SOC. 506
THEORY AND PRACTICE

Time: MW 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Place: 4128 LS&A

Instructor: Fatma Müğe Göçek
gocek@umich.edu
4207 LS&A Bldg.
647-4228
Office Hours: W 3-5 p.m.

The course comprises readings (all eventually available on CTools) on sociological theory and practice that problematize the temporal, spatial and epistemological boundaries of sociology; they specifically focus on the challenges provided by globalization, development, demography, everyday practices, network analysis as well as the somewhat more recent frontiers of race, gender and sexuality.

The course attempts to maximize your participation. Each time we meet, I intend to provide short lectures/information on each topic as necessary, probably to set the ground rules and develop our common language. Yet you will be doing most of the work: First, I of course expect all of you to do the assigned readings for each meeting. Then, during the first session, I will circulate a sign-up sheet so that you can apportion all the readings among you: each of you will have the chance to present two of the readings in class. So along my remarks and our in-class discussion, each meeting will comprise the in-class presentations of the readings by the parties responsible for that particular meeting. I expect each presentation to contain a short critical summary of the argument as well as a set of questions for class discussion connecting it to the general theme of the course; let me note that I always give extra credit when those presenting coordinate their presentations and come up with something original and creative. Another in-class presentation will take place at the very end when you will give a 15-minute presentation on the final paper you shall be writing for the course; I will discuss what to include in that presentation later in the term. Such an opportunity will enable you to receive feedback from each other and from me.

The course requirements comprise the following: (i) **In-class presentation on two readings (30%)**: these take the form of preparing and leading the discussion on the two readings you select during the first day of class; I expect you to prepare and then post/circulate [either by yourself or collectively for that meeting] a reading outline comprising the main points, your interpretation/criticism of them, and some questions for class discussion; (ii) **In-class presentation of the final paper you shall be writing for the course (30%)**: I once again expect that you to prepare and post/circulate a detailed outline comprising a brief literature review, basic arguments as well as bibliography of your final paper. The in-class presentations would enable you to both get going on your final paper as well as receive feedback from both the class and me; (iii) **Final paper (40%)**: This paper could be on any topic of your choice, say some preliminary work toward your dissertation or something you know you would not be writing your dissertation on, but want nevertheless to try out. The aim is to get you working toward a publishable paper. So choose one sociological issue that interests you and construct a theoretical framework/approach to it; come see me during my office hours if you need help. The **final papers are due on 27 April 2009 Monday** by midnight.
COURSE OUTLINE

7 January 2009  Introduction
12 – 14 January  Globalization of Knowledge and the Social Sciences
19 January  MLK Day – no class
21 – 28 January  Dependency, Decolonization, and Uneven Development
2 – 4 February  Population
9 – 11 February  Everyday Practices and Larger Structures

16 – 18 February  Social Networks and their Meaning
23 – 25 February  SPRING BREAK
2 – 4 March  Conceptualizing the Past, Present and Future
9 – 11 March  New Theoretical Frontiers: Race
16 – 18 March  New Theoretical Frontiers: Gender
23 – 25 March  New Theoretical Frontiers: Sexuality
30 March – 1 April  In-class Presentations on Final Papers
6 – 8 April  In-class Presentations on Final Papers
13 – 15 April  In-class Presentations on Final Papers
20 April  Conclusion
27 April [Monday]  Final Papers Due

DETAILED OUTLINE

7 January 2009 Wednesday
Introduction

12, 14, 21 January 2009: Globalization of Knowledge and the Social Sciences

Required Readings
12 January 2009 Monday
[1]
Jessie Bernard (1998)

[2]
Jeffrey C. Alexander (2003)

[3]
Dubois, Laurent (2006)
14 January 2009 Wednesday
[4]
Zygmunt Bauman (2000)

[5]
Heikki Patomaki (2002)
“From East to West: emergent global philosophies – beginnings of the end of western dominance?” *Theory, Culture & Society* 19/3: 89-111. [22 pp.]

[6]
Raewyn Connell (2006)
"Northern theory: The political geography of general social theory." *Theoretical Sociology* 35: 237-64. [27 pp.]

21 January 2009 Wednesday
[7]

[8]

[9]

19 January 2009
MLK Day -- NO SCHOOL

26 – 28 January 2009: Dependency, Decolonization and Uneven Development

Required Readings
26 January 2009 Monday

[10]

[11]
Leslie Sklair (1999)

[12]
Geoff Eley (2007)
“Historicizing the Global, Politicizing Capital: Giving the Present a Name." *History Workshop Journal* 63: 154-88. [34 pp.]
28 January 2009 Wednesday
[13]
Jan Nederveen Pieterse (1999)

[14]
Ash Amin (2003)

[15]
F. Nii Amo-Dodoo and N. Beisel (2005)

2 – 4 February 2009: Population

Required Readings
2 February 2009 Monday
[16]
J.C. Caldwell (1996)

[17]
Juha Raikka (2000)

[18]

4 February 2009 Wednesday
[19]

[20]
Susan Cotts Watkins (1993)
“If All We Knew About Women Was What We Read in Demography, What Would We Know?” Demography 30/4: 551-77. [26 pp.]

[21]
Arland Thornton (2001)

9 – 11 February 2009: Everyday Practices and Larger Structures
Required Readings
9 February 2009 Monday
"The Problem of Fate" and "The Social Boundary." Theory, Culture and Society 24/7: 78-84, 53-6. [9 pp.]


11 February 2009 Wednesday


16-18 February 2009: Social Networks and their Meaning

Required Readings
16 February 2009 Monday

“Network Analysis, Culture and the Problem of Agency.” AJ 99/6: 1411-54. [43pp.]

**18 February 2009 Wednesday**


**23-25 February 2009 WINTER BREAK**

**2–4 March 2009: Conceptualizing the Past, Present and the Future**

**2 March 2009 Monday**


**4 March 2009 Wednesday**


**Required Readings**

**9 March 2009 Monday**

[42]
W.E. Dubois (1899)

[43]
Michael Omi and Howard Winant (1994)

[44]
Charles Gallagher (2007)
"New Directions in Race Research." *Social Forces* 86/2: 553-9. [6 pp.]

**11 March 2009 Wednesday**

[45]
Stephanie M. McClure (2007)

[46]
Jennifer Lee and F. Bean (2007)

[47]

16-18 March 2009: New Theoretical Frontiers: Gender

**Required Readings**

**16 March 2009 Monday**

[48]
Dorothy Smith (1987)
“Women’s Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology.” Pp. 84-96 in *Feminism and Methodology* by Sandra Harding, ed. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. [12 pp.]


**18 March 2009 Wednesday**

[51] Patricia Hill Collins (1998)


**Required Readings**

**23 March 2009 Monday**

[54] Michel Foucault (1990)


**25 March 2009 Wednesday**


[59] Sandesh Sivakumaran (2005)
"Male/Male Rape and the 'Taint' of Homosexuality." *Human Rights Quarterly* 27: 1274-1306 [32 pp.]


30 March – 1 April
In-class Presentations on Final Papers
5 presentations each session

6 – 8 April
In-class Presentations on Final Papers

13 – 15 April
In-class Presentations on Final Papers

20 April
Conclusion

27 April 2009 [Monday]
Final Papers Due