COURSE DETAIL

CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Maastricht University – University College Maastricht
Program(s) University College Maastricht
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology
UCEAP Course Number 113
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
UCEAP Transcript Title CONTEMP SOC THEORY
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description
This course focuses mainly, but not exclusively, on social theory that has emerged from the 1960s onward. During this time, the historical context started to change in important ways, since it brought about an inclusion of new voices from the Global South, the beginnings of the greatest phase so far of the women's movement, and a variety of other social movements from environment to gay rights. The 1960s pushed sociological theorists to focus more on processes of social change, on social inequality and processes of marginalization and exploitation that shape it, power relations and social movements that contest them, and on cultural and other differences among individuals and groups. In the first portion of the course, students are introduced to four major theoretical schools of thought in modern sociology. They are: functionalism, the Frankfurt School, Structuralism, and Interactionism. The course discusses these traditions on the basis of a well-founded and accessible text called UNDERSTANDING MODERN SOCIOLOGY. The text includes a comprehensive representation of European and US-American sociological theory. This first part of the course is enhanced by reading original works by Herbert Marcuse, Howard Becker, Nancy Chodorow and Michel Foucault. The second part of the course continues the work of reading original theoretical texts by focusing on more alternative ways of theorizing about the social world. Students read works by Patricia Hill Collins, an African-American standpoint theorist, Pierre Bourdieu, a French sociologist, and Edward Said and Franz Fanon, two thinkers who are classified as post-colonial theorists. Some of the questions covered in this course include: How can we make sense of the social world? How does capitalism impact our social reality? How is social reality constructed? What causes social change? What is the link between agency and structure? How is knowledge produced and by whom?

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
SSC3038

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CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY

Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus University College Maastricht
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Social ScienceS
Course Last Reviewed

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