

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE			
TERM:	Fall 2015	COURSE NO:	SOC 351
INSTRUCTOR:		COURSE NAME:	Modernism, Postmodernism, and Society
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:			
OFFICE HOURS: TBA			

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework including SOC 101.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The modern age was supposed to solve various human problems. Science would sweep aside superstition; technology would eliminate scarcity and improve our everyday lives; democracy would liberate us from oppression. By the early 1970s, the optimism among many in the post-WW2 era had faded, and “postmodern” social theories began to emerge to criticize the mainstream. These theories challenged the assumptions of rational science, individual autonomy, revolutionary politics, and the “grand narrative” of progress. The debate rages on, and this course will provide an overview of the social theories involved and the social changes that provide the context for these theories.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- critique the concepts of modernism and postmodernism as they apply to social theory;
- make connections between changes in society and debates in social theory;
- locate these theories in the broader discipline of sociology, as well as cognate disciplines;
- critically read and analyze various writers in the field;
- write critically and analytically on aspects of these social theories;
- use these theories to explain everyday life in contemporary North America

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Lemert, Charles (ed.) Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings. Fifth edition. Boulder, CO: Westview, 2013. [This text contains short excerpts from various thinkers. Few excerpts are longer than five pages].

Online readings available on Moodle, indicated by BOLD type below: Kant, Zeitlin, Nietzsche, Jameson

COURSE WEBSITE:

moodle.capilanou.ca

COURSE CONTENT:

Date	Topic	Readings (titles in bold are on Moodle)
	Introduction	Lemert, "Social Theory: Its Uses and Pleasures" (pp. 1-17)
	Liberalism, Progress, and Rationality	Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"
	Liberalism 2	Zeitlin, "Harriet Taylor and J.S. Mill"
	Early Critics: Nietzsche	Nietzsche, "Beyond Good and Evil"
	Early Critics: Marx	Marx, "Estranged Labour," "Camera Obscura" and "The Manifesto of "Class Struggle" (pp. 28-37)
	Marx 2	
	The Iron Cage of Modernity: Weber	Weber, "The Spirit of Capitalism and the Iron Cage" and "The Bureaucratic Machine" (pp. 79-87)
	The Frankfurt School	Horkheimer and Adorno, "The Culture Industry as Deception" (167-170)
	Frankfurt School 2	<i>Video: Century of the Self</i>
	MIDTERM EXAM	
	Intro to Foucault	Foucault, "Power as Knowledge" (pp. 353-357)
	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>No class - the university is closed</i>
	Foucault 2	Foucault, "Biopolitics and the Carceral Society" (pp. 311-314)
	Derrida: Postmodernism and "truth"	Derrida, "The Decentering Event in Social Thought" (pp. 308-311) <i>Video: Derrida</i>
	Derrida 2	
	Butler and Queer Theory	Butler, "Imitation and Gender Subordination" (pp. 419-426) <i>Video: Examined Life</i>
	Postcolonial critique	Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (pp. 400-403)
	Postcolonialism 2	Trinh T. Minh-ha, "Infinite Layers/ Third World?" (pp. 396-400) <i>Video: Surname Viet, Given Name Nam</i>
	Baudrillard	Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Simulations: Disneyland" (pp. 357-361)
	TERM PAPER DUE Baudrillard 2	

Course Content – continued

Date	Topic	Readings (titles in bold are on Moodle)
	Jameson, Postmodernism and Late Capitalism	Jameson, “Postmodernism and Consumer Society”
	Jameson 2	
	Giddens: The Juggernaut of Modernity	Giddens, “Post-Modernity or Radicalized Modernity?” (pp. 367-372)
	Bauman and Harvey	Bauman, “Liquid Modernity” (pp. 450-452); Harvey, “Neoliberalism on Trial” (pp. 453-454)
	Conclusion: new directions	
	Exam period	

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be two **exams**, one of them a midterm and the other a final exam, consisting of short-answer and essay-style questions.

Each student must write a **term paper** that engages with some of the themes of the course. The structure of the paper will be as follows: Choose a piece from Lemert’s Social Theory textbook which was NOT assigned for the course. Compare and contrast the approach of the piece’s author towards issues of modernity and postmodernity with those of one or more thinkers that ARE assigned for the course. A full description of the assignment will be handed out by week two of the course.

The **participation** mark will be based on:

- group work done in-class
- “minute papers”: very short papers (as short as a sentence) written in-class and marked as either “complete” or “incomplete.” These papers might ask you to summarize one of the main points of that day’s class, or of the readings for the class, or to think of a question that is related to the day’s topic that wasn’t answered in the lecture or discussion.

The **fourth-hour** activities are the study questions posted on the Moodle site. They will draw from the readings and classroom material. While these questions will not be marked, they will be a necessary tool in preparing for the exams.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Midterm exam:	30%
Term paper:	30%
Final Exam:	35%
Participation:	5%
	100%

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance:

Class attendance is **essential**. Classes will involve lectures, videos, debates and discussions, small-group assignments, handouts, and other material. All of this is “examinable,” so if you miss a class for any reason, please arrange to get notes from a classmate.

Late Assignments:

Late papers will be accepted, but with a 5% penalty for each day the paper is late.

Late papers will be accepted WITHOUT penalty ONLY with a doctor or counselor's note. These notes must indicate the date or dates that you were unable to do school work because of illness or personal crisis. (Please be aware that there is a medical clinic on campus in Birch 249.) If, for example, you were sick for five days, and your medical note confirms this, you can hand in a research paper five days late. Handing in the paper later than this will result in the penalty described above.

Missed Exams:

Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Students should be prepared to provide proof of inability to write the test on the scheduled date (e.g. letter from doctor). Medical notes must specify which day or days you were ill. Missing an exam for any other reason will be accommodated only in special circumstances, and only with prior arrangement with the instructor.

English Usage:

It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Incomplete Grades:

Given at the discretion of the instructor. Generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices:

No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and pagers and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures:

Please read the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.