

**Sociological Theory B**  
**SYA 6126**  
**Spring 2007**  
**Guillermo J. Grenier**

**TEXTS:** Turner, Jonathan, Leonard Beeghley and Charles H. Powers. 2007. The Emergence of Sociological Theory. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Belmont, Ca.: Thomson/Wadsworth.  
Durkheim, Emile. 1912/1995. The Elementary Forms of Religious Life NY: Free Press. Translation by Karen E. Fields. (Paperback)  
Weber, Max, H.H. Gerth, C.W. Mills. 1958. From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology. Oxford University Press. (Paperback)  
Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1970. The German Ideology. International Publishers. (must have introduction by C.J. Arthur)  
Stepick, Grenier, Castro and Dunn. This Land is Our Land: Power and Immigrants in Miami. University of California Press. 2003.  
Giddens, Anthony. 1990. The Consequences of Modernity. Stanford: Stanford University Press.  
Ritzer, George. 2004. The McDonaldization of Society. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.  
Barber, Benjamin R. 1995. Jihad vs. McWorld. New York. Ballentine Books.  
Duneier, Mitchell. 1999. Sidewalk. New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux.  
Boyer, Pascal. 2001. Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought. Basic Books: NY. (paperback)

**Reading Packet** available at the Soc/Anth. Office.

**Web Resources:** Explore the outdated theoretical resources at [www.fiu.edu/~grenierg](http://www.fiu.edu/~grenierg).

An extremely useful website about all things sociological can be found at

<http://www.trinity.edu/%7Emkearl/>. Read the theory section liberally during the semester.

- Assignments**
1. Keep a notebook on your readings, to be checked weekly. These notes should include 3-5 questions that you would ask your students to answer from each of the readings. We will discuss these questions in class. (10pts x 10=100pts.)
  2. Write a quality paper on one of the major Sociological schools that spring up from time to time in the discipline: Chicago School, Functionalism, Conflict, Symbolic Interaction, Frankfurt School, Exchange Theory or any other. Make certain that you identify the major theorists in the school, it's key concepts, and the evidenced (types of variables) used to operationalize the concepts. The instructor will work with you personally to clarify the elements of your paper and we will discuss your paper topics frequently in class to take advantage of the input from colleagues. (100 pts.)
  3. One take-home exam very similar to the competency exam in Theory that Soc/Anth. grad students take. (100 pts.)

**Week 1, Jan. 9: Introduction to the Course: From Concepts to Variables to Concepts.**

**Week 2, Jan. 16: The Beginning of Social Theory**

**Text:** Turner, et al. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 16, 17

**Books:** Marx/Engels, The German Ideology  
Durkheim: The Elementary Forms of Religious Life

**Week 3, Jan. 23: The Beginning of Social Theory**

**Articles and Chapters to Discuss:**

**Text:** Turner, et al. 4,5, 10, 11.

**Books:** Weber, Max, H.H. Gerth, C.W. Mills. 1958. From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology. Chapters VII, VIII, XI, XII, XIII.

**Reading Packet:**

Anthony Giddens. 1976. "Classical Social Theory and the Origins of Modern Sociology." *American Journal of Sociology* 81(4):703-729.

Connell, R.W. 1997. "Why is Classical Theory Classical?" *American Journal of Sociology* 102 (6): 1511-57.

Gibbs, Jack. 1972. "Chapter 1: Preliminary Considerations." Pp. 3-18. From Sociological Theory Construction. Hinsdale: Illinois. The Dryden Press.

Turner, Jonathan. 1982. "Chapter 1: Sociological Theorizing." Pp. 1-15. in The Structure of Sociological Theory. Homewood, Illinois: The Dorsey Press.

Halliday, Terence and Morris Janowitz (eds.). 1992. "Chapter 4: Sociology, Other Disciplines, and the Project of a General Understanding of Social Life." Pp. 137-195. From Sociology and Its Publics. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press.

Alford, Robert. "Introduction." Pp. 1-53. From The Craft of Inquiry: Theories, Methods, Evidence. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mouzelis, Nicos. 1992. "Introduction." Pp. 1-11. From Sociological Theory. What Went Wrong? London: Routledge.

Wilson, E.O. 1998. "The Social Sciences." Pp. 181-209. From Conscience: The Unity of Knowledge. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

#### **Week 4, Jan. 30: Foundations of Modern Sociology 1—Chicago School and Its Concerns.**

##### **Reading Packet:**

Addams, Jane. 1886. "A Belated Industry." American Journal of Sociology. 1 (5). 536-550.

Addams, Jane. 1899. "Trade Unions and Public Duty." American Journal of Sociology. 4 (4). 448-462.

Coser, Lewis A. 1976. "Sociological Theory From the Chicago Dominance to 1965." *Annual Review of Sociology* 2:145-160.

Thomas, W.I. From *The Unadjusted Girl*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Co., 1923.

Mead, George Herbert. 1913. "The Social Self", Journal of Philosophy, Psychology. From a presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Western Philosophical Association. March, 1913.

Parks, Robert E. 1915. "The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the City Environment." *American Journal of Sociology*. Vol 20. Number 5. (March, 1915). 577-612.

#### **Week 5, Feb. 6: Foundations of Contemporary Social Theory 2: Functionalism, Neo Functionalism and Conflict Theory**

**Text: Turner, 6, 9, 12, 18**

##### **Reading Packet:**

Parsons, Talcott. 1938. "The Role of Theory in Social Research." American Sociological Review. 3 (1). 13-20.

Parsons, Talcott. 1948. "The Position of Sociological Theory." American Sociological Review. 13 (2). 156-171.

Parsons, Talcott. 1938. "The Role of Ideas in Social Action." American Sociological Review. 3 (5). 652-664.

Parsons, Talcott. 1942. "Age and Sex in the Social Structure of the United States." *American Sociological Review* 7(5):604-616.

Parsons, Talcott. 1937. "Introductory." The Structure of Social Action. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Parsons, Talcott. 1937. "The Unit Act of Social Systems." pp. 43-48. From The Structure of Social Action. New York: Free Press.

Parsons, Talcott. 1971. "Action Systems and Social Systems." Pp. 4-8. from The System of Modern Societies. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Merton, Robert K. 1936. "The Unanticipated Consequences of Purposive Social Action." *American Sociological Review* 1(6):894-904.

Merton, Robert K. 1938. "Social Structure and Anomie." *American Sociological Review* 3(5):672-682.

Merton, Robert K. 1945. "Sociological Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 50(6):462-473.

Merton, Robert K. 1948. "The Bearing of Empirical Research upon the Development of Social Theory." *American Sociological Review* 13(5):505-515.

Merton, Robert K. 1934. "Recent French Sociology." *Social Forces*. 12(4): 537-545.

**Week 6, Feb. 13: The Conflict Critique 1: Beyond Functionalism, barely.**

**Reading Packet:**

Coser, Lewis. 1972. "Marxist Thought in the First Quarter of the 20th Century." *American Journal of Sociology* 78(1):173-201.

Coser, Lewis. 1956. Selection: Conclusion, pp. 151-157. From his *The Functions of Social Conflict*. New York: The Free Press.

Collins, Randall. 1974. "The Basics of Conflict Theory." From his *Conflict Sociology*. New York: Academic Press, pp.56-61

Collins, Randall. 1971. "Functional and Conflict Theories of Educational Stratification." *American Sociological Review* 36(6):1002-1019.

Wrong, Dennis. 1961. "The Over-socialized Conception of Man in Modern Sociology." *American Sociological Review* 26(2):183-193.

Dahrendorf, Ralph. 1958. "Out of Utopia: Toward a Reorientation of Sociological Analysis." *American Journal of Sociology* 64(2):115-127.

**Week 7, Feb 20: The Marxist Critique: The Frankfurt School, Neo-Marxism and Marx in America.**

**Reading Packet:**

Marcuse, Herbert. 1964. "Negative Thinking: The Defeated Logic of Protest." Pp. 123-143 from *One-Dimensional Man*. Boston: Beacon Press.

McLaughlin, Neil. 1999. "Origin Myths in the Social Sciences: From the Frankfurt School and the Emergence of Critical Theory" *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 24, 1 (1999): 109-39.

Mills, C. Wright. 1957. "The Power Elite." Pp. 269-297. From The Power Elite. New York: Harper.

Mills, C. Wright. 1957. "The Chief Executive." From The Power Elite. New York: Harper.

Mills, C. Wright. 1946. "The Middle Classes in Middle-Sized Cities: The Stratification and Political Position of Small Business and White Collar Strata." *American Sociological Review* 11(5):520-529.

Mills, C. Wright. 1945. "The American Business Elite: A Collective Portrait." *Journal of Economic History* 5(suppl.):20-44.

**Week 8, Feb. 27: Considering Human Actions and Interactions**

**Reading Packet:**

Blumer, Herbert. 1954. "What is Wrong with Social Theory?" *American Sociological Review* 19(1):3-10.

Homans, George C. 1964. "Bringing Men Back In." *American Sociological Review* 29(6):809-818.

Homans, George C. 1958. "Social Behavior as Exchange." *American Journal of Sociology* 63(6):597-606.

### **Week 9, March 6: Integrating Micro and Macro Visions**

**Text:** Ritzer, Chapter 10, "Micro-Macro Integration," and Chapter 11 "Agency-Structure Integration"

#### **Reading Packet:**

Blau, Peter M. 1977. "A Macrosociological Theory of Social Structure". American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 83, No. 1, pp. 26-54.

Blau, Peter M. 1995. "A Circuitous Path to Macrostructural Theory". Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 21, pp. 1-19.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1989. "Social Space and Symbolic Power." Sociological Theory. Volume 7, Issue 1, (Spring, 1989), pp. 14-25.

### **Week 10, March 13: : World Systems**

#### **Reading Packet :**

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1976. "The Modern World System." From The Modern World-System: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century. New York: Academic Press, 1976, pp. 229-233.

Kiser, Edgar and Hechter Michael. "The Role of General Theory in Comparative-Historical Sociology." The American Journal of Sociology. Vol. 97, No.1. (July 1991), pp. 1-30.

### **Week 11: Spring Break (March 19-24)**

### **Week 12, March 27 The New World Order: Arguments with Modernity.**

**Book:** Giddens, Anthony. 1990. The Consequences of Modernity. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

### **Week 13, April 3: McWorld vs. the World**

#### **PAPER DUE-TAKE HOME EXAM GIVEN OUT**

**Book:** Ritzer, George. 2004. The McDonaldization of Society. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

**Book:** Barber, Benjamin R. 1995. Jihad vs. McWorld. New York. Ballentine Books.

### **Week 14, April 10: Views from the Ground: Exploring Forces that Shape Everyday Life**

**Book:** Stepick, Grenier, Castro and Dunn. This Land is Our Land: Power and Immigrants in Miami. University of California Press. 2003.

**Book:** Duneier, Mitchell. 1999. Sidewalk. New York: Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux.

### **Week 15, April 17: What if the Hokey-Pokey IS What It's All About? Postmodernism and Other Stories**

**Book:** Boyer, Pascal. 2001. Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religious Thought. Basic Books: NY. (paperback)

### **Week 16: Exam Week—EXAM DUE.**