

# SOCIM3101: Contemporary Sociological Theory

[View Online](#)

358 items

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**Appendix** - in Practical reason: on the theory of action, by Pierre Bourdieu, 1998

Chapter

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## Reading list (357 items)

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**Social theory in the twentieth century and beyond**, by Patrick Baert; Filipe Carreira da Silva, c2010

Book

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**Social theory: a historical introduction**, by Alex Callinicos, 2007

Book

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**From enlightenment to risk: social theory and contemporary society**, by Simon Clarke, c2006

Book

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**Introduction to sociological theory: theorists, concepts, and their applicability to the twenty-first century**, by Michele Dillon, 2010

Book

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**Social theory and modernity**, by Nigel Dodd, 1999

Book

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**The Blackwell reader in contemporary social theory**, by Anthony Elliott, 1999

Book

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**Contemporary social theory: an introduction**, by Anthony Elliott, 2009

Book

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**Profiles in contemporary social theory**, by Anthony Elliott; Bryan S. Turner, 2001

Book

---

**The future of social theory**, by Nicholas Gane, 2004

Book

---

**Social theory today**, by Anthony Giddens; Jonathan H. Turner, 1987

Book

---

**Modernity and its futures**, by Stuart Hall; David Held; Anthony G. McGrew; Open University. Understanding Modern Societies Course Team, 1992

Book

---

**The sociological revolution: from the Enlightenment to the global age**, by Richard Kilminster, 1998

Book

---

**Social theory for today: making sense of social worlds**, by Alex Law, 2015

Book

---

**Understanding social theory**, by Derek Layder, 2012

Book

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**Social theory: the multicultural and classic readings**, edited by Charles C. Lemert, 2004

Book

---

**Social structure**, by José López; John Scott, 2000

Book

---

**Situating social theory**, by Tim May, 1996

Book

---

**Social theory for beginners**, by Paul Ransome, 2010

Book

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**The Wiley-Blackwell companion to major social theorists**, edited by George Ritzer; Jeffrey Stepnisky, 2011

Book

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**Sociological theory**, by George Ritzer, c2008

Book

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**Handbook of social theory**, edited by George Ritzer; Barry Smart, 2003

Book

---

**Sociological theory: contemporary debates**, by John Scott, c2012

Book

---

**Social theory: central issues in sociology**, by John Scott, 2006

Book

---

**A short history of sociological thought**, by Alan Swingewood, 2000

Book

---

**The new Blackwell companion to social theory**, by Bryan S. Turner, c2009

Book

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## **Week 1: Introduction** (33 items)

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This week's lectures will introduce the course. We'll begin by thinking a little about what it is to 'conceptualise the social' and what conceptualisation/theory is for, picking out some of the key concerns and questions that have guided the ideas covered in the course. We'll also get to grips with some of the basic vocabulary of sociological theory, such as micro/macro, agency/structure and subjectivity/objectivity, and reflect on the relationship between theory and empirical research. The lecture will briefly outline one of the

characteristic concerns of modern sociology: how does society work and what holds it together? We will consider three classic approaches to this issue: one that emphasises how the rational choices of individuals are the most fundamental element of society; another that stresses the importance of the socialization of norms and values; and a third, more critical approach that emphasises instead how social order is maintained in the interests of certain powerful elites rather than for the benefit of all.

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## Essential Reading (2 items)

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**What's Wrong With Theory and Why We Still Need It** - in Modern social theory: from Parsons to Habermas, by Ian Craib, 1992

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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**The Promise** - in The sociological imagination, by C. Wright Mills, 1970

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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## Further reading (30 items)

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**Chapter 6. Charles Wright Mills: Sociology as an Imaginative Craft** - in The art of sociological argument, by Crow, G., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Introduction: What is Social Theory?** - in Modern social theory: an introduction, by Harrington, A., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 2. 'What is Sociology?'** - in Foundations of sociology: towards a better understanding of the human world, by Jenkins R., 2002

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Contested knowledge: social theory today**, by Steven Seidman, 2013

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | 'Preface' and 'Introduction,'

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**The story of sociology: a first companion to social theory**, by Gregor McLennan, 2011

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Chapters 1-6

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**The sociological imagination**, by C. Wright Mills, 1970

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Chapter 2: 'Grand Theory,' and Chapter 3: 'Abstracted Empiricism'

---

Rational Choice Theory:

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**Shaky foundations** - in Theory and Society, by Jeffrey C. Alexander, 1992-4

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 4. The Invasion of Economic Man** - in Social theory in the twentieth century and beyond, by Baert, P.; de Silva F., c2010

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Nobel Lecture: The Economic Way of Looking at Behavior** - in Journal of Political Economy, by Gary S. Becker, 1993-06

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**The Rational Reconstruction of Society: 1992 Presidential Address** - in American Sociological Review, by James S. Coleman, 1993-02

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 4. Rational Choice Theory** - in Modern social theory: from Parsons to Habermas, by Craib, I, 1992

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Contemporary sociological theory**, edited by Craig J. Calhoun; Joseph Gerteis; James W. Moody; Steven Pfaff; Indermohan Virk, 2012

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Part 2: 'Exchange and Rationality'

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**Beyond economic man: feminist theory and economics**, by Marianne A. Ferber; Julie A. Nelson, 1993

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Exchange/rational choice theory'** - in The story of sociology: a first companion to social theory, by McLennan, G., 2011

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Exchange, Network and Rational Choice Theories** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer, G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#) | pp.266-86, 293-301.

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**Rational Choice and Social Exchange** - in Sociological theory: contemporary debates, by John Scott, c2012

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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Functionalism:

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**Chapter 3. Parsons** - in Modern social theory: from Parsons to Habermas, by Craib, I, 1992

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 5. Talcott Parsons: sociology as systematic reflection** - in The art of sociological argument, by Crow, G., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 4. Functionalism and its Critics** - in Modern social theory: an introduction, by Holmwood, J., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 2. The Legacy of Talcott Parsons**, - in Understanding social theory, by Layder, D., 2012

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Talcott Parsons** - in The story of sociology: a first companion to social theory, by McLennan, G., 2011

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**The structure of social action: a study in social theory with special reference to a group of recent European writers**, by Talcott Parsons, 1968

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The social system**, by Talcott Parsons, 1951

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 3. Structural Functionalism, Neofunctionalism and Conflict Theory** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer, G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Talcott Parsons** - in Fifty key sociologists: the contemporary theorists, by Scott, J., 2007

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 5. The Grand Theory of Talcott Parsons and of Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann** - in Contested knowledge: social theory today, by Seidman, S., 2013

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Talcott Parsons** - in Key sociological thinkers, by Stones, R., edited by Rob Stones, 2008

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 6. Functionalism** - in A short history of sociological thought, by Swingewood, A., 2000

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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## Week 2: Micro-sociological theory (36 items)

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This week we begin to explore a variety of theories that see the world in terms of self-aware, reflective people acting on the basis of the meanings they attach to things picked up through interaction. The focus is above all on the workings of everyday life and is directly opposed to the grand theoretical schemes of functionalism (outlined in Week 1), which tended to portray people as the 'dupes' of large-scale cultural structures. We'll look closely at two of these perspectives: symbolic interactionism and ethnomethodology.

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## Essential Reading (2 items)

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**The Enigma of Everyday Life** - in Social theory in the twentieth century and beyond, by P. Baert; F. C. da Silva, c2010

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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**Chapter 1. The Methodological Position of Symbolic Interactionism** - in Symbolic interactionism: perspective and method, by Blumer, H., 1986

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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## Further reading (33 items)

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General:

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**The social construction of reality: a treatise in the sociology of knowledge**, by Peter L. Berger; Thomas Luckmann, 1979

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Erving Goffman** - in Profiles in contemporary social theory, by Branaman, A., 2001

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Contemporary sociological theory**, by Craig J. Calhoun, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Part 1: Micro-Sociology

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**Modern social theory: from Parsons to Habermas**, by Ian Craib, 1992

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | 'Symbolic Interactionism,' and 'Society as a Conspiracy,' Ch.5 & 6

---

**Towards relational sociology**, by Nick Crossley, 2012

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 7. Erving Goffman: sociology as an eye for detail** - in *The art of sociological argument*, by Crow, G., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**New rules of sociological method: a positive critique of interpretative sociologies**, by Anthony Giddens, 1993

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The coming crisis of western sociology**, by Alvin Ward Gouldner, 1971

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The story of sociology: a first companion to social theory**, by Gregor McLennan, 2011

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | pp. 98-102, 121-4,

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**Chapter 5. Interpretivism and Interactionism** - in *Modern social theory: an introduction*, by Outhwaite, W., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Modern sociological theory**, by George Ritzer; Douglas J. Goodman, c2004

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | 'Symbolic Interactionism,' and 'Ethnomethodology,' Ch.6 & 7

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**The phenomenology of the social world**, by Alfred Schutz; George Walsh; Frederick Lehnert, 1972

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Fifty key sociologists: the contemporary theorists**, by John Scott, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | entries on Howard S. Becker, Harold Garfinkel and Erving Goffman

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**Key sociological thinkers**, edited by Rob Stones, 2008

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Chapters on Herbert Blumer, Erving Goffman and Harold Garfinkel

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Symbolic interactionism:

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**'Domination'** - in *Journal of Classical Sociology*, by Lonnie Athens, 2002-03

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Art worlds**, by Howard S. Becker, c1982

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Symbolic interactionism and cultural studies: the politics of interpretation**, by Norman K. Denzin, 1992

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The presentation of self in everyday life**, by Erving Goffman, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Asylums: essays on the social situation of mental patients and other inmates**, by Erving Goffman, c2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Stigma: notes on the management of spoiled identity**, by Erving Goffman, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The Interaction Order** - in American Sociological Review, by Erving Goffman, 1983

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The managed heart: commercialization of human feeling**, by Arlie Russell Hochschild, 2012

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Mind, self, and society: from the standpoint of a social behaviorist**, by George Herbert Mead; Charles William Morris, 1967

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Symbolic interactionism**, by Kenneth Plummer, 1991

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The making of symbolic interactionism**, by Paul Elliott Rock, 1979

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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Ethnomethodology:

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**Ethnomethodology and the Human Sciences**, edited by Graham Button, 1991

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Studies in ethnomethodology**, by Harold Garfinkel, 1984

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Garfinkel and ethnomethodology**, by John Heritage, 1984

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Making sense of ethnomethodology**, by Eric Livingston, 1987

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The ethnomethodologists**, by W. W. Sharrock; Bob Anderson, 1986

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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## **Week 3: Critical theory** (34 items)

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While the 'micro' theories considered in Week 2 were largely US-led reactions against

functionalism, in Europe criticism of mainstream sociology – and society – drew heavily on the resources of Marxism, albeit in new ways. As well as recognition of certain conceptual problems with orthodox Marxism (such as economic reductionism), the rise of fascism and Stalinism, the persistence of capitalism, and the spread of mass media and consumerism, all gave rise to a number of attempts to refashion Marx's ideas in ways that could explain the apparent failure of the project of universal progress and emancipation – and potentially reboot it. Different efforts to rework Marx in this context surfaced, but we'll focus on just the most influential: the 'critical theory' of the Frankfurt School, including the work of Jürgen Habermas.

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## Essential Reading (2 items)

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**Western Marxism** - in *Modern social theory: an introduction*, by Douglas Kellner, 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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**Chapter 6. Contemporary Social Theory: An Introduction** - in *Contemporary social theory: an introduction*, by Elliott, A., 2009

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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## Further reading (31 items)

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**The culture industry: selected essays on mass culture**, by Theodor W. Adorno; J. M. Bernstein, 2001

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Considerations on Western Marxism**, by Perry Anderson, 1976

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Contemporary social theory: an introduction**, by Anthony Elliott, 2009

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Baert, P. (2001) 'Jürgen Habermas'; Bowie, A. (2001) 'Theodor Adorno'; and Kellner, D. (2001) 'Herbert Marcuse'

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**Contemporary sociological theory**, by Craig J. Calhoun, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Part 8: The Sociological Theory of Jürgen Habermas.

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**From enlightenment to risk: social theory and contemporary society**, by Simon Clarke, c2006

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Chapters 2, 3 and 4

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**Modern social theory: from Parsons to Habermas**, by Ian Craib, 1992

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | 'The Frankfurt School' and 'Jürgen Habermas,' Chs 11 & 12

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**Chapter 3. Horkheimer, Adorno and Marcuse** - in *Social theory and modernity*, by Dodd, N., 1999

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Understanding Habermas: communicative action and deliberative democracy**, by Erik Oddvar Eriksen; Jarle Weigård, c2003

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Unruly practices: power, discourse and gender in contemporary social theory**, by Nancy

Fraser, 1989

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Taking popular music seriously: selected essays**, by Simon Frith, c2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Selections from the prison notebooks of Antonio Gramsci**, by Antonio Gramsci; Quintin Hoare; Geoffrey Nowell-Smith, 1971

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Communication and the evolution of society**, by Jürgen Habermas; Thomas McCarthy, 1995

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The theory of communicative action: Vol.1: Reason and the rationalization of society**, by Jürgen Habermas, 1984

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The theory of communicative action: Vol.2: Lifeworld and system: a critique of functionalist reason**, by Jürgen Habermas, 1987

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The structural transformation of the public sphere: an inquiry into a category of bourgeois society**, by Jürgen Habermas, 1989

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Introduction to critical theory: Horkheimer to Habermas**, by David Held, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The struggle for recognition: the moral grammar of social conflicts**, by Axel Honneth, 1995

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Disrespect: the normative foundations of critical theory**, by Axel Honneth, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Esp. Chap 3

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**Dialectic of enlightenment**, by Theodor W. Adorno; Max Horkheimer, 2016

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Aspects of sociology**, by Institut für Sozialforschung (Frankfurt am Main), 1973

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Marxism and social theory**, by Jonathan Joseph, 2006

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**One dimensional man**, by Herbert Marcuse, 1968

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Habermas: a critical introduction**, by William Outhwaite, 1994

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The Habermas reader**, by Jürgen Habermas; William Outhwaite, 1996

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 10. Habermas's Lifeworld and System** - in Understanding social theory, by Layder, D., 2012

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 4. Varieties of Neo-Marxian Theory** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer, G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Fifty key sociologists: the contemporary theorists**, by John Scott, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | [Entry on Jurgen Habermas](#)

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**The Critical Theory of Jurgen Habermas** - in Contested knowledge: social theory today, by Steven Seidman, 2013

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Origin and significance of the Frankfurt School: a Marxist perspective**, by Phil Slater, 1977

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Key sociological thinkers**, edited by Rob Stones, 2008

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | [Chapters on Theodor Adorno and Jürgen Habermas](#)

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**Marxists Internet Archive**

[Website](#) | [Further](#) | Don't forget many writings by most Marxists are available here.

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## **Week 4: The integrative sociology of Pierre Bourdieu** (31 items)

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Where functionalism, as well as some strands of structural Marxism and critical theory, explained how society works by highlighting macro-structures and their role in moulding people, opposing theories placed much more emphasis on micro-level interactions and personal agency – exploring the power of individuals to shape their own lives. As a result social theory appeared to offer incompatible either/or choices: micro or macro; structure or agency. This week our attention turns to attempts to move beyond these dichotomies and develop approaches that integrate all these elements in grand theoretical syntheses. Our focus is on France's most celebrated post-war sociologist, Pierre Bourdieu. We will pay close attention to Bourdieu's central notions of 'habitus' – or socialised subjectivity – and 'field' – or abstract relations of struggle and domination vis-a-vis particular forms of power and recognition, known as 'capital'.

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### **Essential Reading** (2 items)

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**'Social Space and Field of Power'** - in Practical reason: on the theory of action, by Bourdieu, P., 1998

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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**Cultural Field and the Habitus** - in Understanding Bourdieu, by Jen Webb; Tony Schirato; Geoff Danaher, 2002

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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### **Further reading** (28 items)

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Basic readings:

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**Pierre Bourdieu'** - in Profiles in contemporary social theory, by Fowler, B., 2001

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Pierre Bourdieu: key concepts**, edited by Michael Grenfell, 2014

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Pierre Bourdieu**, by Richard Jenkins, 2002

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 10. Structure and Agency** - in Modern social theory: an introduction, by King, A., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**What is Field Theory?** - in American journal of sociology (109: 1-49.), by Martin, J. L.

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 10. Agency-Structure Integration** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer, G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Pierre Bourdieu** - in Fifty key sociologists: the contemporary theorists, by Scott, J., 2007

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**The Critical Sociology of Anthony Giddens and Pierre Bourdieu** - in Contested knowledge: social theory today, by Steven Seidman, 2013

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**The Legacy of Pierre Bourdieu: Critical Essays**, by Simon Susen; Bryan S. Turner, 2012

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Culture & power: the sociology of Pierre Bourdieu**, by David Swartz, 1997

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Understanding Bourdieu**, by Jen Webb; Tony Schirato; Geoff Danaher, 2002

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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Bourdieu's own works and his critics:

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**Chapter 4. The Reality of Reduction** - in Fin de siècle social theory: relativism, reduction, and the problem of reason, by Alexander, J., 1995

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Outline of a theory of practice**, by Pierre Bourdieu, 1977

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Distinction: a social critique of the judgement of taste**, by Pierre Bourdieu, 2010

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**In other words: essays towards a reflexive sociology**, by Pierre Bourdieu, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The logic of practice**, by Pierre Bourdieu, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Esp. Book I

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**The state nobility: elite schools in the field of power**, by Pierre Bourdieu, 1996

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The rules of art: genesis and structure of the literary field**, by Pierre Bourdieu, 1996

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Practical reason: on the theory of action**, by Pierre Bourdieu, 1998

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Pascalian meditations**, by Pierre Bourdieu, 2000

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Reproduction in education, society and culture**, by Pierre Bourdieu; Jean-Claude Passeron, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**An invitation to reflexive sociology**, by Pierre Bourdieu; Loïc J. D. Wacquant, 1992

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Contemporary sociological theory**, edited by Craig J. Calhoun; Joseph Gerteis; James W. Moody; Steven Pfaff; Indermohan Virk, 2012

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Part 6: The Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu

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**Genetic Structuralism, Psychological Sociology and Pragmatic Social Actor Theory** - in Theory, Culture & Society, by Bruno Frère, 2004-06

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**The Fragmented World of Symbolic Forms: Reflections on Pierre Bourdieu's Sociology of Culture** - in Theory, Culture & Society, by Axel Honneth, 1986

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**From the habitus to an individual heritage of dispositions. Towards a sociology at the level of the individual** - in Poetics, by Bernard Lahire, 2003-10

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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## **Week 5: The post-structuralism of Michel Foucault** (39 items)

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If the theories studied in Weeks 1-4 were all fundamentally animated by the question of how society works, this week marks the emergence of a critical twist in the tale. While that question remains of central interest, the various theorists we will cover over the coming weeks also focused attention on the significance of sociological knowledge itself. The 'scientific' neutrality of modern social thought was increasingly called into question, as was its purported claims to serve universal reason and progress. This week we concentrate on the hugely influential work of Michel Foucault. According to conventional accounts, the human sciences are engaged in the essentially positive and impartial pursuit of 'truth' about social relations and human selfhood. Foucault, however, was interested in the ways in which the human and medical sciences have in practice used 'truth' to divide

and regulate populations and produce (certain kinds of) 'selves,' and this had led to a fertile tradition of research on discourse and power. We'll try to work through his efforts to provide an 'archaeology of knowledge' and 'genealogy of power,' as well as his notions of 'governmentality' and 'bio-power'.

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## Essential Reading (2 items)

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**Introduction** - in The Foucault reader, by Paul Rabinow, 1986

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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**Chapter 2. Questions of Knowledge** - in Understanding Foucault, by Danaher, G., 2000

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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## Further reading (36 items)

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General:

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**Chapter 9. Structuralism and Post-Structuralism** - in Modern social theory: an introduction, by Ashenden, S., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Foucault and political reason: liberalism, neo-liberalism and rationalities of government**, by Andrew Barry; Thomas Osborne; Nikolas S. Rose, 1996

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The Foucault effect: studies in governmentality : with two lectures by and an interview with Michel Foucault**, by Graham Burchell; Colin Gordon; Peter Miller, 1991

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Contemporary sociological theory**, by Craig J. Calhoun, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Part 4: The Sociological Theory of Michel Foucault

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**Chapter 8. Michel Foucault: sociology as shocking** - in The art of sociological argument, by Crow, G., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Understanding Foucault**, by Geoff Danaher; Tony Schirato; Jen Webb, 2000

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Unruly practices: power, discourse and gender in contemporary social theory**, by Nancy Fraser, 1989

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Esp. Part I

---

**The philosophical discourse of modernity: twelve lectures**, by Jürgen Habermas, 1987

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Jacques Derrida** - in Profiles in contemporary social theory, by Howells C., 2001

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Michel Foucault** - in Profiles in contemporary social theory, by Katz, S., 2001

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 6. Foucault and the Postmodern Turn** - in Understanding social theory, by Layder, D., 2012

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Michel Foucault**, by Sara Mills, 2003

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**State, power, socialism**, by Nicos Poulantzas, 1978

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The Foucault reader**, by Michel Foucault; Paul Rabinow, 1986

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 10. Discourse and power: post-structuralist social theory** - in Social theory for beginners, by Ransome, P., 2010

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 13. Structuralism, Poststructuralism and the Emergence of Postmodern Social Theory** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer, G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Governing the soul: the shaping of the private self**, by Nikolas S. Rose, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Inventing our selves: psychology, power, and personhood**, by Nikolas S. Rose, 1996

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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Rose, N. (1999) Powers of Reason

item not found.

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**Michel Foucault** - in Fifty key sociologists: the contemporary theorists, by Scott, J., 2007

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 13. Michel Foucault's Disciplinary Society** - in Contested knowledge: social theory today, by Seidman, S., 2013

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Michel Foucault** - in Key sociological thinkers, by Stones, R., edited by Rob Stones, 2008

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 8. Structuralism and Post-structuralism** - in A short history of sociological thought, by Swingewood, A., 2000

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Michael Foucault: key concepts**, by Dianna Taylor, 2011

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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Foucault's own books:

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**Madness and civilization: a history of insanity in the Age of Reason**, by Michel Foucault, 1967

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The order of things: an archaeology of the human sciences**, by Michel Foucault, 2002

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The archaeology of knowledge: [by] Michel Foucault**, by Michel Foucault, 1972

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The birth of the clinic: an archaeology of medical perception**, by Michel Foucault, 2003

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Discipline and punish: the birth of the prison**, by Michel Foucault, 1991

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Power/knowledge: selected interviews and other writings, 1972-1977**, by Michel Foucault; Colin Gordon, 1980

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The history of sexuality: Vol.1: The will to knowledge**, by Michel Foucault, 1998

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The history of sexuality: Vol.2: The use of pleasure**, by Michel Foucault, 1992

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The history of sexuality: Vol.3: The care of the self**, by Michel Foucault, 1988

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Security, territory, population: lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-1978**, by Michel Foucault; Michel Senellart; Arnold Ira Davidson; Graham Burchell; France. Ministère des affaires étrangères, 2009

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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## Week 6: Reading week (1 items)

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There are no lectures or seminars this week. Instead you should use the time to catch up on reading and revise for the formative assessment.

## Week 7: Feminist theory and the critique of patriarchy (37 items)

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For much of the 20th century social theory was the preserve of white Western men – certainly the vast majority of thinkers so far surveyed fall in to this rather exclusive category. However, a number of social changes began to open the social and human sciences to new voices and perspectives interested in previously ignored modes of social being and domination. Over the next two weeks we will look at several such developments that, in part, built on the critical insights of Foucault and poststructuralist

thought. To begin with we will consider the evolution of feminist theory in recent decades. Feminism sought to denaturalise the gender divide and masculine domination, arguing that the key structure of society was patriarchy and that sociology's task was to explore the ways in which patriarchy is lived and reproduced. The idea that, far from being natural, gender is a learned, social performance also paved the way for the emergence of queer theory, which we will also touch on this week.

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## Essential Reading (2 items)

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**Introduction** - in *The everyday world as problematic: a feminist sociology*, by Dorothy Smith, 1988

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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**Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory** - in *Theatre Journal*, by Judith Butler, 1988-12

[Article](#) | [Essential](#)

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## Further reading (34 items)

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**Chapter 11. Feminist Social Theory** - in *Modern social theory: an introduction*, by Adkins, L., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Feminism after Bourdieu**, by Lisa Adkins; Beverley Skeggs, 2004

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Gender trouble: feminism and the subversion of identity**, by Judith Butler, 2006

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Bodies that matter: on the discursive limits of "sex"**, by Judith Butler, 2014

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Feminist Theory and Sociology: Underutilized Contributions for Mainstream Theory** - in *Annual Review of Sociology*, by Janet Saltzman Chafetz, 1997

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 13. Judith Butler** - in *The Wiley-Blackwell companion to major social theorists*, by Clough, P., edited by George Ritzer; Jeffrey Stepnisky, 2011

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Black feminist thought: knowledge, consciousness, and the politics of empowerment**, by Patricia Hill Collins, 2009

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 27. Black Feminist Epistemology** - in *Contemporary sociological theory*, by Collins, P. H., 2007

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Gender and power: society, the person and sexual politics**, by Raewyn Connell, 1987

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**A Very Straight Gay: Masculinity, Homosexual Experience, and the Dynamics of Gender** - in American Sociological Review, by R. W. Connell, 1992-12

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Masculinities**, by Raewyn Connell, 2005

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Chapter 9. Ann Oakley: Sociology as Emancipation** - in The art of sociological argument, by Crow, G., 2005

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Theory on gender/feminism on theory**, by Paula England, c1993

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Chapter 12. Feminist Theory** - in The new Blackwell companion to social theory, by Evans, M, c2009

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 3. Judith Butler** - in The future of social theory, by Gane, N., 2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Nancy Chodorow** - in Profiles in contemporary social theory, by Gershenson G.; Williams M., 2001

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The science question in feminism**, by Sandra G. Harding, 1986

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Feminism, Epistemology and Postmodernism: Reflections on Current Ambivalence** - in Sociology, by Gregor McLennan, 1995

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Feminism is queer: the intimate connection between queer and feminist theory**, by Mimi Marinucci, 2010

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Housewife**, by Ann Oakley, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The sociology of housework**, by Ann Oakley, 1985

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Chapter 11. Feminist social theory** - in Social theory for beginners, by Ransome, P., 2010

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Chapter 9. Modern Feminist Theory** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer, G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Fifty key sociologists: the contemporary theorists**, by John Scott, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Entries on Simone de Beauvoir, Judith Butler, Shulamith Firestone, Ann Oakley, and Dorothy Smith

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**Queer theory/sociology**, by Steven Seidman, 1996

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Contested knowledge: social theory today**, by Steven Seidman, 2013

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Feminist Theory/Masculinity Studies' and 'Lesbian, Gay, and Queer Theory/Heterosexual Studies,' Chs 14 & 16

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**The everyday world as problematic: a feminist sociology**, by Dorothy E. Smith, 1988

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Texts, facts, and femininity: exploring the relations of ruling**, by Dorothy E. Smith, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The conceptual practices of power: a feminist sociology of knowledge**, by Dorothy E. Smith, 1995

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 26. The Conceptual Practices of Power** - in Contemporary sociological theory, by Smith, D., 2007

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**"I Can't Even Think Straight" "Queer" Theory and the Missing Sexual Revolution in Sociology** - in Sociological Theory, by Arlene Stein; Ken Plummer, 1994-07

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Dorothy E. Smith** - in Key sociological thinkers, by Stones, R., edited by Rob Stones, 2008

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Theorizing patriarchy**, by Sylvia Walby, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Sociological cultural studies: reflexivity and positivity in the human sciences**, by Gregor McLennan, 2006

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Chapters 4, 5 and 6

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## **Week 8: Post-colonial theory and the critique of Eurocentrism** (24 items)

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Following last week's exploration of feminism and the patriarchal structure of both modern society and modern sociology, this week we focus on the parallel emergence of 'post-colonial' theory. As well as offering critical insight into the formation of racial identity and related forms of 'otherness,' a primary target here was the 'Eurocentric' nature of social theory. Far from being a universal discourse speaking to and for the whole of humanity, it is claimed that sociology, and the wider network of modern thought from which it emerged, has in fact been fundamentally shaped – and biased – by its very particular historical and geographical roots. This is reflected in its longstanding 'orientalist' tendencies, whereby the 'West' is uncritically assumed to be modern and advanced, and the 'East' – and the rest – to be traditional and backward, and in need of the West's beneficent help. We will chart the history of race and colonialism and the critical theories which emerged in their wake, before moving on to address the significance of postcolonial theory for sociology. This will involve engaging with both radical calls for a revolutionary

re-conception of sociology, which entails, amongst other things, calling the foundational idea of 'modernity' into question, and also with certain considered defences of sociology's European legacy.

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## Essential Reading (2 items)

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**Modern General Theory and its Hidden Assumptions** - in Southern theory: the global dynamics of knowledge in social science, by Raewyn Connell, 2007

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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**Introduction: Postcolonialism, Sociology, and the Politics of Knowledge Production** - in Rethinking modernity: postcolonialism and the sociological imagination, by Bhabra, G., 2009

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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## Further reading (21 items)

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**Eurocentrism**, by Samir Amin, 1989

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The location of culture**, by Homi K. Bhabha, 2004

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Rethinking modernity: postcolonialism and the sociological imagination**, by Gurinder K. Bhabra, 2009

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Sociology and Postcolonialism: Another 'Missing' Revolution?** - in Sociology, by Gurinder K. Bhabra, 2007-10

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Southern theory: the global dynamics of knowledge in social science**, by Raewyn Connell, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The souls of black folk**, by W. E. B. Du Bois, 2010

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The wretched of the earth**, by Frantz Fanon; Jean-Paul Sartre; Homi K. Bhabha, c2004

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Black skin, white masks**, by Frantz Fanon, c2008

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The black Atlantic: modernity and double consciousness**, by Paul Gilroy, 1993

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Decolonizing Bourdieu** - in Sociological Theory, by Julian Go, 2013-03

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Social theory: the multicultural and classic readings**, edited by Charles C. Lemert, 2004

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The question of Eurocentrism: A comment on Immanuel Wallerstein** - in New Left Review, by Gregor McLennan, 1998

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Sociology's Eurocentrism and the 'Rise of the West' Revisited** - in European Journal of Social Theory, by G. McLennan, 2000-08-01

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Sociology, Eurocentrism and Postcolonial Theory** - in European Journal of Social Theory, by G. McLennan, 2003-02-01

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Postcolonial Critique: The Necessity of Sociology** - in Political power and social theory, by Gregor McLennan, 2013

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Fifty key sociologists: the contemporary theorists**, by John Scott, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Entries on Frantz Fanon, Paul Gilroy, C. L. R. James, Orlando Patterson, Edward Said, and Gayatri Spivak

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**Contested knowledge: social theory today**, by Steven Seidman, 2013

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | 'Critical Race Theory/White Studies' and 'Colonial Discourse Studies,' Chs 15 & 17

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**Can the Subaltern Speak?** - in Marxism and the interpretation of culture, by Spivak, G., 1988

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Edward Said** - in Profiles in contemporary social theory, by Turner, B.S., 2001

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Eurocentrism and its avatars: The dilemmas of social science** - in New Left Review, by Immanuel Wallerstein, 1997

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**White mythologies: writing history and the west**, by Robert J. C. Young, 2004

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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## Week 9: Postmodernity and postmodernism (30 items)

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If 'modernity' was the historical period studied by the classics, up to the early- to mid-twentieth century, then the drastic changes in society since then mean we've moved into a brand new era which can be described as 'post-modern' – or at least so claimed many sociologists and philosophers in the 1980s. The collapse of rigid hierarchies and boundaries, the fragmentation and plurality of ways of life and the increased importance of the media were all said to be its hallmarks. Some, influenced by post-structuralism, took this in fairly dramatic directions, arguing that social science itself should embrace the post-modern and reject any pretence to grand narratives and overarching explanations of

the world. Others, mostly influenced by Marx or Bourdieu, were more interested in exploring postmodern culture through a more traditional sociological lens.

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## Essential Reading (2 items)

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**Postmodern Social Theory** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer, G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

**A Sociological Theory of Postmodernity** - in Intimations of postmodernity, by Zygmunt Bauman, 1992

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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## Further reading (27 items)

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General:

**Chapter 6. Post Modernism, Post Modernity and Hyperreality** - in From enlightenment to risk: social theory and contemporary society, by Clarke, S., c2006

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

**Chapter 10. Post-structuralism and Postmodernism** - in Modern social theory: from Parsons to Habermas, by Craib, I., 1992

[Chapter](#)

**Profiles in contemporary social theory**, by Anthony Elliott; Bryan S. Turner, 2001  
[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Read Gane, M. (2001) 'Jean Baudrillard'; Homer, S. (2001) 'Fredric Jameson'; Seidler, V.J. (2001) 'Jean-Francois Lyotard'; and Smart, B. (2001) 'Zygmunt Bauman';

**Modern social theory: an introduction**, by Austin Harrington, 2005

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Smart, B. (2005) and Delanty, G. (2005) 'Modernity and Postmodernity Parts I and II' Ch.12 and 13

**Chapter 12. Contemporary Theories of Modernity** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer, G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

**Contested knowledge: social theory today**, by Steven Seidman, 2013

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | 'The Postmodern World of Jacques Derrida, Jean-Francois Lyotard and Jean Baudrillard' and 'Zygmunt Bauman's Sociology of Postmodernity,' Chs 11 & 13

**Fifty key sociologists: the contemporary theorists**, by John Scott, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Entries on Jean Baudrillard, Zygmunt Bauman, Manuel Castells and Ulrich Beck

**Zygmunt Bauman** - in Key sociological thinkers, by Stones, R., edited by Rob Stones, 2008

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Jean Baudrillard: selected writings**, by Jean Baudrillard; Mark Poster, 2001

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Legislators and interpreters: on modernity, post-modernity and intellectuals**, by Zygmunt Bauman, 1987

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Freedom**, by Zygmunt Bauman, 1988

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Modernity and the Holocaust**, by Zygmunt Bauman, 1989

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Postmodernization: change in advanced society**, by Stephen Crook; Jan Pakulski; Malcolm Waters, 1992

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Consumer culture and postmodernism**, by Mike Featherstone, 1991

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The condition of postmodernity: an enquiry into the origins of cultural change**, by David Harvey, 1989

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Jean Baudrillard: live theory**, by Paul Hegarty, 2004

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Postmodernism, or, The cultural logic of late capitalism**, by Fredric Jameson, c1991

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Jean Baudrillard: from Marxism to postmodernism and beyond**, by Douglas Kellner, 1989

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**From post-industrial to post-modern society: new theories of the contemporary world**, by Krishan Kumar, 2005

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Sociology of postmodernism**, by Scott Lash, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Economies of signs and space**, by Scott Lash; John Urry, 1994

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The postmodern condition: a report on knowledge**, by Jean-François Lyotard, c1984

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**The death of class**, by Jan Pakulski; Malcolm Waters, 1996

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**An introductory guide to post-structuralism and postmodernism**, by Madan Sarup, 1993

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 8. Intimations of Postmodernity** - in Social theory: central issues in sociology, by Scott, J., 2006

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Intellectual Impostures**, by Alan D. Sokal; Bricmont, October 11, 1999

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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## Week 10: Reflexive modernity (28 items)

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The excesses of postmodernist sociology soon became clear and thinkers have since begun to recognise that while we do live in times different to the past, they aren't that different. We may be witness to an increasingly globalised, fluid, and 'runaway' world, but it is still a modern world: more uncertain perhaps but still decidedly structured.

Alternative epochal conceptions therefore became popular in the 1990s. Rather than moving beyond modernity we were entering a new phase, best captured in the notion of 'reflexive modernity'. The ideas of Anthony Giddens on late modernity, Ulrich Beck on the 'risk society' and 'individualization', Zygmunt Bauman on liquid modernity and, most recently, Margaret Archer on advanced 'morphogenesis' are the most influential moves in this direction.

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## Essential Reading (2 items)

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**Preface** - in Risk society: towards a new modernity, by Ulrich Beck, 1992

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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**The Consequences of Modernity** - in Contemporary sociological theory, by Anthony Giddens, edited by Craig J. Calhoun; Joseph Gerteis; James W. Moody; Steven Pfaff; Indermohan Virk, 2012

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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## Further reading (25 items)

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**Class, individualization and late modernity: in search of the reflexive worker**, by Will Atkinson, 2010

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Culture and agency: the place of culture in social theory**, by Margaret Scotford Archer, 1996

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Realist social theory: the morphogenetic approach**, by Margaret Scotford Archer, 1995

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Being Human: The Problem of Agency**, by Margaret Scotford Archer; Cambridge Books Online (Online service), 2000

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Structure, agency, and the internal conversation**, by Margaret Scotford Archer, 2003

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Making our Way through the World: Human Reflexivity and Social Mobility**, by Margaret S. Archer, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The reflexive imperative in late modernity**, by Margaret Scotford Archer, c2012

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Conversations about reflexivity**, by Margaret Scotford Archer, 2013

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Liquid modernity**, by Zygmunt Bauman, 2000

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The individualized society**, by Zygmunt Bauman, 2001

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Conversations with Zygmunt Bauman**, by Zygmunt Bauman; Keith Tester, 2001

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Risk society: towards a new modernity**, by Ulrich Beck; Mark Ritter, 1992

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Individualization: institutionalized individualism and its social and political consequences**, by Ulrich Beck; Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim, 2001

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Reflexive modernization: politics, tradition and aesthetics in the modern social order**, by Ulrich Beck; Anthony Giddens; Scott Lash, 1994

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 8. Risk Society and (Dis)Information** - in From enlightenment to risk: social theory and contemporary society, by Clarke, S., c2006

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Bauman's challenge: sociological issues for the 21st century**, by Mark Davis; Keith Tester, 2010

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The consequences of modernity**, by Anthony Giddens, 1990

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Modernity and self-identity: self and society in the late modern age**, by Anthony Giddens, 1991

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Ulrich Beck: a critical introduction to the risk society**, by Gabe Mythen, 2004

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 15. Contemporary Theories of Modernity** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer,

G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#) | pp.413-36 and 439-48

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**Fifty key sociologists: the contemporary theorists**, by John Scott, 2007

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Entries on Zygmunt Bauman and Ulrich Beck

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**Zygmunt Bauman** - in Profiles in contemporary social theory, by Smart, B., 2001

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Modern social theory: an introduction**, by Austin Harrington, 2005

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | Smart, B. (2005) and Delanty, G. (2005) 'Modernity and Postmodernity Parts I and II' Ch.12 and 13

---

**Ulrich Beck** - in Profiles in contemporary social theory, by Stevenson, N., 2001

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Key sociological thinkers**, edited by Rob Stones, 2008

[Book](#) | [Further](#) | 'Anthony Giddens' and 'Zygmunt Bauman'

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## Week 11: Social theory in the twenty-first century (38 items)

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Having considered the rival epochal notions of postmodernity and reflexive modernity over the past two weeks, this week we move into the twenty-first century, briefly sampling a few recent and contentious developments in social theory that go by such names as 'post-humanism' and 'post-secularism'. Our main focus, however, is on the broader question of the place of sociology in contemporary society, and the role of social theory within it. What does sociology look like after all the 'posts'? What is its value in an era of 'marketization' dominated by the theories and practices of utilitarian individualism and economics? Is sociology becoming little more than a niche money-making product in the wider academic market of the contemporary university? Or could there still be much more to it than that? One thinker who has put these questions front and centre of current sociological debates is Michael Burawoy, and it is to his notion of 'engaged public sociology' – and his exploration of the idea of sociology as a vocation – that we will turn in order to consider the present roles and possible futures of sociological thought.

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## Essential Reading (2 items)

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**Chapter 9. From the past to the posts** - in The story of sociology: a first companion to social theory, by McLennan, G., 2011

[Chapter](#) | [Essential](#)

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**Sociology as a Vocation** - in Contemporary Sociology, by Michael Burawoy, 2016-07

[Article](#) | [Essential](#)

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## Further reading (35 items)

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General:

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**Chapter 9. Conclusion: Social Theory for the Twenty-First Century** - in Social theory in the

twentieth century and beyond, by Baert, P.; da Silva, F., c2010

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**The future of social theory**, by Nicholas Gane, 2004

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Conclusion** - in Social theory for today: making sense of social worlds, by Law, A., 2015

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 15. The boundary problem in contemporary social theory** - in Social theory for beginners, by Ransome, P., 2010

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 28. The Future of Social Theory** - in The new Blackwell companion to social theory, by Turner, S., c2009

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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Recent theory taster:

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**Bruno Latour: hybrid thoughts in a hybrid world**, by Anders Blok; Torben Elgaard Jensen, 2011

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**SSSR Presidential Address Public Religions and the Postsecular: Critical Reflections** - in Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, by James A. Beckford, 2012-03

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**The enchantment of modern life: attachments, crossings, and ethics**, by Jane Bennett, c2001

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Why I am not a secularist**, by William E. Connolly, c1999

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The new sociological imagination**, by Steve Fuller, 2006

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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Response to reviews of

**by Steve Fuller and Veronika Lipi?ska** - in Sociology, by Steve Fuller, 2016-06

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**The post-secular in question: religion in contemporary society**, by Philip S. Gorski; Social Science Research Council (United States), c2012

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

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**Notes on Post-Secular Society** - in New Perspectives Quarterly, by JÜRGEN HABERMAS, 2008-09

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Habermas and the 'Post-Secular Society'** - in European Journal of Social Theory, by A. Harrington, 2007-11-01

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**We have never been modern**, by Bruno Latour, 1993

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Reassembling the social: an introduction to actor-network-theory**, by Bruno Latour, 2005

[Book](#) | [Further](#)

---

**After ANT: complexity, naming and topology** - in Actor network theory and after, by Law, J., 1999

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Being Post-secular in the Social Sciences: Taylor's Social Imaginaries**, by Lyon, D.

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

---

**The Postsecular Turn** - in Theory, Culture & Society, by Gregor McLennan, 2010-07

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Spaces of Post-secularism** - in Exploring the postsecular: the religious, the political and the urban, by McLennan G., 2010

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

---

**Actor-Network Theory** - in Modern sociological theory, by Ritzer, G.; Goodman, D., c2004

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**The Politics of Postsecular Feminism** - in Theory, Culture & Society, by Rosa Vasilaki, 2016-03

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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Burawoy:

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**Reflections on public sociology: public relations, disciplinary identity, and the strong program in professional sociology** - in American sociologist, by Boyns, David ; Fletcher, Jesse, 2005

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Guide for the perplexed: On Michael Burawoy's ?public sociology?** - in The American Sociologist, by Steven Brint, 2005-9

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**2004 American Sociological Association Presidential address: For public sociology\*** - in The British Journal of Sociology, by Michael Burawoy, 2005-06

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Response: Public sociology: populist fad or path to renewal?1** - in The British Journal of Sociology, by Michael Burawoy, 2005-09

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**The promise of public sociology** - in The British Journal of Sociology, by Craig Calhoun, 2005-09

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Comments on Michael Burawoy's ASA Presidential Address** - in *The British Journal of Sociology*, by Christine Inglis, 2005-09

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Chapter 10. Twenty-first-century sociology** - in *The story of sociology: a first companion to social theory*, by McLennan, G., 2011

[Chapter](#) | [Further](#)

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**Why sociology does not need to be saved: Analytic reflections on public sociologies** - in *The American Sociologist*, by Neil McLaughlin; Lisa Kowalchuk; Kerry Turcotte, 2005-9

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Who will speak, and who will listen? Comments on Burawoy and public sociology1** - in *The British Journal of Sociology*, by John Scott, 2005-09

[Article](#) | [Further](#)

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**Is public sociology such a good idea?** - in *The American Sociologist*, by Jonathan H. Turner, 2005

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## Week 12: Reading week (1 items)

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There are no lectures or seminars this week. You should use the week to work on your summative assessments.