

21:920:415. CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY (3), Spring 2020

Prof. Melinda González

Thursdays, 2:30 p.m. to 5:20 p.m.

Class room: Conklin 346

Office Hours: By appointment only

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Summary: This course presents overviews and in-depth examinations of key sociological issues in modern social life. The initial concept is modernity, a broad term social theorists have used for the last 150 years to refer to the cultural, political, scientific/technological, and industrial trends that have spread across large portions of the United States, Canada, Western Europe, India, countries of the Pacific Rim, as well as cosmopolitan centers in cities around the world. At the beginning of the course I will provide an overview of modernity. After this overview we will read works that direct attention to modernity with more specific themes in mind.

Course Required Texts: All Course Readings are on Blackboard. This course does not require that you purchase any texts. You must do weekly readings.

Assignments:

1. Students must do ALL of the reading assigned throughout the semester. Readings will be available on Blackboard.
2. Students will be required to **submit eight (8) weekly writing prompts** throughout the semester related to the reading.
 - Write a 300-500 word reaction paper to the text. This is not a summary of the text. Discuss important points and concepts in the text. What did you learn? What concepts are you struggling with? End with 2 questions that you would like to discuss in class. **Due Wednesdays at 11:59 p.m.**
3. Students will **lead/facilitate one (1) lecture** throughout the semester. Due to the number of students in class, this will be done in groups of 2 or 3. Groups will be assigned during the first day of class. Students will assess their group members as part of the grading.
 - Student groups will facilitate the first half (at least 45 minutes) of the class. Presentations should include various learning modes/models, such as visual aids and audio that support the text. If you show films and/or present music, be sure to include lyrics/closed caption as part of the presentation. Feel free to be creative in your presentation. You may bring music or movie scenes that connect to the text. Be sure to include a summary of the text, information about the author, glossary of important terms, and to stimulate class discussion with questions and other aids. You should not be lecturing the entire class, but leading the discussion and encouraging your class mates to engage with the material.
4. Students will have a take-home **Midterm Exam** and a take-home **Final Exam**.
5. All assignments due **must be uploaded to Blackboard** or you will NOT receive credit.

Week 1: Introduction

Thursday, January 23 – Syllabus Review

- Review Syllabus
- Students will select date to Lead Class Discussion
- Students will select weeks to submit their weekly writing prompts

Week 2: Paulo Freire

Thursday, January 30

- Read: Excerpt from *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*
- Write weekly response.

Week 3: bell hooks

Thursday, February 6

- Read: Excerpt from *Teaching to Transgress* & excerpt from *all about love*
- Write weekly response.

Week 4: Michel Foucault

Thursday, February 13

- Read: Excerpt from *Discipline & Punish*
- Watch: "Nosedive" episode (Season 3, Episode 1) of Black Mirror on Netflix
- Write weekly response.

Week 5: Linda Tuhiwai Smith

Thursday, February 20

- Read: Excerpt from *Decolonizing Methodologies*
- Write weekly response.

Week 6: Frantz Fanon

Thursday, February 27

- Read: Excerpt from *Wretched of the Earth*
- Write weekly response.
- **Note:** This is the *warning period*. To be passing at this point, you should have completed at least **four weekly writing prompts**.

Week 7: Audre Lorde

Thursday, March 5

- Read: *Sister Outsider*
- Write weekly response.

Week 8: Mid-Term Exam

Thursday, March 12 – Take Home Mid-term Exam Due at 11:59 p.m. uploaded to Blackboard.

Week 9: Spring Break

Thursday, March 19 – SPRING BREAK; NO CLASS

Week 10: James Baldwin

Thursday, March 26

- Read: *The Fire Next Time*
- Write weekly response.

Week 11: Hetoevèhotohke'e Annita Lucchesi

Thursday, April 2

- Read:
 - *Mapping geographies of Canadian colonial occupation: pathway analysis of murdered indigenous women and girls*. Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography. Jun2019, Vol. 26 Issue 6, p868-887. 20p.
 - *"Indians Don't Make Maps": Indigenous Cartographic Traditions and Innovations*. American Indian Culture & Research Journal. 2018, Vol. 42 Issue 3, p11-26. 16p
- Write weekly response.

Week 12: Achille Mbembe

Thursday, April 9

- Read: *Decolonizing the university: New directions* & excerpt on *Necropolitics*
- Write weekly response.

Week 13: Farida Shaheed

Thursday, April 16

- Read:
 - *Rising Phoenixes: Creative resistance by victimized women*
 - *Maintaining Momentum in Changing Circumstances: Challenges of the Women's Movement in Pakistan*
- Write weekly response.

Week 14: Christina Sharpe

Thursday, April 23

- Read: *In the Wake*
- Write weekly response.

Week 15: Semester Wrap Up

Thursday, April 30

Final Exam Due Thursday, MAY 7 at 11:59 p.m. uploaded to Blackboard

Grading:

1. Eight (8) Weekly Writing Prompts = 40 points (5 points each)
2. Leading One (1) Class Discussion = 20 points
3. Mid-term exam = 20 points

4. Final Exam =20 points

Total = 100 points.

A=92-100; B+=90-91.9; B=82-89.9; C+=80-81.9; C=70-79.9; D=60-70; F=0-59.9

Email and Classroom etiquette:

1. All email correspondence **must** include Classical Sociological Theory in the subject line. Be sure to address me with the proper title – Professor or Instructor González in all correspondence. Sign your emails with your name and write formal emails, always.
2. Please silence your cell-phone at the beginning of class. No cell-phones or texting in class. If you need to use the restroom, you do not need permission. Please step out quietly and return promptly.
3. If using a computer during class time, please be sure to use it only for typing notes and turn the volume OFF.
4. Please be attentive and courteous to your classmates during class discussions.

The Importance of Attendance and Lectures: Students should do their best to attend all classes and arrive on time. On day ONE of the semester, you should select 3 members of your class and exchange email/phone numbers. These are your absence buddies. When you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to get notes and information from one of your absence buddies. All missed assignments must be completed. If you are absent on the day that you are due to lead class discussion, you will receive a grade of ZERO (0) on that assignment. No makeups will be allowed.

Enrollment: The Dean's Office prohibits me from issuing grades at the end of the term to any student not listed as enrolled on my roster.

Withdrawal: Any student wishing to withdraw must do so before the withdrawal deadline established by the Dean's Office. Consult the official Rutgers-Newark schedule for the date for this term.

Examinations: Exams will be organized as long-form take-home questions that require expository essays. Students will have approximately one week to complete the exam. Students will be expected to know the course material from both the reading assignments and the class lectures. Exam questions will ask students to think for themselves. Some exam questions will be written so that there is no single correct answer. Two (2) exams will be assigned during the term. All exams must be prepared in Microsoft Word and submitted via Blackboard on the due date.

Academic Integrity:

As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is

essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.

Plagiarism:

Every student must write an exam in his/her own words. Failure to write in one's own words will be regarded as plagiarism. Plagiarism includes: parallels in sentence structure, wording, or any rearrangement of material from another student's exam. Plagiarism also includes any material quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise used without footnote from any internet, published, or student-written sources. Exams or materials from paper and exam services will be treated as plagiarism. All forms of plagiarism will result in harsh penalties, including the ultimate penalty of failing the course. **I reserve the right to administer an oral examination to confirm that the written examinations are the product of a student's own work.**

Disability Services:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Learning Resources:

Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)

School of Arts and Sciences-Newark,
Spring 2019

Room 140, Bradley Hall
(973) 353-5608

<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc>

Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)

Room 126, Conklin Hall
(973) 353-5847

nwc@rutgers.edu

<https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>