

Level II Course **Social Theory and Institutions, So 2011**

Convenors: Dick Pels and Frédéric Vandenberghe

Lectures: Weekly, Tuesday, 10-12, Lecture Centre, Room 064

Seminars: Fortnightly from week 1 till week 6, weekly from week 6 till week 13

Aims: This course will provide a thorough and wide ranging introduction to contemporary social and sociological theory. Taking the opposition between the individual and society, or micro- and macro, as a guiding line for reconstructing the development of social theory since world war II, students will be introduced to a variety of theoretical approaches that aim to bridge the opposition between agency and structure. These approaches will be made more concrete and illustrated by means of more thematic analyses of power, celebrities, things and emotions.

Objectives: Students will acquire knowledge of the different social theories, be able to locate them on the map of the development of social theory, to critically analyse them and to assess the extent to which they succeed in overcoming the opposition between agency and structure. Thanks to the analysis of carefully chosen thematic issues that illustrate the micro-macro problem students will also be stimulated to think concretely and creatively about the relevance of social theory for empirical research, for their personal life and for society at large.

Week 1
8.2.2000 Course introduction
What is social theory? Introducing the micro-macro problem (DP/FV).

Week 2
15.2.2000 Individualization/globalization;
individualism/collectivism (left and right) (DP/FV).

Seminar readings:

Derek Layder, Understanding Social Theory, pp. 1-11, 207-223.

Week 3
22.2.2000 That's Classic: Marx, Weber, Durkheim (FV).

Readings:

Layder, pp. 34-55; Weber xx, Durkheim xx.

Week 4
29.2.2000 For Parsons ... And Against: Schütz, Blumer (Part I) (FV).

Seminar readings:

Layder, pp. 13-33, 57-81.

Week 5
7.3.2000 Goffman and Garfinkel (Part II)(FV).

Readings:

Layder, pp. 81-90, 172-181.

Week 6 The Problem of Power (DP)
14.3.2000

Seminar readings:

Layder, 26-27, 73-74, 168-171 (on Collins), evt. 94-113 (see next week).

Bruno Latour (1986), 'The Powers of Association', in John Law (ed.) (1986) Power, Action and Belief. A New Sociology of Knowledge? London: Routledge, pp. 264-280.

Leviathan? 275-303 Bourdieu Delegation 17pp Social Space and Symbolic Power (17pp).

Week 7
21.3.2000 Figurations of Power and Knowledge: Elias and Foucault (FV).

Seminar Reading:

Layder, pp. 94-124.

Week 8
28.3.2000 Public Individuals: Heroes and Villains (DP).

Seminar reading:

P. David Marshall, Celebrity and Power, pp. 3-26.

Week 9
4.4.2000 Public Intellectuals: Habermas and Giddens (FV).

Seminar Reading:

Layder, pp. 125-149, 186-206.

Week 10 Object-centered sociality (DP).
11.4.2000

Seminar reading:

Karin Knorr Cetina (1997) 'Sociality with Objects. Social Relations in Postsocial Knowledge Societies', Theory, Culture and Society 14(4): 1-30.

Easter Holidays

Week 11
9.5.2000 Sociology of emotions (DP)

Seminar readings:

Chris Shilling (1997) 'The Undersocialized Conception of the Embodied Agent in Modern Sociology', Sociology 31(4): 737-754.

--- (1997) 'Emotions, embodiment and the sensation of society', The Sociological Review 45: 195-219.

Week 12

16.5.2000 'Come the revolution...' (DP/FV).

Seminar dedicated to coursework

Week 13

23.5.2000 Course review (DP/FV).

Seminar dedicated to course work and/or course review

Deadline Coursework

30.5.2000

Assessment:

One examination (unseen, 2hrs) on Layder + handouts, and one coursework essay (minimum 3000w.).

All essays should be submitted via Joan Morris (Room SS146) following the normal procedures for the submission of coursework.

3½ options for the essay (title to be submitted on A4 page for agreement by course leaders)

1. Pick your favourite/most hated institution (your WP host institution, Brunel university, must be small enough to facilitate a brief ethnographic account), and 'thickly' redescribe it in terms of the micro-macro issue – i.e. in what sense does it 'exist', and in what ways does it constrain/enable individual actions?
2. Pick your favourite/most hated celebrity or charismatic individual (Diana, Tony Blair etc.), read a biography (or two), and describe what difference (s)he has made – in terms of the micro-macro issue – to its environment. What energy did this person need to muster to change things around? What singled out this individual rather than others?
3. Pick any theoretical subject from the course materials (e.g. power, the role of objects and materiality, the body) or any comparison between theorists covered (or not covered, such as Bourdieu, feminist theory, British critical realism, rational choice theory) and write an essay which is focused on the micro-macro issue.

3½. Any other acceptable proposal.

General reading:

Week 1:

Jeffrey Alexander (1987): Twenty Lectures. Sociological Theory since World War II. New York: Columbia University Press.

Anthony Giddens (1976): New Rules of Sociological Method. London: Hutchinson.

Derek Layder (1997): Modern Social Theory. London: UCL Press.

Anthony Giddens and Jonathan Turner (eds.)1987): Social Theory Today. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Jonathan Turner (1998): The Structure of Social Theory. London: Wadsworth.

Richard Bernstein (1976): The Restructuring of Social and Political Theory. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

George Ritzer (1992): Contemporary Sociological Theory. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Tim May: Situating Social Theory. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Rob Stones (ed.)1998): Key Sociological Thinkers. London: Macmillan.

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Jeffrey Alexander et al. (eds)1987) The Micro-Macro Link. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Jeffrey Alexander (1988): 'The New Theoretical Movement' , pp. 77-101 in Neil Smelser (ed.): Handbook of Sociology, Sage, London (reprinted in Alexander (1998) Neo-functionalism and After. Oxford: Blackwell)

Peter Berger & Thomas Luckmann (1966) The Social Construction of Reality. New York: Anchor Books.

Peter, Berger (1963): Invitation to Sociology. A Humanist Perspective. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Archer, M.(1988): Culture and Agency. The Place of Culture in Social Theory. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Archer, M.: Realist Social Theory. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Karen Knorr-Cetina & Aaron V. Cicourel (eds)1981) Advances in Social Theory and Methodology. Boston, London & Henley: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Secord, P. (ed. 1982): Explaining Human Behaviour. London. Macmillan.

O'Neill, J. (ed.1973): Modes of Individualism and Collectivism. London: Heineman.

Fielding, N. (ed.): Actions and Structure. Research Methods and Social Theory. London. Sage.

Johnson, T. et al.(1984): The Structure of Social Theory. Dilemmas and Strategies. London: Macmillan.

Tim May & Malcolm Williams (eds)1998) Knowing the Social World. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Nicos Mouzelis (1995) What's Wrong with Social Theory?

Week 2:

Steven Lukes (1973) Individualism. Oxford: Blackwell.

Ulrich Beck (1992): Risk Society. London: Sage.

Anthony, Giddens (1991): Modernity and Self-Identity. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Paul Heelas et al. (eds.) 1996): Detraditionalization. Critical Reflections on Authority and Identity. Oxford: Blackwell.

Ulrich Beck (1999): What is globalisation? Cambridge: Polity Press.

Anthony McGrew (1992): 'A Global Society', pp. 61-153 in Stuart Hall et al. (eds.): Modernity and its Futures. Cambridge. Polity Press, 1992.

Anthony McGrew, A. (ed. 1997): The Transformation of Democracy? Cambridge, Polity Press, 1997

Waters M.(195): Globalization. London: Routledge.

Mike Featherstone et al. (eds.) 1995): Global Modernities. London: Sage.

Week 3:

Charles Lemert (ed.): Social Theory. The multicultural and classic readings, xx

Anthony Giddens (1971) Capitalism and Modern Social Theory. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hans Gerth and Charles Wright Mills (eds.)1948): From Max Weber. London: Routledge.

Steven Lukes (1972) : Emile Durkheim. His Life and Work. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Leszek Kolakowski (1978): Main currents of Marxism, Vol. 1. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Week 4:

Talcott Parsons (1937): The Structure of Social Action. Glencoe: Free Press.

Talcott Parsons (1951): The Social System. Glencoe: Free Press.

Alvin Gouldner (1970): The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology. New York: Basic Books.

George Herbert Mead (1934): Mind, Self and Society. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Herbert Blumer (1969): Symbolic Interactionism. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall.

Howard Becker (1963): Outsiders. Glencoe: Free Press.

Paul Rock (1979): The Making of Symbolic Interactionism. London: Macmillan.
Alfred Schutz (1972): Collected Papers, Vol. 1. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff.
Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann (1966): The Social Construction of Reality.
Harmondsworth: London.

Week 5:

Erving Goffmann (1959): The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
Erving Goffmann (1967): Interaction Ritual. New York: Anchor Press.
Erving Goffmann (1963): Behavior in Public Places, Glencoe: Free Press.
Charles Lemert: The Goffmann Reader, Oxford: Blackwell.
Peter Manning (1992): Erving Goffman and Modern Sociology. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Harold Garfinkel (1967): Studies in Ethnomethodology. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall.
John Heritage (1984): Garfinkel and Ethnomethodology. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Michael Lynch (1996): Scientific Practice and Ordinary Action. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Harvey Sacks (1992): Lectures on Conversation. Oxford: Blackwell.

Week 6:

Barry Barnes (1988) The Nature of Power. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Pierre Bourdieu (1991) Language and Symbolic Power. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Stewart R. Clegg (1989) Frameworks of Power. London: Sage.
Randall Collins (1986) 'Interaction Ritual Chains, Power and Property' in Alexander et al. (eds), pp. 193-206.
Keith Dowding (1996) Power. Buckingham: Open University Press.
Giddens (1977) "'Power" in the Writings of Talcott Parsons'; 'Remarks on the Theory of Power', in Studies in Social and Political Theory. London: Hutchinson, pp. 333-349.
John Law (1991) 'Power, Discretion, and Strategy' in idem (ed.) A Sociology of Monsters: Essays on Power, Technology, and Domination. London & New York: Routledge.
Steven Lukes (1974) Power. A Radical View. London: MacMillan.
C.B. Macpherson (1973) Democratic Theory: Essays in Retrieval. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
Dick Pels (1998) Property and Power in Social Theory. A Study in Intellectual Rivalry. London & New York: Routledge.

Week 7:

Norbert Elias (1994): The Civilizing Process. Oxford: Blackwell.
Norbert Elias (1978) : What is Sociology?, Hutchinson, London
Johan Goudsblom and Stephen Mennell (eds.)1997): The Elias Reader. Oxford: Blackwell.
Stephen Mennell (1998): Norbert Elias. An Introduction, Blackwell, Oxford.
Robert van Krieken (1998): Norbert Elias, Routledge, London.
Michel Foucault (1977): Discipline and Punish. London: Allen Lane.
Michel Foucault (1978): The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
Paul Rabinow (ed.)1986): The Foucault Reader. London: Peregrine Books.
Mark Cousins, Mark and Athar Hussain (1984): Michel Foucault. London. Macmillan, 1984
Hubert Dreyfus and Paul Rabinow, Paul (1982): Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics. Hemel Hempstead: Harvester Press.

Week 8:

Francesco Alberoni (1972) "'The Powerless Elite". Theory and Sociological Research on the Phenomenon of the Stars', in Denis McQuail (ed.) (1972) Sociology of Mass Communications. Selected Readings. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books.
Peter Buerger (1984) Theory of the Avantgarde. Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis Press.
Richard Dyer (1998) Stars. London: British Film Institute.

--- (1986) Heavenly Bodies: Film Stars and Society. Basingstoke: MacMillan.
P. David Marshall, Celebrity and Power. Fame in Contemporary Culture. Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press.
Cesar Grana (1964) Bohemian versus Bourgeois. New York: Basic Books.
Ellen Moers (1966) The Dandy. Brummel to Beerbohm. xxx
Jerrold Siegel (1986) Bohemian Paris. Culture, Politics and the Boundaries of Bourgeois Life, 1830-1930. New York: Viking Penguin.

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Anthony Elliott (1999) The Mourning of John Lennon. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Cathy Schlichtenberg (ed.)(1993) The Madonna Connection. Representational Politics, Subcultural Identities and Cultural Theory. Boulder: Westview Press.
Simmonds, Diana (1984) Princess Di: The National Dish. London: Pluto Press.
Walter, Tony (ed.) (1999) The Mourning for Diana. New York: Berg.
Special Issue on 'Diana and Democracy', New Formations 36, 1999.
Anthony Giddens and Christopher Pierson (1998) Conversations with Anthony Giddens. Making Sense of Modernity. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Dennis Smith (1999) Zygmunt Bauman. Prophet of Modernity. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Frances Wheen (1999), Karl Marx. London: Fourth Estate.

Week 9:

Anthony Giddens (1976) New Rules of Sociological Method. London: Hutchinson
Anthony Giddens (1984) The Constitution of Society. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Anthony Giddens (1990): The Consequences of Modernity, Polity Press, Cambridge
Ira Cohen (1989): Structuration Theory. Anthony Giddens and the Constitution of Everyday Life. London: Macmillan.
Ian Craib (1992): Anthony Giddens, London, Routledge.
Margaret Archer: 'Structuration versus morphogenesis. On combining structure and action', British Journal of Sociology, 1982, 33, 4, pp. 455-483.
Jürgen Habermas (1971): Towards a Rational Society. London: Heineman.
Richard Bernstein (1995): 'Introduction', in Habermas and Modernity. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Anthony Giddens (1985): 'Jürgen Habermas' in Skinner, Q. (ed.) The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
William Outhwaite (1994): Habermas. A critical introduction. Cambridge: Polity Press.
William Outhwaite (ed.)1994): The Habermas Reader. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Michael Pusey (1993): Habermas. London: Ellis Horwood.

Week 10:

Arjun Appadurai (ed.)(1986) The Social Life of Things. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Bruno Latour (1993) We Have Never Been Modern. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.
--- (1996) 'On Interobjectivity', Mind, Culture, and Activity 3(4): 228-245.
--- (1999) Pandora's Hope. Essays on the Reality of Science Studies. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.
Patricia Spyer (ed.)(1998) Border Fetishisms. Material Objects in Unstable Spaces. London & New York: Routledge.

Week 11:

Ian Burkitt (1999) Bodies of Thought. Embodiment, Identity and Modernity. London: Sage.
Gillian Bendelow and Simon J. Williams (eds)(1998) Emotions in Social Life. Critical Themes and Contemporary Issues. London & New York: Routledge.
Nick Crossley (1995) 'Merleau-Ponty, the Elusive Body and Carnal Sociology', Body and Society 1(4): 43-63.

--- (1997) 'Corporeality and Communicative Action: Emboding the Renewal of Critical Theory', Body and Society 3(1): 17-47.

Mike Featherstone et al. (eds)(1991) The Body. Social Process and Cultural Theory. London: Sage.

Chris Shilling (1993) The Body and Social Theory. London: Sage.

Bryan Turner (1996 [2nd ed.]) The Body and Society. London: Sage.