

SOCI 309 - Contemporary Social Theorizing

Instructor: Dr. Edwin Hodge

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Course Description¹:

When we try to understand the social world around us, it's critical that we do so using frameworks that give our efforts different perspectives to help us make sense of what we're seeing. It is likely that you've come across some of these perspectives in your courses or in your discussions elsewhere, terms like *feminism*, *post-structuralism*, or *post-modernity*. But what are these, really? How should we understand them, and how can they help us to better understand our world?

This course builds on classical social theorizing (SOCI 210) by examining the theoretical perspectives that emerged in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. We will be able to see how earlier social theories gave rise to new perspectives, and we'll see how those perspectives were shaped by historical conditions. Towards the end of the course, we'll examine how some forms of social theory have left the confines of academia and have taken root in social media spaces where activist groups and other communities have engaged in new patterns of theorizing.

Topics Covered will include:

Critical theory; structuralism; micro-sociological theory; colonialism & postcolonial theory; feminist theory; poststructuralism; power; subjectivity; freedom; bodies; symbolic violence; globalization; Indigenous theorizing; and new materialisms.

Course Objectives:

This course has a few key objectives:

1. To become familiar with some of the dominant theoretical perspectives in the social sciences today
2. To gain familiarity and confidence applying critical thinking to engage with – and challenge – key theoretical perspectives
3. To learn how to engage in the *process* of theorizing (i.e. learning how to develop new insights into contemporary social issues using different perspectives).

Course Pre-requisites:

SOCI 210 – Classical Social Theorizing

¹ This outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. A detailed course outline will be made available before the first day of class. Only that outline is to be considered official.

Mode of Delivery:

This is an in-person class. Class sessions will involve substantial discussion-based portions and will not be recorded.