

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL THEORY
Status: Definitive
Code: **6002SOCIO** (114774)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2018

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Liz James	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 24
Total Delivered Hours: 60
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 180

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	20
Online	10
Seminar	20
Tutorial	8

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Exam	AS3	Examination (2 hour)	30	2
Essay	AS1	Essay (3000 words)	40	
Presentation	AS2	Presentation (1000 word equivalent)	30	

Aims

1. To deepen students' knowledge of sociological and social theory.
2. To develop students' ability to apply sociological and social theory to contemporary social life.

3. To enhance students' skills and confidence in negotiating an area of study.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically assess the style, structure and content of a range of different theoretical perspectives.
- 2 Demonstrate the relevance (or not) of recent social theory to an understanding of social life through the application of theoretical perspectives to contemporary social phenomena.
- 3 Critically analyse the relationship between 'theory' and 'reality'.
- 4 Work effectively as part of a group.
- 5 Use oral presentational skills to critically analyse the relevance of social and sociological theory to an understanding of contemporary phenomena.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

EXAM	1	2		
ESSAY	1	3		
PRESENTATION	1	2	4	5

Outline Syllabus

Philosophical development of Enlightenment thought and forms of knowledge production.

Postmodern challenges to modern models of knowledge production.

The relationship between religious and scientific modes of thought.

The 'information' society.

Sociological perspectives on the transformation of contemporary society in the areas of identify, family, community, social divisions and political activity.

Modern and postmodern culture.

Globalisation.

Implications of social change and theoretical challenges for the future of sociology.

Learning Activities

Integrated sessions based on short lectures interspersed with classroom discussions.

Course Material	Book
Author	Calhoun, C. et al (eds)
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Contemporary Sociological Theory

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford: Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Callinicos, A.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Social Theory
Subtitle	A Historical Introduction
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge: Polity
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Davis, M. and Tester, K. (eds)
Publishing Year	2010
Title	Bauman's Challenge
Subtitle	Sociological Issues for the 21st Century
Edition	
Publisher	Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Farganis, J.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Reading in Social Theory
Subtitle	The Classical Tradition to Post-modernism
Edition	
Publisher	Boston: McGraw-Hill
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Featherstone, M.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Consumer Culture and Postmodernism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Sage
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Heaphy, B.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Late Modernity and Social Change
Subtitle	Reconstructing Social and Personal Life
Edition	

Publisher	Abington: Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Held, D. and McGrew, A.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Globalization / Anti-Globalization
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge: Polity
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Outhwaite, W.
Publishing Year	2006
Title	The Future of Society
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford: Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Seidman, S.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Contested Knowledge
Subtitle	Social Theory today
Edition	
Publisher	Malden MA: Blackwell
ISBN	

Notes

This module will give students the opportunity to examine in depth the concepts, issues and debates involved in considering both the direction of social change and the sociological and social theories developed to explain it. It will also consider the implications of postmodern challenges to ideas of truth and certainty for the future of sociology. Students are given the opportunity to negotiate and develop an area of study that reflects their own interests.