

Graduate Program in Sociology Comprehensive Exam Reading List

Social Theory

April 19, 2023

Pedagogical Objectives

- To prepare students to teach in the areas of sociological and social theory
- To provide students with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with works that have shaped the ongoing development of sociological theory.

The two sections of this reading list cover:

1. Classical sociological theory, which is taken to include works that informed the establishment of sociology, together with representative theoretical texts of the founders of the discipline.
2. Contemporary sociological theory, which includes landmark texts from the second half of the 20th century that have had an enduring influence on the major schools of theory.

Instructions to students

This reading list has been designed to balance required readings with readings chosen by the student. Your final list must include:

1. At least three readings from the classical theory section of the comprehensive reading list and at least nine from contemporary theory section.
2. Additional readings from this list identified by the student in consultation with their comprehensive exam committee.
3. Reading chosen by the student that do not appear on this list (up to a maximum of 25% of your final reading list).

In total you should create a reading list consisting of the equivalent of 25 medium-sized books (5 journal articles or chapters = 1 medium-sized book). Students may choose individual chapters, or standard chapter-length excerpts, from the edited collections included in this reading list.

Classical Theory:

Bentham, Jeremy (1996 [1789]). *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, Chapter I: "Of the Principle of Utility" and Chapter III: "Of the Four Sanctions or Sources of Pain and Pleasure". In *The Collected Works of Jeremy Bentham*, Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Comte, Auguste (2017 [1848]). *A General View of Positivism*. New York: Routledge.

Du Bois, W.E.B. (1995 [1903]). *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York: Signet.

[Du Bois, W.E.B. \(1935\). *Black Reconstruction*. New York: The Free Press.](#)

Durkheim, Emile (1984 [1893]). *The Division of Labor in Society*. London: MacMillan.

Durkheim, Emile (1987 [1897]). *Suicide*. G. Simpson (ed.), New York: Free Press.

Durkheim, Emile (1995 [1913]). *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York: Free Press.

Mannheim, Karl (1929). *Ideology and Utopia*. New York: Beacon Press

Marx, Karl (1978 [1848]). R. Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*. (pp.473-500). New York: Norton.

Marx, Karl. (1976 [1867]). *Capital, Vol. 1*. London: Penguin.

Mead, G.H. (1934) *Mind, Self and Society: From the Standpoint of a Social Behaviorist*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Saint-Simon, Henri de (2016 [1819-25]). *Henri Saint-Simon (1760-1825): Selected writings on science, industry, and social organization*. New York: Routledge.

Simmel, Georg (1971). *On Individuality and Social Forms: Selected Writings*. Donald N. Levine (ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Simmel, Georg (2004 [1900]). *The Philosophy of Money*. (3rd rev. ed.). David Frisby (ed.), New York: Routledge.

Tocqueville, Alexis de (2003 [1835 - 1840]). *Democracy in America*. London: Penguin.

Tönnies, F. (1988 [1887]). *Community and Society*. New Brunswick: Transaction.

Veblen, Thorstein (2009 [1899]). *Theory of the Leisure Class*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Weber, Max (1978 [1922]). *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology* (G. Roth and C. Wittich (eds)). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Weber, Max (2002 [1904-1905]). *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. Los Angeles: Roxbury.

Weber, Max (2020). *Charisma and Disenchantment*. New York: NYRB Books.

Wollstonecraft, Mary (1995 [1792]). *A Vindication of the Rights of Men; with, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, and Hints*. (S. Tomaselli (ed.)), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Selection: "A vindication of the rights of woman."]

Contemporary Theory:

Adorno, Theodor et al. (1976). *The Positivist Dispute in German Sociology*. London: Heinemann

Alexander, Jeffrey (1982-1983). *Theoretical Logic in Sociology*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Archer, Margaret (1995). *Realist Social Theory: The Morphogenetic Approach*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Arendt, Hannah (1958). *The Human Condition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Barad, K. (2007). *Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press

Bauman, Zygmunt (1991). *Modernity and the Holocaust*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press

Beck, Ulrich (1992). *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*. London and Thousand Oaks: Sage

Bell, Daniel (1999). *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism*. New York: Basic Books

Berger, Peter and Luckmann, Thomas (1967). *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge*. New York: Anchor Doubleday.

Bhabra, G. K. (2007). *Rethinking Modernity: Postcolonialism and the Sociological Imagination*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Bhaskar, Roy et al. (1988) *Critical Realism: Essential Readings* London: Routledge

Blumer, Herbert (1969). *Symbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall

Bourdieu, Pierre (1990). *The Logic of Practice* (Nice, Richard (trans.)). Stanford: Stanford University Press

Bourdieu, Pierre (1991). *Language and Symbolic Power*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Bourdieu, Pierre (1976) *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste* (Nice, Richard, trans.). Stanford: Stanford University Press

Butler, Judith (1990). *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, London and New York: Routledge

Butler, Judith (2004). *Undoing Gender*. New York and Thousand Oaks: Routledge.

Collins, Patricia Hill (1990). *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. Boston: Unwin Hyman.

Collins, Randall (2004). *Interaction Ritual Chains*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Connell, Raewyn (2002). *Gender*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell.

Coulthard, Glenn Sean (2014). *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Crenshaw, Kimberlé (1991). "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43(6): 1241-1299.

Daston, Lorraine (1992). "Objectivity and the Escape from Perspective." *Social Studies of Science* 22(4): 597-618.

Davis, Angela. (1983). *Women, Race, Class*. New York: First Vintage Books Edition.

de Beauvoir, Simone (1957). *The Second Sex*. (H.M. Parsley (trans. and ed.)). New York: Knopf.

Derrida, Jacques (1978). *Writing and Difference*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Elias, Norbert (1978). *The Civilizing Process: The History of Manners and State Formation*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Elias, Norbert (1970). *What is Sociology?* New York: Columbia University Press

Elster, Jon (1989). *Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Fanon, F. (1963). *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press.

Fanon, Frantz (1967). *Black Skins, White Masks*. (trans. C.L. Markmann). New York: Grove Press

Foucault, Michel (1990). *The History of Sexuality Volume 1*. New York: Vintage Books.

Foucault, Michel (1979). *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage Books.

Gadamer, Hans-Georg (1989). *Truth and Method*. New York: Crossroad.

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

Giddens, Anthony (1984) *The Constitution of Society* Cambridge: Polity.

Gilroy, Paul (1993). *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Gilroy, Paul (2005). *Postcolonial Melancholia* . New York: Columbia University Press

Goffman, Erving (1959). *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Anchor Books.

Goffman, Erving (1963). *Behavior in Public Places: Notes on the Social Organization of Gatherings* New York: Free Press.

Gramsci, Antonio (1991- 1996). *The Prison Notebooks, Vol. 1 & 2*. New York: Columbia.

Habermas, Jurgen (1979). *The Theory of Communicative Action, Vols. 1 & 2.* (trans. T. McCarthy). Boston: Beacon Press.

Hall, Stuart (2019). *Essential Essays I: Foundations of Cultural Studies.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press

Hall, Stuart. (1996). "The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power." Pp. 184-228 in Stuart Hall, David Held, Don Hubert, and Kenneth Thompson (eds.) *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies.* Malden, MA: The Open University

Haraway, D. (1988). Situated Knowledge: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective. *Feminist Studies* 14(3), 575-599.

Hochschild, Arlie (2003) *The Commercialization of Intimate Life.* Berkeley: University of California Press.

hooks, bell (1981) *Ain't I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism.* Boston: South End Press.

Horkheimer, M. and Adorno, T. W. (2002). *Dialectic of Enlightenment: Philosophical Fragments.* (Jephcott, E. (trans.)) Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Joas, Hans (1993). *The Creativity of Action.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Latour, Bruno (2005). *Reassembling the Social.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Lukes, Steven (2008). *Power: A Radical View, 2nd ed.* London: Palgrave

Marcuse, H. (1964). *One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society.* Boston: Beacon Press

Merton, Robert K. (1968). *Social Theory and Social Structure.* New York: Free Press

Parsons, Talcott (1967). *Structure of Social Action: A Study in Social Theory with Special Reference to a Group of Recent European Writers.* New York: The Free Press.

Schutz, Alfred (1967). *The Phenomenology of the Social World.* Evanston: Northwestern University Press.

Smith, Christian (2013). *What is a Person?* Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Smith, Dorothy (1987). *The Everyday World as Problematic: A Feminist Sociology.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Smith, Dorothy (2005). *Institutional Ethnography: A Sociology for People*, Toronto: AltaMira Press

Spivak, Gayatri (1999). *Critique of Postcolonial Reason: Toward the History of a Vanishing Present*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Taylor, Charles (1988). *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tilly, Charles (2008). *Why?* Princeton: Princeton University Press

Wallerstein, Immanuel (2000). *World Systems Analysis: An Introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press