

University of California, San Diego  
Department of Sociology  
Winter, 2020  
SSB 104  
F 12:00-2:50  
[hsgoldman@ucsd.edu](mailto:hsgoldman@ucsd.edu)

Harvey Goldman  
468 SSB  
Office Hrs:  
W 12:00-1:00pm  
F 3:00-4:00pm  
858-449-1571

SOCIOLOGY G202/POLITICAL SCIENCE 212

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THEORY

**TEXTBOOKS:**

The Essential Works of Foucault, vol. 3: Power (New Press)  
Pierre Bourdieu, Distinction (Harvard)  
Pierre Bourdieu, The Logic of Practice (Stanford)  
Luc Boltanski & Laurent Thévenot, On Justification  
(Princeton)  
The Essential Works of Foucault, vol. 1: Ethics (New Press)  
Randall Collins, Interaction Ritual Chains (Princeton)  
Bernard Lahire, The Plural Actor (Polity)  
Charles Kadushin, Understanding Social Networks (Oxford)  
Bruno Latour, Pasteurization of France (Harvard)  
William Sewell, Logics of History (Chicago)

**OPTIONAL:**

Judith Butler, The Psychic Life of Power (Stanford)  
Patricia Hill Collins, Black Feminist Thought (Routledge)  
Bruno Latour, Reassembling the Social (Oxford)

This is a very difficult one-quarter course: it is meant as an introduction to some of the central issues and thinkers in the contemporary study of society, yet a comprehensive survey of such theories would easily require two or three quarters. It draws on some of the most important works of the last 30 years or so that have been built upon, and contributed to, the development of sociology and social theory. Topics these works treat have become central to a wide range of social and political thought: power, institutions, and social structure; social reproduction; intellectual and cultural production; normalization and social control; the body, power, and the sociology of emotions; individual and society; feminist and inter-sectional social and political theory; networks, actor networks, and sociology of knowledge and science; historical sociology.

Selections in the syllabus marked below with stars (\*\*) are either available online through UCSD Library, or will be posted on the Canvas site for the class.

**Requirements: TWO papers, of around 10-12 pages each.**

Topics will be provided for each paper two weeks in advance.

I. INTRODUCTION - POWER/KNOWLEDGE AND SUBJECTION OF THE SELF

Required:

The Essential Works of Foucault, vol. 1: Ethics:

----, "Part I: The Courses," pp. 5-106

----, "Part II: Ethics," pp. 199-319

II. SOCIAL REPRODUCTION: CLASSIFICATION, STRATIFICATION,  
AND CULTURAL CAPITAL

Required:

Bourdieu, Distinction, pp. 1-175, 466-500

III. THE PRACTICE "TURN"

Required:

\*\*Louis Althusser, "Philosophy and Social Science:  
Introducing Bourdieu and Passeron," Theory,  
Culture & Society 36, nos. 7-8 (2019):5-21

\*\*Stuart Hall, "Signification, Representation,  
Ideology: Althusser and the Post-Structuralist  
Debates", Critical Studies in Mass Communication  
2, no. 2 (1985): 91-114

Bourdieu, the Logic of Practice, pp. 25-141



\*\*George Steinmetz, "From Sociology to Socio-analysis:  
Rethinking Bourdieu's Concepts of Habitus,  
Capital, and Field along Psychoanalytic Lines," in  
Lynn Chancer, et al, eds., The Unhappy Divorce of  
Sociology and Psychoanalysis (Palgrave Macmillan,  
2014), pp. 203-219

[ONLINE THROUGH UCSD LIBRARY]

IV. HABITUS, CRITIQUE, AND SELF-WORTH

**Required:**

\*\*Boltanski & Thévenot, "The Sociology of Critical Capacity", European Journal of Social Theory 2, no. 3 (1999):359-377

Boltanski & Thévenot, ON JUSTIFICATION, selections



V. THE SELF, THE SUBJECT, AND SOCIETY

**Required:**

Foucault, Essential Works of Foucault, vol. 3: Power:

-----, "Truth and Juridical Forms," pp. 1-87

-----, "Truth and Power," pp. 111-33

-----, "Governmentality," pp. 201-23

-----, "Omnes et Singulatim: Toward a Critique of Political Reason," pp. 298-325

-----, "The Subject and Power," pp. 326-48

\*\*Craig Calhoun, "Morality, Identity, and Historical Explanation: Charles Taylor on the Sources of the Self," Sociological Theory 9, no. 2 (1991):232-63

\*\*Rogers Brubaker & Frederick Cooper, "Beyond 'Identity'", Theory and Society 29 (2000):1-47

**Optional:**

\*\*Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses," from Lenin and Philosophy  
<http://www.marx2mao.com/Other/LPOE70ii.html#s5>

Butler, Psychic Life of Power  
Introduction, Chapters 3 & 4

VI. SELF, SOCIETY, AND EMOTIONS

**Required:**

Lahire, The Plural Actor, selections



Lahire, "From the Habitus to an Individual Heritage of Dispositions," Poetics 31 (2003):329-355

Lahire, "The Double Life of Writers," New Literary History 41 no. 2 (2010):443-465

Lahire, "Literature is Not Just a Battlefield," New Literary History 46, no. 3 (2015):387-407

Randall Collins, Interaction Ritual Chains, Chs. 1-3

VII. FEMINIST AND INTER-SECTIONAL THEORY

**Required:**

\*\*Butler, Gender Trouble, chapter 1

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ucsd/reader.action?docID=180211&ppq=39>

\*\*Butler, Bodies That Matter, chapter 1

\*\*Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex," University of Chicago Legal Forum (1989):139-168

\*\*Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color," Stanford Law Review 43, no. 6 (1991):1241-1300

**Optional:**

Patricia Hill Collins, Black Feminist Thought, selections

VIII. SOCIAL NETWORKS AND RELATIONS

**Required:**

Kadushin, Understanding Social Networks, selections



\*\*Barry Wellman, "Network Analysis: Some Basic Principles," Sociological Theory 1 (1983):155-200

\*\*Peter Marsden, "Social Networks," in Encyclopedia of Sociology, Second Edition, ed. Edgar Borgatta and Rhonda Montgomery (New York: Macmillan, 2000), volume 4, pp. 2727-2735

[POSTED ON WEBSITE]

\*\*Emily Erikson, "Relationalism and Social Networks," in The Palgrave Handbook of Relational Sociology, ed. François Dépelteau, pp. 271-87

\*\*John Padgett & Christopher Ansell, "Robust Action and the Rise of the Medici, 1400-1434," American Journal of Sociology 98, no. 3 (1993): 1259-1319

IX. ACTORS, ACTOR-NETWORKS, AND THE SOCIAL

**Required:**

Latour, The Pasteurization of France, pp. 153-236

\*\*Bloor, "Anti-Latour," Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science 30, no. 1 (1999):81-112

\*\*Latour, "For David Bloor...and Beyond: A Reply to David Bloor's 'Anti-Latour'", Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science 30, no. 1 (1999):113-129

**Optional:**

Latour, Reassembling the Social, pp. 1-140, 159-64

SOCG 202/POLI 212

X. AGENCY, STRUCTURE, AND HISTORICAL EXPLANATION

**Required:**

Sewell, Logics of History, chapters 3-6, 10  
(= pp. 81-196, 318-72)

\*\*Margaret Somers, "'We're No Angels': Realism,  
Rational Choice, and Relationality in Social  
Science," American Journal of Sociology 104, no. 3  
(1998):722-784

\*\*Dingxin Zhao, The Confucian-Legalist State: A New  
Theory of Chinese History (Oxford: Oxford  
University Press, 2015)

----, "Introduction," and chapter 1: "A Theory of  
Historical Change," pp. 3-48

[ONLINE THROUGH UCSD LIBRARY]