lecture and discussion.

The course will integrate anthropological and sociological insights thematically in order to examine key areas such as structuralism, Marxism, evolutionism, postmodernism and interpretive theory. Emphasis will be placed on the philosophical context of each thinker, the answers their works provide, and the questions they raise. Given the challenging nature of the readings, we will spend a considerable amount of time discussing their meaning and make every attempt to draw out their practical relevance. In this sense the course is as much an intellectual exercise in self-understanding as it is a survey of classical and (to a lesser extent) contemporary social theory. The questions you bring to class as well as your contributions to discussions are therefore most important.

In addition to our Tuesday and Thursday meetings, we will also meet on four occasions during the semester to discuss course material in more detail. Prior to these meetings, which will be held on Monday evenings from 5-7pm, you will prepare an 8-10 essay in response to an assigned question. These meetings will give each of you an opportunity to discuss your essays and relate them to the material we have been studying. writing

**Grading**

Paper #1 .....	20%
Paper #2 .....	20%
Paper #3 .....	20%
Paper #4 .....	20%
Class Participation .....	20%

Thurs	8/27	Introduction to Course	
Tues	9/1	The "possibility" of social science	M&W ( 6), Ritzer (1)
Thurs	9/3	The "possibility" of social science (cont.)	M&W (Introduction, 2), Haraway, Hastrup (prologue, 4)
Tues	9/8	Culture	M&W (2), Geertz, Wagner
Thurs	9/10	Durkheim's imagination	Ritzer (3), Durkheim
Tues	9/15	Functionalism	Ritzer (7), Durkheim, Merton
Thurs	9/17	Evolutionism	M&W (3, 19, 22), Steward,
Tues	9/22	"Franz Boas" -- film	M&W (10)
Thurs	9/24	Structural Functionalism	M&W (13, 15, 23)
* Mon *	9/28	Paper #1 is due/disussion 5-7pm	
Tues	9/29	Marx's Dialectical Imagination	Ritzer (2), Marx
Thurs	10/1	Marx's sociological critique	Marx, Ritzer (8)
Tues	10/6	Structuralism	Levi-Strauss
Thurs	10/8	Taussig	The Devil (Part 1)
Tues	10/13	Taussig (cont.)	The Devil (Part 2)
Thurs	10/15	Taussig (cont.)	The Devil (Part 3)
Tues	10/20	Fall Break	
Thurs	10/22	Phenomenology & micro soc	Ritzer (9, 10) McGowan
* Mon *	10/26	Paper #2 is due/disussion 5-7pm	
Tues	10/27	The Social Construction of Reality	B & L (pp. 1-92)
Thurs	10/29	Weber, social action and rationality	Ritzer (4)

Tuesday	11/3	Weber, Culture an the Prot. Ethic Weber	
Thurs	11/5	Between experience and theory	Hastrup (1, 2, 3)
Tues	11/10	Between experience and theory	(cont.)
Thurs	11/12	Between experience and theory	(cont.)
* Mon *	11/16	Paper #3 is due/ disussion 5-7pm	
Tues	11/17	Engendering social theory	Ritzer (12), Butler
Thurs	11/19	Deconstructing gender	Butler, Keller
Tues	11/24	Postmodernist theory	Ryan, Ritzer (15, 16)
Thurs	11/26	Thanksgiving	
Tues	12/1	Pulling together postmodernism	
Thurs	12/3	Taking Stock: Intergrating social theory	
* Mon *	12/7	Paper #4 is due/ disussion 5-7pm	
Tues	12/8	Summary remarks/suggestions	