

## SOC 3390 - A01 CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba, Spring 2008

Instructor: Dr. Heidi Rimke  
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 Office: 301L (by app't)

Mon-Fri 10:45 am – 12:45  
 May 5- 28  
 Room: 402 Tier

Description: This purpose of this course is to introduce students to key texts in contemporary sociological theory. The course is designed as a survey of the major schools of thought and key theorists in the discipline. We will begin with a general discussion of theory and move through to feminism, critical theory, structuralism, post-structuralism, postmodernism, cultural studies and risk analysis.

Objectives: This course will provide the student with a broad understanding of key theoretical concepts, debates, and frameworks. It will provide students the opportunity: 1) to engage, discuss and become familiar with key original texts, 2) to develop both analytic abilities and critical thinking skills, 3) to enhance their understanding of the theoretical basis of sociology, and 4) to cultivate verbal, reading and writing skills. This course is designed to be stimulating and challenging intellectually.

**Note:** The course relies heavily on assigned readings and lectures. **Students are expected to do the assigned readings before coming to class.** Doing the readings is NOT considered a substitute for attending lecture. This is a reading intensive course.

Required Course Material (Available at the University Bookstore):

Calhoun, C. et al (Eds.). 2002. *Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Course Evaluation:

Three Tests (each worth 25%)	75%
Oral Presentation	15%
Participation	10%

Grade Distribution:

A+	>90%	C+	66-70%
A	81-90%	C	61-65%
B+	76-80%	D	50-69%
B	71-75%	F	<50%

Format: Lectures and group discussions

Tests: Definitions and Short Answer Questions. Duration 100 minutes

Oral Presentation: Presentation dates and topics will be assigned within the first few days of the course. Dates are firm, and will only be changed in the event of illness. A written précis of the presentation is to be distributed to all members of the class. Presentations should outline and discuss the major theoretical themes and concepts of the specified topic. Length: 20-25 minutes plus questions

Participation: Students must demonstrate their familiarity with each topic and required reading(s) through active class participation.

Attendance: Although attendance is not mandatory, absence from class will affect participation marks.

Paper: Students are required to write a short five-page paper on a topic to be given out in class. Papers are due at the end of the term (exact date to be announced at the start of the course) but

can be submitted at any time during the course. The essay questions will be given out in the first week. Late papers will not be accepted under any circumstances.

#### Instructional Offenses

Students should be aware of and respect the university's established policies on "Examinations: Impersonations" (p. 27) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (p. 28) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Oral Examination: All written work in this course may be subject to oral examination.

Duplicate Assignments: It is prohibited to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.

Official Documentation is required for make-up tests.

The voluntary withdrawal date is May 22, 2008.

#### **Class Schedule and Required Readings**

Please note that this course outline is subject to revision. Circumstances may arise that could alter the ordering and pace at which we move through the material. You are responsible for all assigned readings and material covered in class.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>Pages</u>
May 5	Introduction	N/A
May 6 7	What is Theory?	1-21
May 8 9	Micro-Sociological Analysis	23-77
May 12	Test #1	
May 13 14	Gender, Race, and Difference	308-347
May 15	Habermas	351-410
May 16	Bourdieu	257-304
May 19	NO CLASS (Victoria Day)	
May 20	Test #2	
May 21 22	Foucault	185-218
May 23 26	Giddens	221-256
May 27	Modernity and Postmodernity	413-447
May 28	Test #3	

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- 1. LECTURE NOTES WILL NOT BE PROVIDED BY THE INSTRUCTOR**
- 2. DOING THE READINGS IS NOT CONSIDERED A SUBSTITUTE FOR ATTENDING CLASS**
- 3. CELLULAR TELEPHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS**
- 4. PLEASE BRING WRITING UTENSILS AND PHOTO IDENTIFICATION TO ALL TESTS**