Theorietical Foundations: An Overview

The course aims to develop a critical understanding of current sociological theoretical perspectives (21st century). Throughout the course, we will focus on the central streams of contemporary sociological thought, including central concepts such as power, structure, agency, class, nation, society.

Attendance:

- Attendance and participation: 15%
- Final project: 85%

(1) What is theory?

- Parsons: An outline of the social system
- Castells: The network society
- Emirbayer and Godwing: Network analysis

(2) Parsons: An outline of the social system
(3) Castells: The network society
(4) Emirbayer and Godwing: Network analysis

(5) Adorno and Horckheimer, The culture industry
(6) Poulantzas On social classes
(7) Bourdieu, Peasants: The social space and the genesis of groups (8-9)

Carole Pateman The Sexual Contract, chapter 1
Clare Burton: Subordination: Feminism and social theory, chapter 6

(10) Friedman and Hechter The contribution of rational choice theory to macrosociological research

(11) Berger and Luckman: The social construction of reality (110-133; 149-182)

Vita active: Labor, work, action The public and the private realm
14. Working on feeling

15. Hegemony, relations of force, historical bloc in The Gramsci Reader

16. Class structuration and class consciousness

17. Legitimation crisis: part 1 A social-scientific concept of crisis

18. Peter Manicas, A Realist social science

19. Stein and Plummer Queer theory the missing sexual revolution in sociology

20. Michel Foucault, Society Must be Defended, Chapters 2 and 11

21. John Rawls: Justice as fairness a restatement, Part 2, Principles of Justice

22. Iris Marion Young: Justice and the Politics of Difference pages 15-62

23. Robert Nozck Distributive Justice

24. Isaiah Berlin: Liberty, Chapter Two concepts of liberty (25-26)