Sociology 920:516:01  
Department of Sociology  
Rutgers University  
(Spring 2016)

Professor: Zakia Salime  
Time: M 9.30am/12.30pm  
Office Hours: M-W 1-2pm  
Room: 137 Davison Hall  
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Required Readings
Deborah Cowen. *The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade* (Minnesota, 2014)  
(Blakwell, 1990)  

All other required readings are on Sakai.

Highly recommended
Michel Foucault. *Society Must be Defended* (Picador, 1997)  
Boaventura de Sousa Santos. *Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide* (Routledge, 2014)

Course Description
This course is designed to provide a broad overview of contemporary debates in social theory. It offers an extensive introduction to different schools of thought that have had a deep influence on the debates in social theory. The course aims at providing you with the conceptual tools that enable you to read, write, and think critically about social dynamics at the intersections of class, race, culture, gender, economics, and politics. We will explore contemporary social debates through the influence of Semiotics, Symbolic Interaction, Structuralism, Functionalism, and Structural-Functionalism, Critical Theory, Critical Race Studies, Governmentality Studies, Poststructuralism, Postmodernism, Postcolonial and Subaltern Studies, as well as Feminist Theory and Public Sociology. We will explore texts as they tackle questions of structure and agency; culture and politics; knowledge and power; systems; the psychological and emotional bases of domination; subjects and subjectivities; and gender, race and diasporic identities.

Course objectives
This course will allow students (1) become familiar with the main conceptual and theoretical frameworks that have influenced social research broadly defined; (2) improve their critical thinking through cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary analyses of social forces as they work to produce structures of domination, subjects, policies and institutions; (3) locate their own work
and interests within and in relation to these perspectives; (4) understand sociology as a discipline that has been shaped by other theoretical approaches.

**Class Format:** The class is organized as a seminar with students taking an active role in the discussions. This entails reflecting on the readings, participating in the class discussions and bringing provocative thoughts and questions to the class on a weekly basis.

**Course Requirements**

1) A weekly reaction. Students must do **ALL** of the assigned readings; post a 2-3 page memo/reaction piece about the readings. I expect you to write about **EACH** chunk of required reading, no matter how short or long. I also encourage you to include at least two explicitly formulated questions that you would like to see raised during class discussion. **Briefs must be posted to the course’s website on Sakai by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.** Fifty percent of your final grade will be based on class participation and the quality of these memos. Your **attendance is required every week.**

2) A **Final Paper**, due on the last day of class on Mai 5. I suggest the following:

1) A 20-page research paper, in which you explicitly utilize one or more of the theoretical frameworks discussed in this class to animate your analysis;

2) A 20-page literature review in which you go beyond the syllabus to explore more richly debates in a particular vein of theorizing or applications of concepts in that theoretical vein;

3) A 20-page critical essay reviewing and explicitly juxtaposing different theoretical frameworks we have explored during the semester and placing them in constructive dialogue with each other;

Whichever of these options you choose, you must discuss your goals with the course instructors by **March 8.** Papers are **due on/or before May 5 with no exception.**

**Class policy and Academic Integrity**

Keep in mind those basics:

We earned membership in this class; we must be respectful of all the voices that will be expressed.

Make sure to use the forums open by the instructors in a way that reflects your respect to the ethics of academic debate.

My policy about plagiarism is **F**

**Academic Integrity**

I follow the Rutgers University’s policy on academic integrity. Please explore the website indicated below to become more familiar with this policy: [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf)

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

**Diversity**

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and
affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have Instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.
Schedule of Classes (Subject to revisions)

January 25        Function, Structure, Agency
Watch: Century of the Self
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJ3RzGoQC4s

February 1        Phenomenology, Ethnomethodology, Symbolic Interaction

February 8        Problematizing Modernity, Knowledge, and the Enlightenment
Timothy Mitchell, Colonizing Egypt (California Press 1989) (excerpts)
Edward Said, Orientalism (Vintage Book 1979) Introduction
Ben Ager, “The Disciplinary Positioning of Theory” pp 1-33
David Harvey, The Conditions of Postmodernity, pp 211-307

February 15       Modernity, Postmodernism and Poststructuralism

David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*, pp 3-117

Ben Agger, *Critical Social Theories*. Chapter 2-3


**February 22**  
**Feminist Critique**


Judith Butler, Gender Trouble, Feminism and the Subversion of Identity (Routledge 1990) (excerpts)

Judith Butler, Frames of War When is Life Grievable (2009, Verso) (excerpts)

*Watch:* Gayatry Chakravorty Spivak, “The Trajectory of the Subaltern in My Work”  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZHH4ALRFHw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZHH4ALRFHw)

*Watch:* Judith Butler, “Why Bodies Matter”?  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD6vifFTDLY

**February 29**  
**Hegemony, Culture, Ideology**

Antonio Gramsci, “Culture and ideological Hegemony,” pp. 47-54 in Jeffrey Alexander and Steven Seidman, eds., *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates*


Antonio Gramsci, “State and Civil Society,” from Prison Notebooks

Marcia Landy. “Gramsci Beyond Gramsci: the Writings of Toni Negri” Boundary 2(21-2) (Summer 1994):63-97

Jurgen Habermas, “Further Reflections in the Public Sphere,” pp 421-440 in Craig Calhoun, ed., *Habermas and the Public Sphere* (MIT, 1992)


Link: [http://burawoy.berkeley.edu/Public%20Sociology,%20Live/Burawoy.pdf](http://burawoy.berkeley.edu/Public%20Sociology,%20Live/Burawoy.pdf)

**March 7**  
**Pierre Bourdieu, Structure and Agency**
Pierre Bourdieu and Loic J. D. Wacquant, *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*, pp. 7-19, 36-41
Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction*, pp. 1-7, 372-396 (Harvard, 1984) [read and print only these pages!]

Highly recommended

March 12-20  Spring Break

March 21  Michel Foucault

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality*
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 3-7, 195-230 (“The body of the condemned,” and “Panopticism”) (Vintage, 1979)

Watch: video Justice vs. Power - Noam Chomsky vs. Michel Foucault
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mj2VJ7oexKc&feature=related

March 28  Race, Critical Race Theory and Postcolonial Encounters

Stuart Hall, “When was the Postcolonial?” In the Postcolonial Question. Edited by Iain Chambers and Lidia Curti (Routledge 1996) Pp 242 -260
Ben Agger, Critical Social Theory, Chapters 7-8

Watch: *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985), directed by Stephen Frears, (94 min)
 OR: *Sammie and Rosie Get Laid* (1992), directed by Stephen Frears (97 min)
Watch: *The color of fear*
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+color+of+fear+

April 4  Governmentality and Power

Michel Foucault, “Docile Bodies,” pp. 179-204 in *The Foucault Reader*
Tayyab Mahmud, “Debt and Discipline” American Quarterly 64(3) (September 2012): 469-493

Watch: Justice vs. Power - Noam Chomsky vs. Michel Foucault http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mj2VJ7oexKc&feature=related
Watch: The Madness of King George (1994), dir. by Nicholas Hytner (107 min)

April 11 Colonial Representations, Postcolonial Encounters

Frantz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks (Grove Weidenfield, 1967) (Excerpts)
Mcclintock, Ann. Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality (Routledge 1995) (excerpts)

Watch: The Road to Guantanamo
Watch: Butler’s talk on Edward Said and Mahmood Darwish, American University in Cairo http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLgIXtaF6OA&feature=player_embedded

April 18 State, Violence, Neoliberal Encounters
Salwa Ismail. Political Life in Cairo’s new Quarters (Minnesota Press, 2006)

April 25
Deborah Cowen. The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade (Minnesota, 2014)

Mai 2, No class
Final Paper Due on May 5