

## Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century American and European Social Theory

### Week 1: Antecedents of American Sociology

- \* Herbert Spencer *Principles of Sociology* [**Part I, Chapter 27 "The Scope of Sociology"; Part II, Chapter 1 "What is a Society?"; Part II, Chapter 2 "Society is an Organism"**]
- \* Simmel, Georg. *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*. [**chapter 3 and chapter 4**]
- \* John Dewey *Democracy and Education* [**chapters 1-5, 11, 12**]; *Liberalism and Social Action* [**all; skim**]
- \* William Graham Sumner *Folkways* [**chapter 1; skim**]
- \* Charles Peirce [**"The Fixation of Belief" (1877) and "How to Make Our Ideas Clear" (1878)**]
- \* George Herbert Mead *Mind, Self, and Society* [**"The I and the Me", "Social Attitudes and the Physical World," and "Mind as the Individual Importation of the Social Process"**]

### Week 2: Economic Perspectives

- \* Mancur Olsen *The Logic of Collective Action* [**pp. 5-52**]
- \* Pareto, Vilfredo. [1927] 1971. *Manual of Political Economy*. (Translated by Ann S. Schwier.) New York: Augustus M. Kelley. [**chapter VII paragraphs 11-31, pp. 284-293**]
- \* Pareto, Vilfredo. "Elites and Their Circulation." Pp. 34-39 in Heller, C. 1987. *Structured Social Inequality*. 2nd ed. New York: MacMillan.
- \* Alfred Marshall. [1891] 1990. *Principles of Economics: An Introductory Volume*. 8th edition. Philadelphia: Porcupine Press. [**prefaces to 1st and 8th eds; Book I, pp. 1-11, 32-40; Book III, pp. 70-97; Book IV, pp. 262-268; Book V, pp. 269-291**]
- \* Mirowski, Philip. 1984. "Physics and the 'Marginalist Revolution' " *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 8:361-379 [**optional; potentially good background**]
- \* Thorstein Veblen. *The Theory of the Leisure Class* [**chapter 1— "Introductory"; chapter 4— "Conspicuous Consumption"**]

### Week 3: Talcott Parsons

- \* Parsons, Talcott. [1937] 1968. *The Structure of Social Action*. Glencoe, IL: Free Press. [**chapters 1, 2, 3, 18, 19**]
- \* Parsons, Talcott. 1951. *The Social System*. Glencoe, IL: Free Press. [**chapters 1, 2; skim chapter 10**]
- \* Parsons, Talcott. 1949. "The Professions and Social Structure" in *Essays in Sociological Theory*. Glencoe, IL: Free Press.
- \* Parsons, Talcott. 1956. "Suggestions for a Sociological Approach to the Theory of Organizations-I". *Administrative Science Quarterly* 1 (1):63-85.
- \* Parsons, Talcott. 1956. "Suggestions for a Sociological Approach to the Theory of Organizations-II". *Administrative Science Quarterly* 1 (2):225-239.
- \* Selections from *The System of Modern Societies* [**TBD**]
- \* Camic, Charles. 1987. The Making of a Method: A Historical Reinterpretation of the Early Parsons. *American Sociological Review* 52 (4):421-439. [**optional**]
- \* Camic, Charles. 1989. Structure after 50 Years: The Anatomy of a Charter. *American*

*Journal of Sociology* 95 (1):38-107. [optional]

#### **Week 4: The Chicago School and Other Important Early Figures**

- \* Cooley, Charles Horton. [1902] 2009. *Human Nature and the Social Order*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Library. [chapter 5] [chapter 6 optional]
- \* Merton, Robert K. 1968. "On Theories of the Middle Range" In *Social Theory and Social Structure*. Glencoe, IL: Free Press.
- \* Merton, Robert K. 1968. "Manifest and Latent Functions" In *Social Theory and Social Structure*. Glencoe, IL: Free Press.
- \* Merton, Robert K. 1968. "Social Structure and Anomie" In *Social Theory and Social Structure*. Glencoe, IL: Free Press. [optional]
- \* Merton, Robert K. 1968. "The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy" In *Social Theory and Social Structure*. Glencoe, IL: Free Press.
- \* Merton, Robert K. 1936. "The Unanticipated Consequences of Purposive Social Action". *American Sociological Review* 1 (6):894-904.
- \* Park, Robert E. and Ernest W. Burgess. 1925. *The City*. [chapters 2, 3]
- \* Hughes, Everett. 1971. *The Sociological Eye*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers. [chapters 9, 15, 34, 52]
- \* Wirth, Louis. (1938). "Urbanism as a Way of Life: The City and Contemporary Civilization". *American Journal of Sociology* 44:1-24. [optional]
- \* Lynd, Robert S. and Helen M. Lynd. 1929. *Middletown: A Study in Contemporary American Culture*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, and Company. ["The Historical Setting"; "Getting a Living"; "Traditional Ways of Spending Leisure"] [all optional]

#### **Week 5: European Marxists**

- \* Gramsci Gramsci, Antonio. 1971. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. International Publishers. Pp. 407-409; 5-14; 123-202; 206-275.
- \* Althusser 2001. "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses," in *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*. New York: Monthly Review Press.
- \* Lukacs, Georgy. 1989. "Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat." An Anthology of Western Marxism. ed. Roger S. Gottlieb. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 74-111.

#### **Week 6: A Brief Survey of Critical Theory**

- \* Horkheimer, Max (1989), "Traditional and Critical Theory," in Roger S. Gottlieb (ed.), *An Anthology of Western Marxism*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- \* Horkheimer, Max and Theodor Adorno. 1976. *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. Continuum International Publishing. Pp. 120-67. "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception."
- \* Marcuse, Herbert. 1965. "Industrialization and Capitalism." *New Left Review* 30: 3-17.
- \* Marcuse, Herbert. *One Dimensional Man*. Introduction, ch. 1, 2, 3, 10. (probably too much, make ch. 3 and 10 optional).
- \* Benjamin, Walter, (1968), *Illuminations*, New York: Schocken Books. ["The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," pp. 217-251]

#### **Week 7: Important "Post"ies**

- \* Lyotard *The Postmodern Condition*
- \* Baudrillard "Simulacra and Simulations", "The Gulf War Did Not Happen" (in *Selected Writings*)
- \* Barthes "The Death of the Author" (142-148 in *Image, Music, Text*), "The Last Happy Writer" (150-157 in *A Barthes Reader*), "From Work to Text" (73-81 in *Textual Strategies*)
- \* Lemert - "Postmodernism is not what you think", 19-53 in book of same name.

### **Week 8: Phenomenology and the like**

- \* Husserl – *Cartesian Meditations*, Introduction and First Meditation (and read an overview), maybe more?
- \* Schutz, Alfred. 1943. "The Problem of Rationality in the Social World." *Economica* 10: 130-149.
- \* Schutz, Alfred. 1945. "Some Leading Concepts in Phenomenology." *Social Research* 12:77-97.
- \* Schutz, Alfred. 1953. "Common-Sense and Scientific Interpretation of Human Action." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 14: 1-38.
- \* Schutz, Alfred. 1960. "The Social World and the Theory of Social Action." *Social Research* 27: 3-19.
- \* Schutz, Alfred. 1954. "Concept and Theory Formation in the Social Sciences." *The Journal of Philosophy* 51: 257-273.

### **Week 9: Language and Speech Acts**

- \* Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, pp. 1-70 (approx, get through stuff on rule following)
- \* Searle *The Construction of Social Reality* (ch. 1-3, pp. 1-78)
- \* Austin, Lecture I, II and XII (at least) from *How to Do Things With Words*
- \* Austin - "The Meaning of a Word", pp. 55-75 in *Philosophical Papers* (optional?)
- \* Austin - "Performative Utterances", pp. 233-252 in *Philosophical Papers* (optional?)

### **Week 10: Micro-Sociology**

- \* Stryker - "Identity Salience and Role Performance: The Relevance of Symbolic Interaction Theory for Family Research" - 1968 – *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 558 – 564
- \* Stryker and Burke – *Social Psych Quarterly* 2000 - "The Past, Present and Future of an Identity Theory", p. 284-297
- \* Blumer - "Race Prejudice as a Sense of Group Position", *Pacific Sociological Review*, 1958 (p. 3-7)
- \* Blumer - "Society as Symbolic Interaction" (about 10 pages, reprinted in various places)
- \* Blumer, Herbert. 1980. "Mead and Blumer: The Convergent Methodological Perspectives of Social Behaviorism and Symbolic Interactionism." *American Sociological Review* 45: 409-419.
- \* Blumer, Herbert. 1966. "Sociological Implications of the Thought of George Herbert Mead." *American Journal of Sociology* 71: 535-544.

- \* Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, Introduction (1-16), Performances (17-76, maybe skim?), The Arts of Impression Management (208-237), Conclusion
- \* Goffman, *Frame Analysis*, Introduction and Primary Framework (1-39), Conclusions (560-576)
- \* Garfinkel *Studies in Ethnomethodology* ch 1, 2, 6, 8 (6 and 8 are optional)

### **Week 11: 20th Century Sociology of Knowledge**

- \* Berger, Peter L. and Thomas Luckmann. 1967. *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge*. New York: Anchor Books. **[all]**
- \* Mannheim, Karl. 1936. *Ideology and Utopia*. London: Routledge. **[chapters 1, 2]**  
**[chapter 5 optional]**

### **Week 12: 20th Century Political Sociology**

- \* Moore, Barrington Jr. 1966. "The American Civil War: the Last Capitalist Revolution" in *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- \* Mills, C. Wright. 1956. *The Power Elite*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. **[chapters 1, 12, 13]**
- \* Bell, Daniel. 1994. "The Coming of Postindustrial Society" In *Social Stratification*, ed. A. Grusky, pp. 3-35.
- \* Gouldner, Alvin W. 1971. *The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology*. London: Heinemann. **[pp. 89-108, 138-157, 412-446]**