



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
SOC*3310 Contemporary Theory
Fall 2023

Instructor: Devan Hunter
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Office: TBC
Office Hours: TBC

Calendar Description

This course outlines and evaluates the major theories in use today. A central aspect of the course is instruction in the application of these theories. Prerequisites: SOAN 2112; SOAN 2120

Course Description

This course examines the landscape of contemporary social theory. This is accomplished through examining key theoretical perspectives, concepts and debates in contemporary theory, as well as exploring how theory can be applied to social phenomena to enhance our understanding of the social world. Substantive focus in the course spans: (1) the construction of theory – i.e. what theorizing is, how to theorize, and what to theorize about; (2) the exploration of theoretical works on identities, social location, structures of power and oppression, embodiment, and social patterns; and, (3) how diverse voices/perspectives deepen the analytical (and worldmaking!) possibilities of contemporary theory. Students will be introduced to different examples of how sociologists employ theory within their research, focusing in on the interplay between research methods, theorizing, and personal experiences. Overall, in this course, students will not only be familiarized with contemporary theory, but furthermore, students will recognize their own capacities to theorize and think critically as they engage with theory throughout the semester.

Required Texts

Students do not have to purchase a textbook. All required readings are available via ARES, the library online course reserves, and CourseLink.

Methods of Evaluation

Mid-term
Contemporary Theory Paper (Proposal, Paper, Reflection)
Take-home Final Exam
Participation Activities (Synchronous and Asynchronous)

Please note: this outline is for information purposes only. The final and full syllabus will be distributed in the first class.