

**Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU**

**Course: Contemporary Sociological Theories**

**Level and status: 2 credit points, B.A., obligatory**

**Prior requirements: None**

**Lecturer: Prof Uri Ram**

**Course description:**

In this course are studied sociological theories from the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century until the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century. Among else are studied the following approaches: Functionalism (Parsons, Merton); Micro-Sociology (Goffman, Bloomer, Garfinkel); Historical Sociology (Moore, Mills, Wallerstein, Skocpol, Tilly); Post-Modern Sociology (Foucault, Baudrillard); Feminist Sociology (de-Beauvoir, Fraser); Post-Colonial Sociology (Said); Critical Sociology (Horkheimer & Adorno; Marcuse, Habermas, Bourdieu);and others.

**Course requirements:** Students are required to be present in class; and to read the course material.

**Grade:** Examination on all the material at the end of the semester (100% of grade).

**Course schedule and reading list:**

Course textbook: George Ritzer. Modern Sociological Theories

**Sociology of Conflict**

George Ritzer. Modern Sociological Theories, Chapter 3.  
C. Wright Mills. "The Structure of Power in American Society".

**The Frankfurt School**

George Ritzer. Modern Sociological Theories, Chapter 4.  
Herbert Marcuse: One dimensional man, chapters 1 & 2.

**Micro-sociology**

George Ritzer. Modern Sociological Theories, Chapters 6 & 7.  
Ervin Goffman, The Presentation of Self in Everyday Lives, chapter 1.

**Historical Sociology**

Emmanuel Wallerstein: "the Rise and future demise of the world's capitalist system".  
Theda Skocpol. "Comparative Studies in Society and History: France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions".

**Structuralism, post-structuralism & post-modernism**

George Ritzer. Modern Sociological Theories, Chapter 13.

Michell Foucault. The Will to Knowledge: History of Sexuality I (selection)

**Feminism**

George Ritzer. Modern Sociological Theories, Chapter 9.

**Postcolonialism**

Edward Said. Orientalism (chapters 1 & 2)

Frantz Fanon. The Wretched of Earth (selection)

**Pierre Bourdieu**

George Ritzer. Modern Sociological Theories, Chapter 9 (selection)

Pierre Bourdieu. " On Some Characteristics of the Field" in Sociological Questions.

**Jurgen Habermas**

George Ritzer. Modern Sociological Theories, Chapter 11 (selection)

Jurgen Habermas. "The Public Sphere"