

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Sociology 506
Theories and Practices of Sociology II
Mark Mizruchi
Winter 2013

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This course is the second portion of the two-semester theory sequence required of all sociology department graduate students. The goals of this course are:

- (1) to examine, compare, and contrast the ways different classical and contemporary theorists approach several core problems in the discipline, including the nature of society, the individual-society relation, culture, and social structure;
- (2) to explore how theories are put into practice by examining how different theorists approach key substantive areas in sociology, including organizations, collective action, and various forms of inequality; and
- (3) to introduce students to classical and (in particular) contemporary works, theories, and traditions that were not covered in the first part of the course.

Whereas the focus of the first semester was on sociological traditions, the focus of the second semester is on the relation between theories and the practice of sociology. We shall devote two class sessions to each topic. The first session will consist primarily of lecture and commentary by the instructor. The second session will consist of a discussion led by students, probably in groups of two. Student participation will also be encouraged during the lecture sessions.

Requirements

Requirements for this course include nine required reaction papers (maximum three pages) on the readings, a presentation along with leading a given week's discussion, and class participation. Each week students will prepare at least one question for discussion, based on the readings. These questions will be circulated to that week's discussion leaders, who will use the questions to help plan their discussion. Along with the narrative

remarks on your reaction papers, you will also provide at least one testable hypothesis that flows from one or more of the readings for that week.

Readings

There is no primary text for the class. The readings come from two sources: three books (listed below), and the class Ctools site. The Ctools site includes articles from scholarly journals, as well as selections from published books. All readings on the Ctools site are subject to the “fair use” rule. I have ordered the following books:

Durkheim, Emile, *Suicide*
 Freud, Sigmund, *Civilization and Its Discontents*
 Wilson, William Julius, *The Truly Disadvantaged*

COURSE OUTLINE

January 10: Introduction to the course

January 15, 17: How is society possible?

Readings: Emile Durkheim, *The Rules of Sociological Method*, pp. 1-13; Talcott Parsons, *The Structure of Social Action*, Volume II, pp. v-xx, 697-726; Harold Garfinkel, "Studies of the Routine Grounds of Everyday Activities," pp. 35-75 in *Studies in Ethnomethodology*; Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*, pp. 108-114; Durkheim, *Suicide*, pp. 152-276; Recommended: David L. Sallach, "Class Domination and Ideological Hegemony," *Sociological Quarterly*, 1974, 15:38-50.

January 22, 24: Individual and society: Agency and structure, micro and macro

Readings: Dennis H. Wrong, "The Oversocialized Conception of Man in Modern Sociology," *American Sociological Review* (hereafter *ASR*), 1961, 26:183-193; William H. Sewell, Jr., "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation," *American Journal of Sociology* (hereafter *AJS*), 1992, 98:1-29; Pierre Bourdieu, "Structures, *Habitus*, Practices," in *The Logic of Practice*, pp. 52-65; Randall Collins, "On the Micro-foundations of Macro-sociology," *AJS*, 1981, 86:984-1014; James S. Coleman, "Social Theory, Social Research, and a Theory of Action," *AJS*, 1986, 91:1309-1335; Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, pp. 64-112; Recommended: Neil Fligstein, "Social Skill and the Theory of Fields," *Sociological Theory*, 2001, 19:105-125.

January 29, 31: Social interaction and language

Readings: Herbert Blumer, *Symbolic Interactionism*, pp. 1-20; Erving Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, pp. 1-34, 234-255; Melvin Pollner, *Mundane Reason*, pp. ix-xvi; Emanuel Schegloff, "Notes on a Conversational Practice: Formulating Place," pp. 75-99 in David Sudnow (ed.), *Studies in Social Interaction*; Elijah Anderson, *Streetwise*, pp. 163-189; William F. Whyte, *Street Corner Society*, pp. xv-xx; Eric Burns, *Broadcast Blues*, pp. 85-92; also review the Garfinkel reading from two weeks ago. Recommended: John C. Heritage, "Ethnomethodology," pp. 224-271 in Anthony Giddens and Jonathan H. Turner (eds.), *Social Theory Today.*; Steven E. Clayman, "Booing: The Anatomy of a Disaffiliative Response," *ASR*, 1993, 58:110-130.

February 5, 7: Culture and cultural analysis

Readings: Clifford Geertz, "Ritual and Social Change: A Javanese Example," pp. 142-169 in Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*; Ann Swidler, "Culture in Action," *ASR*, 1986, 51:273-286; Jeffrey C. Alexander and Philip Smith, "The Discourse of American Civil Society: A New Proposal for Cultural Studies," *Theory and Society*, 1993, 22:151-207; Michel Foucault, "Sexual Discourse and Power," pp. 199-204 in Jeffrey C. Alexander and Steven Seidman (eds.), *Culture and Society: Contemporary Debates*; Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction*, pp. 1-7; Stephen Vaisey, "Motivation and Justification: A Dual-Process Model of Culture in Action," *AJS*, 2009, 114:1675-1715; Michael Schudson, "How Culture Works," *Theory and Society*, 1989, 18:153-180.

February 12, 14: Social structure and structural sociology

Readings: Georg Simmel, "The Expansion of the Dyad," pp. 135-144 in Kurt H. Wolff (ed.), *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*; Mark S. Mizruchi, "Network Theory," pp. 534-540 in George Ritzer (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, Volume II; Mark Granovetter, "Threshold Models of Collective Behavior," *AJS*, 1978, 83:1420-1443; John F. Padgett and Christopher K. Ansell, "Robust Action and the Rise of the Medici, 1400-1434," *AJS*, 1993, 98:1259-1319; Steven Brint, "Hidden Meanings: Cultural Content and Context in Harrison White's Structural Sociology" and Harrison C. White, "Social Grammar for Culture: Reply to Steven Brint," *Sociological Theory*, 1992, 10:194-213.

February 19, 21: The sociology of organizations

Readings: John W. Meyer and Brian Rowan, "Institutionalized Organizations: Formal Structure as Myth and Ceremony," *AJS*, 1977, 83:340-363; Melville Dalton, "Men Who Manage," pp. 315-344 in Mark Granovetter and Richard

Swedberg (eds.), *The Sociology of Economic Life*; Glenn R. Carroll, "Concentration and Specialization: Dynamics of Niche Width in Populations of Organizations," *AJS*, 1985, 90:1262-1283; Mark S. Mizruchi and Lisa C. Fein, "The Social Construction of Organizational Knowledge: A Study of the Uses of Coercive, Mimetic, and Normative Isomorphism," *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 1999, 44:653-683; Dennis A. Gioia, "Pinto Fires and Personal Ethics: A Script Analysis of Missed Opportunities," *Journal of Business Ethics*, 1992, 11:379-389. Recommended: Paul J. DiMaggio and Walter W. Powell, "The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields," *ASR*, 1983, 48:147-160; Mustafa Emirbayer and Victoria Johnson, "Bourdieu and Organizational Analysis," *Theory and Society*, 2008, 37:1-44.

February 26, 28: Economic sociology and the sociology of markets

Readings: Mark Granovetter, "Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness," *AJS*, 1985, 91:481-510; Frank Dobbin, *Forging Industrial Policy*, pp. 1-27; Brian Uzzi, "The Sources and Consequences of Embeddedness for the Economic Performance of Organizations: The Network Effect," *ASR*, 1996, 61:674-698; Patrick McGuire, Mark Granovetter, and Michael Schwartz, "Thomas Edison and the Social Construction of the Early Electricity Industry in America," pp. 213-246 in Richard Swedberg (ed.), *Explorations in Economic Sociology*; Linda Brewster Stearns and Kenneth D. Allan, "Economic Behavior in Institutional Environments: The Corporate Merger Wave of the 1980s," *ASR*, 1996, 61:699-718; Recommended: Mark S. Mizruchi, Linda Brewster Stearns, and Christopher Marquis, "The Conditional Nature of Embeddedness: A Study of Borrowing by Large U.S. Firms, 1973-1994," *ASR*, 2006, 71:310-333.

March 12, 14: Occupations and the professions

Readings: Talcott Parsons, *The Social System*, pp. 428-479; Eliot Freidson, *Profession of Medicine*, pp. 71-84, 185-201; John B. McKinlay and Lisa D. Marceau, "The End of the Golden Age of Doctoring," pp. 189-215 in Peter Conrad (ed.), *The Sociology of Health and Illness* (seventh edition, 2005); Andrew Abbott, *The System of Professions*, pp. 86-113. Recommended: Bonalyn J. Nelsen and Stephen R. Barley, "For Love or Money? Commodification and the Construction of an Occupational Mandate," *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 1997, 42:619-653.

March 19, 21: Social status and inequality

Readings: Max Weber, "Class, Status, and Party," pp. 21-28 in Reinhard Bendix and Seymour Martin Lipset (eds.), *Class, Status, and Power*; Kingsley Davis and Wilbert E. Moore, "Some Principles of Stratification," *ASR*, 1945, 10:242-249; Peter M. Blau and Otis Dudley Duncan, *The American Occupational Structure*, pp. 1-10, 163-177, 238-241; Mark Granovetter, *Getting A Job*, pp. 3-50; Paul DiMaggio, "Cultural Capital and School Success: The Impact of Status Culture Participation on the Grades of U.S. High School Students," *ASR*, 1982, 47:189-201; Emilio J. Castilla and Stephen Benard, "The Paradox of Meritocracy in Organizations," *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 2010, 55:543-576.
 Recommended: Paula England and Dana Dunn, "Evaluating Work and Comparable Worth," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 1988, pp. 227-248.

March 26, 28: Social class

Readings: Erik Olin Wright and Luca Perrone, "Marxist Class Categories and Income Inequality," *ASR*, 1977, 42:32-55; Erik Olin Wright, *Class Counts*, pp. 4-26; Frank Parkin, *Marxism and Class Theory: A Bourgeois Critique*, pp. 3-28; Paul W. Kingston, *The Classless Society*, pp. 1-14, 101-119, 209-213; David B. Grusky and Kim A. Weeden, "Decomposition Without Death: A Research Agenda for a New Class Analysis," *Acta Sociologica*, 2001, 44:203-218.
 Recommended: Aage B. Sorensen, "Toward a Sounder Basis for Class Analysis," and Wright, "Class, Exploitation, and Economic Rents: Reflections on Sorensen's 'Sounder Basis'," *AJS*, 2000, 105:1523-1571.

April 2, 4: Race and ethnicity

Readings: Michael Omi and Howard Winant, "Racial Formation in the United States," pp. 181-213 in Robert Bernasconi and Tommy L. Lott (eds.), *The Idea of Race*; Edna Bonacich, "A Theory of Ethnic Antagonism: The Split Labor Market," *ASR*, 1972, 37:547-559; John L. Comaroff, "Of Totemism and Ethnicity: Consciousness, Practice, and the Signs of Inequality," *Ethnos*, 1987, 52:302-323; Frank Parkin, *Marxism and Class Theory: A Bourgeois Critique*, pp. 29-73; William Julius Wilson, *The Truly Disadvantaged*, pp. vii-xi, 3-62, skim 63-106, 109-139; Douglas S. Massey, "American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass," *AJS*, 1990, 96:329-357.

April 9, 11: Gender and feminist theory

Readings: Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, pp. 134-149; Candace West and Don Zimmerman, "Doing Gender," *Gender and Society*, 1987, 1:125-151; Cecilia L. Ridgeway, "Framed Before We Know It: How Gender Shapes Social Relations," *Gender and Society*, 2009,

23:145-160; J. Richard Udry, "Biological Limits of Gender Construction, *ASR*, 2000, 65:443-457; critiques of Udry by Miller and Costello, Kennelly, Merz, and Lorber, and Risman; response by Udry, *ASR*, 2001, 66:592-618; Shelley J. Correll, Stephen Benard, and In Paik, "Getting a Job: Is There a Motherhood Penalty?," *AJS*, 2007, 112:1297-1338. Recommended: Claudia Goldin and Cecilia Rouse, "Orchestrating Impartiality: The Impact of 'Blind' Auditions on Female Musicians," *American Economic Review*, 2000, 90:715-741.

April 16, 18: Group solidarity and collective action

Readings: Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*, pp. 1-16; John R. Bowman, "When Workers Organize Capitalists," *Politics and Society*, 1985, 14:289-327; Doug McAdam, "Recruitment to High-Risk Activism: The Case of Freedom Summer," *AJS*, 1986, 92:64-90; Elizabeth A. Armstrong and Mary Bernstein, "Culture, Power, and Institutions: A Multi-Institutional Politics Approach to Social Movements," *Sociological Theory*, 2008, 26:74-99. Recommended: Mark S. Mizruchi, "Cohesion, Structural Equivalence, and Similarity of Behavior: An Approach to the Study of Corporate Political Power," *Sociological Theory*, 1990, 8:16-32.

April 23: What is social science?

Readings: none