THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIOLOGY
Sociology 591
Fall 2019
Thursday 2:00-4:50
Julius McGee
Office hours: MW 1:00-2:00

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

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).

**Required Texts**

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1: Dialectical Materialism
Levisn and Lewontin. “What is Human Nature?” D2L
Marcuse, Herbert. “From Philosophy to Social Theory” (In Reason and Revolution) D2L
Marx, Karl. “The German Ideology”. D2L

Week 2: Marx and Marxism
Marx, Karl. “So Called Primitive Accumulation”. (In Kapital) D2L
Burawoy, Michael. “Marxism as science: Historical challenges and theoretical growth.” American Sociological Review D2L

Week 3: Weber
Weber, Max: “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism” D2L

Week 4: Durkheim
Thompson, Kenneth. Readings From Emile Durkheim. (read the whole book)
Lemert, Charles. “The canonical limits of Durkheim's first classic.” (D2L)

Week 5: Dubois
DuBois, W.E.B. The Souls of Black Folk (read the whole book)
DuBois, W.E.B. “The Souls of White Folk” D2L
Morris, Aldon. The Scholar Denied (selected readings) D2L

Week 6: Hartman and Feminist Theories
Hartmann, Heidi I. “The unhappy marriage of Marxism and feminism: Towards a more progressive union.” (D2L)
Hartmann, Heidi. “Capitalism, patriarchy, and job segregation by sex.” Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society (D2L)
Degler, Carl. “Charlotte Perkins Gilman on the Theory and Practice of Feminism”
Hooks, Bell. “Rethinking the Nature of Work” (D2L)

Week 7: Bourdieu

Calhoun, Craig. "Pierre Bourdieu and social transformation: lessons from Algeria." *Development and change* D2L

**Week 8: Gramsci and Hegemony**

Boggs “Marxism as the Philosophy of Praxis” (D2L)

Smith “Gramsci at the margins: subjectivity and subalternity in a theory of hegemony” (D2L)

Burawoy, Michael. “The roots of domination: beyond Bourdieu and Gramsci.” (D2L)

**Week 9: Collins**

Collins, Patricia Hill. *Black feminist thought: Knowledge, consciousness, and the politics of empowerment.*

**Week 10: Foucault**