In this course, you learn about a variety of contemporary social theories and their impacts on sociological thought. Each theoretical perspective we explore will serve as an introduction into new ways of thinking and analyzing the world. As a continuation of Theoretical Perspective in Sociology, you will be encouraged to assess how each new theory expands on, and intersects with foundational theories within sociology. Our goal will not be to develop a comprehensive understanding of any specific theory, rather, we will explore the usefulness of each theory to contemporary thought. The theories explored in this course include: Neo-Marxism, post-structuralism, post-colonialism, and symbolic interactionism.

**Covid-19 Disclaimer**

_Due to recent events pertaining to the Covid-19 outbreak, this course will be taught remotely via Google Hangouts. We will be meeting once a week at our regularly scheduled time using the Google Hangouts platform. I will be sending out calendar invites to each student every week, which will allow each student to join the Google Hangouts discussion._

**Course Expectations**

This course is an advanced graduate seminar. As such, the reading expectations are quite heavy. Each week students will be asked to read at least one book and one (or more) additional article. To be clear, I do not expect any of you to complete all of the readings each week. I do expect all of you to, at the very least, engage with all of the readings in some fashion before class. This can mean a number of things, but the best way to approach this is to (at least) read the introductory
chapter of the assigned book and the article(s) assigned each week. From there, examine the chapter listings and try to read two or more additional chapters that you find interesting. I strongly encourage students collaborate on the readings. For example, students may parse out the readings among the class such that each student is responsible for reading a particular section of the book before each meeting; this is not a requirement, just a suggestion. Our goal is to create a comprehensive understanding of the readings. We can only accomplish this if we work together.

**Course Policies**

*Academic Honesty:* You are expected to demonstrate complete academic honesty. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code for more detailed information on PSU policies. Cheating or plagiarizing will result in failing the assignment or the course and will be reported.

*Students with Disabilities:* Students with disabilities who may require accommodations are encouraged to contact the PSU Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) and the instructor at the beginning of the term to arrange accommodations. The DRC is located in 435 Smith and can be contacted at 725-4150 or by email at drc@pdx.edu.

*Classroom Conduct:* You must demonstrate the highest level of respect for your peers and for the instructor. All points of view will be welcomed and respected; however, statements or behaviors that are disrespectful towards individuals or groups will not be tolerated. Behaviors that are distracting to your peers and to the instructor are not acceptable (e.g. coming in late, packing up or leaving early, using cell phones, and having side conversations).

**Course Evaluation**

*Weekly writing responses (60%):* Each week you will be required to write a 500 word (minimum) writing response, which will be due at the start of each class. Responses should include a brief overview of the week’s readings, followed by a critical assessment of the content. Students may pose a series of unanswered questions, a critique of specific points, and/or a comparison of other works. At the beginning of each class, students will be required to spend 5-10 minutes conveying the contents of their reading responses to the class (this will be assessed and incorporated into your final grade for the assignment).

*Final Paper (40%):* Each will be required to hand in an essay (minimum 3,000 words) at the end of the course. The essay can either be 1.) An argument constructed using the readings from the course. 2.) A research proposal (this can be written as a draft for a grant proposal or a thesis proposal). 3.) A literature review for a research project. **Final papers are due Thursday of finals week by 5 PM on D2L**

**Required Texts**
Horkheimer, Max and Theodor W. Adorno *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (Cultural Memory in the Present) 1st Edition


Federici, Silvia *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation*

Goffman, Erving, *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*

Foucault, Michel, *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*

Foucault, Michel, *History of Sexuality. Volume 1: An Introduction*

Said, Edward *Orientalism*

Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*

Lowe, Lisa. *The Intimacies of Four Continents*

Incite, Women of Color Against Violence. *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex*
Week 1: The Frankfurt School

Lukács, György. “What is Orthodox Marxism” (D2L) Note that there are extra readings provided in this file but you are only expected to read, “What is Orthodox Marxism”

Horkheimer, Max and Theodor W. Adorno Dialectic of Enlightenment (Cultural Memory in the Present) 1st Edition For the first week I will put the chapter on the “Culture Industry” on D2L in case some of you have not received your books yet.

Week 2: Neo-Marxism and Primitive Accumulation

Federici, Silvia Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation

Nichols, Robert. “Disaggregating primitive accumulation” D2L

Week 3: Neo-Marxism and Primitive Accumulation cont.

Kelley, Robin. “What did Cedric Robinson Mean by Racial Capitalism?” (D2L)


Johnson, Walter. “To Remake the World: Slavery, Racial Capitalism, and Justice” (D2L)

Week 4: Post-structuralism

Foucault, Michel, Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison or The History of Sexuality Part 1.

Giddens, Anthony. “Structuralism, Post-structuralism and the Production of Culture” (D2L)

Week 5: Post-structuralism cont.

Butler, Judith. Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of

West and Zimmerman. “Doing Gender” (D2L)

Week 6: Goffman

Goffman, Erving. Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates

Hacking, Ian. “Between Michel Foucault and Erving Goffman: between discourse in the abstract and face-to-face interaction” (D2L)

Week 7: Post-colonialism

Said, Edward Orientalism

Spivak, Gayatri. “Can the Subaltern Speak” (D2L)

Week 8: Post-colonialism cont.

Lowe, Lisa. The Intimacies of Four Continents
Go, Julian “For a postcolonial sociology” (D2L)

**Week 9: The Non-profit Industrialization Complex**

Incite, Women of Color Against Violence. *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex*

**Week 10: Let’s figure out what we want to read together.**