This course is meant as an introduction to some of the central issues in the contemporary study of society and politics. It is based on the reading of some of the most important works of the last seventy years that have been built upon, and contributed to, the development of sociology and social theory. The topics that these works treat have become central to a wide range of social and political thought: intellectual and cultural production; critical theory, language, and the re-evaluation of classical social and political thought; normalization and social control; the body and power; practices of the self; social reproduction through education; stratification and culture. At the same time, this is, inevitably, a selective course with many gaps in traditional sociological theory, among them functionalism (Parsons, Merton, etc), sociology of knowledge (Mannheim), and micro-sociology and interaction (Goffman, Garfinkel, Cicourel, Blumer, etc).

Books have been ordered from the University Bookstore. All required books are also on reserve in SSH. Articles for which web links are not provided will be made available weekly for students to copy.

**Requirements**: Two 7-10 page papers: one on Foucault, due at the beginning of Week VII, and one on Bourdieu, due during exam week.
Week

I. INTRODUCTION

II. CRITICAL THEORY OF SOCIETY AND THE MEANINGS OF CULTURE

Max Horkheimer, “The Present Situation of Social Philosophy and the Tasks of an Institute for Social Research”, from Between Philosophy and Social Science
http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/horkheimer/1931/present-situation.htm

Max Horkheimer, “Traditional and Critical Theory,” from Critical Theory

Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, “The Concept of Enlightenment” and “The Culture Industry,” from Dialectic of Enlightenment


Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction,” from Illuminations
http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/ge/benjamin.htm

III. CULTURES, STRUCTURES, AND IDEOLOGIES

Gramsci, Selections from Prison Notebooks, 5-23, 52-61, 102-120, 125-90, 210-18, 227-38, 257-68, 275-76, 343-66, 407-10

Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses,” from Lenin and Philosophy
http://www.marx2mao.com/Other/LPOE70ii.html#s5

Habermas, “Technology and Science as Ideology,” from Toward a Rational Society
IV-V. KNOWLEDGE, POWER, AND SOCIAL CONTROL

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, all

Foucault, “Two Lectures,” from *Power/Knowledge*

Foucault, “Truth and Power,” from *Power/Knowledge*

VI. THE MICROPHYSICS OF POWER/KNOWLEDGE

Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, volume 1, all

Foucault, “The Subject and Power,” from Dreyfus and Rabinow, *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*

VII-VIII. STRATIFICATION AND CULTURAL CAPITAL


Bourdieu, *Distinction*, pp. 1-256, 466-500

IX. CULTURE AND INTELLECTUAL PRODUCTION


[http://ssi.sagepub.com/content/vol8/issue2/](http://ssi.sagepub.com/content/vol8/issue2/)

Bourdieu, *The Field of Cultural Production*, pp. 29-73, 112-141, 176-91

X. CULTURAL SOCIOLOGY, HISTORY, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

William H. Sewell, Jr., *Logics of History*
Alexander and Smith, “The Strong Program in Cultural Sociology,” AND
Alexander, “Modern, Anti, Post, and Neo: How Intellectuals Explain ‘Our Time’,”

BOTH in:
Jeffrey Alexander, The Meanings of Social Life