Social Theory II

This course will provide an overview of 20th-century social theory, with an emphasis on critical or radical theoretical perspectives. Among the questions to be addressed are: Does Marxism provide an adequate theoretical foundation for the critique and transformation of capitalist society? What are the critical theoretical alternatives within and beyond Marxism? What are the limitations of Marxism as a theory of human liberation and how have other radical theoretical perspectives addressed these limitations? How does critical social theory inform sociological research and political practice?

Course Readings (*asterisk indicates required reading)

Week 1. Introduction (January 5)

No readings

Week 2. The Origins of Western Marxism (January 12)

Eduard Bernstein, *Evolutionary Socialism*.
Lucio Colletti, "Bernstein and the Marxism of the Second International," in *From Rousseau to Lenin*.
Andrew Arato and Paul Breines, *The Young Lukacs and the Origins of Western Marxism*.
Andrew Feenberg, *Lukacs, Marx, and the Sources of Critical Theory*.
Istvan Meszaros, *Lukacs' Concept of Dialectic*.
Joseph Femia, *Gramsci's Political Thought*.
Ann Showstack Sassoon, ed., *Approaches to Gramsci*.
Chantal Mouffe, ed., *Gramsci and Marxist Theory*.
Christine Buci-Glucksman, *Gramsci and the State*.
Week 3. The Frankfurt School and Critical Theory (January 19)

Martin Jay, *The Dialectical Imagination*.
Phil Slater, *The Origin and Significance of the Frankfurt School*.
Douglas Kellner, *Critical Theory, Marxism, and Modernity*.
Perry Anderson, *Considerations on Western Marxism*.
Max Horkheimer, *Critical Theory*.
Max Horkheimer and Theodore Adorno, *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*.
Herbert Marcuse, *Reason and Revolution*.
Herbert Marcuse, *Negations*.
Jurgen Habermas, *Knowledge and Human Interests*, appendix.
John B. Thompson and David Held, eds., *Habermas: Critical Debates*.
Craig Calhoun, ed., *Habermas and the Public Sphere*.
Tom Rockmore, *Habermas on Historical Materialism*.
Steven K. White, *The Recent Work of Jurgen Habermas*.

Week 4. The Positivism Debate (January 26)

Week 5. Structuralist Marxism and Its Critics (February 2)

*Louis Althusser, For Marx, pp. 87-111, 200-218.
Louis Althusser, Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays, pp. 127-186.
Louis Althusser, Essays in Self-Criticism.
Nicos Poulantzas, Political Power and Social Classes.
Nicos Poulantzas, Classes in Contemporary Capitalism.
Nicos Poulantzas, State, Power, Socialism.
Ted Benton, The Rise and Fall of Structural Marxism, chapter 7.
Perry Anderson, Arguments within English Marxism, chapters 1-3.
Simon Clarke et al., One-Dimensional Marxism: Althusser and the Politics of Culture.

Week 6. Analytical Marxism and Rational-Choice Theory (February 9)

G. A. Cohen, "Reply to Elster on 'Marxism, Functionalism, and Game Theory,'" Theory and Society, Vol. 11, 1982
Erik Olin Wright, Classes, especially chapters 1-4.
John Roemer, A General Theory of Exploitation and Class.

**Week 7. The Marx-Weber Debate (February 16)**


Bryan S. Turner, *For Weber*.
Frank Parkin, *Marxism and Class Theory: A Bourgeois Critique*.

**Week 8. Postmodernism (February 23)**

* George Ritzer, *Postmodern Social Theory* (chapters 1, 3-6, 9, 12).
* Pauline Marie Rosenau, *Post-Modernism and the Social Sciences* (chap. 1,7,8).
Jean-Francois Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*.
Jean Baudrillard, *The Mirror of Production*. 

Jean Baudrillard, *For a Critique of the Political Economy of the Sign.*
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish.*
Michel Foucault, *Madness and Civilization.*
Alex Callinicos, *Against Postmodernism: A Marxist Critique.*
Steven Best and Douglas Kellner, *Postmodern Theory.*
Roy Boyne and Ali Rattansi, eds., *Postmodernism and Society.*
David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity.*
Jurgen Habermas, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity.*
Anthony Giddens, *The Consequences of Modernity.*
Douglas Kellner, *Critical Theory, Marxism, and Modernity.*
Barry Smart, *Foucault, Marxism and Critique.*

**Week 9. Feminism, Marxism, Postmodernism (March 2)**

*Heidi Hartmann, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union," in Lydia Sargent, ed., *Women and Revolution.*
*Jane Humphries, "Class Struggle and the Persistence of the Working-Class Family" in Anthony Giddens and David Held, eds., *Class, Power, Conflict.*
*Sandra Harding, "What is the Real Material Base of Patriarchy and Capital?" in Lydia Sargent, ed., *Women and Revolution.*
Michele Barrett, *Women's Oppression Today.*
Annette Kuhn and AnnMarie Wolpe, eds., *Feminism and Materialism.*
Zillah Eisenstein, ed., *Capitalist Patriarchy and the Case for Socialist Feminism.*
Nancy Fraser, *Unruly Practices: Power, Discourse, and Gender in Contemporary Social Theory.*
Jane Flax, *Thinking Fragments: Psychoanalysis, Feminism and Postmodernism in the Contemporary West*.
Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*.
Lise Vogel, *Marxism and the Oppression of Women*.

**Week 10. The Wright-Burawoy Debate (March 9)**

*Erik Olin Wright et al., *The Debate on Classes*, chapter 2.*
Andrew Sayer, *Method in Social Science: A Realist Approach*.
Roy Bhaskar, *The Possibility of Naturalism*.
Roy Bhaskar, *Scientific Realism and Human Emancipation*.
Rom Harre, *Varieties of Realism*.
Jarrett Leplin, ed., *Scientific Realism*.
Russell Keat and John Urry, *Social Theory as Science*.