

SOC 302:20 Topics in Contemporary Theory
Instructor: Dr. P. Cormack
Winter, 2023

Office: 605 Nicholson Tower

Office Hours: Mondays, 9:30-11:00; Tuesdays, 11:15-12:00; Fridays, 10:30-12:30.

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Description:

This course considers that major sociological theorists from the post-World War II period of sociology. Topics include the micro-order, power, surveillance, inequality, race, gender, sexuality, culture, and media. Students are required to read primary source materials. It is highly recommended that students bring the book/readings to each class to follow along as passages are discussed.

Students may drop a course, online in Banner, on or before the relevant deadline. See the calendar of events in the StFX Academic Calendar for the drop-date.

Assessment:

Mid-term exam (20%) – **FEBRUARY 14**

Essay (30%) – **MARCH 31** (see moodle for essay assignment).

- 5% penalty per day (including weekends) for late essays.

Final exam (50%) - TBA

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Required readings:

Garner, R and Hancock, BH (2014), Social Theory: A Reader: Volume II, From Modernity to Contemporary Theory. University of Toronto Press. (3rd edition).

Posted moodle readings.

Reading Schedule:

January 10-13: Goffman, "The Interaction Order", ASA speech (moodle).

January 17-20: Goffman, Chapter 1, from Presentation of Self in Everyday Life (moodle) and pp. 341-351, textbook.

January 24-27: Goffman, "Characteristics of Total Institutions", from Asylums. (moodle).

January 31 – February 3: Foucault, from Discipline and Punish, pp. 367-388, textbook.

February 7-10: Bourdieu (vari), pp.391-398 and 403-407, textbook. Review for midterm exam.

February 14 – **MIDTERM EXAM**

FEB 17 – (BREAK) - 28: Bourdieu, "Forms of Capital" (moodle).

March 3: Fanon, "The Wretched of the Earth", pp. 460-464, textbook.

March 7: Said, "Orientalism", pp. 466-470, textbook.

March 10: Smith, "The Conceptual Practices of Power", pp. 492-496, textbook.

March 14: Smith, "The Authority of the Male Voice" (moodle)

March 17: Butler, "Bodies that Matter", pp. 497-503, textbook.

March 21: Connell, "Masculinities", pp. 512-518, textbook.

March 24: Essay Workshop

March 28: Debord, "The Society of the Spectacle", pp. 575-582, textbook.

March 31: Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Simulations", pp. 585-594, textbook. **ESSAY DUE (SUBMIT TO MOODLE)**

April 4: REVIEW

FINAL EXAM - TBA