

Theory Comprehensive Exam Reading List
Department of Sociology, University of Toronto
Revised April 16, 2012
[145 reading units total]

- Module 1: What is Theory?**
Module 2: Pre-Sociological Foundations
Module 3: Classical Sociological Foundations
Module 4: Philosophical/Psychological Inspirations
Module 5: Epistemological issues
Module 6: Action
Module 7: Structure
Module 8: Social construction
Module 9: Social Change
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Module 1: What is Theory? [6 reading units]

Alexander, Jeffrey C. 1987. The Centrality of the Classics. Pp. 11-57 in Anthony Giddens & Jonathan H. Turner (eds.), *Social Theory Today*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [1 unit]

Levine, Donald N. 1997. "Social Theory as a Vocation: Engaging with Future Challenges." *Perspectives* 19(2):1-8. [1 unit]

Merton, Robert. 1996. "On Sociological Theories of the Middle Range." Pp. 41-50 in Piotr Sztompka (ed.) *Robert Merton on Social Structure and Science*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [1 Unit]

Parsons, Talcott. 1950. "The Prospects of Sociological Theory." *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 15, No. 1: pp. 3-16. [1 unit]

Stinchcombe, Arthur. 1987. *Constructing Social Theories*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (pp. 3-103). [1 Unit]

Swedberg, Richard. 2012. "Theorizing in sociology and social science: turning to the context of discovery." *Theory and Society* 41:1-40. [1 unit]

Module 2: Pre-Sociological Foundations [5 reading units]

Comte, Auguste. 2009 [1853]. *The Positive Philosophy*, tr. Harriet Martineau. Book VI, ch. 3-6. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [1 Unit]

Hegel, Georg W.F. 1977. "Preface," and "Lordship and Bondage, pp. 1-44, 104-119 in *The Phenomenology of Spirit*. Tr. A.V. Miller. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [1 Unit]

Smith, Adam. 2010 [1776]. Book I, chs. 1-4, 7, 8, 10; Book III, chs. 1-4; Book V, ch. 1 (pp. 458-465) in *The Wealth of Nations*. New York: Simon and Brown Edition. [1 Unit]

Spencer, Herbert. 1972. Pp. 3-13 (“The Search for an Ethical Code” and the “Evanescence of Evil”); 71-72 (“Evolution Defined”); 97-101 (“Methodological Individualism”); 121-133 (“The Factors of Social Evolution”); 142-148-166 (“Societal Typologies” and “Militancy and Industrialism”); 206-216 (“The Truth of Religion”) in John D. Peel (ed.) *Herbert Spencer on Social Evolution* Heritage of Sociology Series. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [1 Unit]

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 2000 [1835, 1840]. I. Author’s Intro (3-15); I, chs. 2-3 (27-52); I, ch. 4 (53-55); I, ch. 5 (63-65); I, Part 2, ch. 6 (220-235); I, Part 2, ch. 3 (172-180); I, Part 2, ch. 4 (180-186); I, Part 2, ch. 8 (250-264) ; II, part iii, ch. 21 (606-617); “General View of the Subject” (673-676) in *Democracy in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press Edition. [1 unit]

Module 3: Classical Sociological Foundations [30 reading units]

Durkheim, Emile

Durkheim, Emile. 1982. "Preface to Rules for the Explanation of Social Facts." Pp. 31-146 in *The Rules of Sociological Method and Selected Texts on Sociology and its Method*, edited by S. Lukes. New York and Toronto: The Free Press. [3 units]

Durkheim, Emile. 1995. "Introduction, Definition of Religious Phenomena and Religion, Origins of These Beliefs, and Conclusion." Pp. 1-44; 207-41; 418-48 in *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. New York and Toronto: The Free Press. [3 units]

Durkheim, Emile. 1997. “Selections.” Pp. 1-87,101-175, 226-245, 329-341 in *The Division of Labor in Society*. New York: The Free Press. [3 units]

Marx, Karl and Engels, Friedrich

The German Ideology (excerpt, pp. 146-200 in Robert C. Tucker, in *The Marx-Engels Reader*). [1 unit]

Manifesto of the Communist Party (excerpt, pp. 469-500 in Robert C. Tucker, in *The Marx-Engels Reader*). [1 unit]

Capital (vol. 1) (excerpt, pp. 294-438 in Robert C. Tucker, in *The Marx-Engels Reader*). [3 units]

The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte (excerpt, pp. 594-617 in Robert C. Tucker, in *The Marx-Engels Reader*). [1 unit]

The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State, selection (excerpt, pp. 734-759 in Robert C. Tucker, in *The Marx-Engels Reader*). [1 unit]

Simmel, Georg

All from *On Individuality and Social Forms*, Donald N. Levine, ed. University of Chicago Press [5 units]

- “How is Society Possible” (pp. 6-22)
- “The Problem of Sociology” (pp. 23-35)
- “Conflict” (pp. 70-95)
- “Sociability” (pp. 127-140)
- “Group Expansion and the Development of Individuality” (pp. 251-293)
- “The Stranger” (pp. 143-149).
- “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (pp. 324-339).

Weber, Max

Weber, Max. 2010. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, tr. Talcott Parsons. CreateSpace. [3 units]

All from *From Max Weber* (H.H. Gerth and C.W. Mills, eds.) [5 units]

- “Politics as a Vocation” (pp. 77-128)
- “Science as a Vocation” (pp. 129-156)
- “Class, Status, Party” (pp. 180-195).
- Selections from “Bureaucracy” (pp 196-204; 214-216; 224-232)
- “The Sociology of Charismatic Authority” (pp 245-252)
- “Religious Rejections of the World and their Directions” (pp. 323-359)

“The Meaning of ‘Ethical Neutrality’ in Sociology and Economics”; “‘Objectivity’ in Social Science and Social Policy.” in Edward A. Shils and Henry A Finch (eds) *The Methodology of the Social Sciences*. New York: Free Press, 1949. Pp. 1-47, 63-112. [1 unit]

Module 4: Philosophical/Psychological Inspirations [13 reading units]

Addams, Jane. 1961 [1910]. "The Subjective Necessity for Social Settlements." Pp. 74-85 in *Twenty Years at Hull-House*. New York: Signet Classic. [1 unit]

Addams, Jane. 2002 [1902]. "Introduction / Charitable Effort." Pp. 5-34 in *Democracy and Social Ethics*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. [1 unit]

Dewey, John. 1896. "The Reflex Arc Concept in Psychology." *Psychological Review* 3:357-370. [1 unit]

Dewey, John. 1988 [1922]. "Human Nature and Conduct." Pp. 4-75 in *John Dewey, The Middle Works, 1899-1924: Human Nature and Conduct*, vol. 12. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press. [1 unit]

- Du Bois, William E.B. 1989 [1903]. "Of Our Spiritual Strivings." Pp. 1-9 in *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York: Bantam Books. [1 unit]
- Freud, Sigmund. 1961 [1930]. *Civilization and its Discontents*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. [1 unit]
- James, William. 1981 [1907]. "What Pragmatism Means." Pp. 25-39 in *Pragmatism*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company. [1 unit]
- James, William. 2007 [1890]. "The Consciousness of Self." Pp. 291-317 in *The Principles of Psychology, Volume 1*. New York: Cosimo Classics. [1 unit]
- Mead, George Herbert. 1967 [1934]. "The Point of View of Social Behaviorism, and The Self." Pp. 1-41; 135-222 in *Mind, Self, & Society*, edited by C. W. Morris. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. [3 units]
- Schutz, Alfred. 1967 [1932]. "The Constitution of Meaningful Lived Experience in the Constitutor's Own Stream of Consciousness," chapter 2. Pp. 45-96 in *The Phenomenology of the Social World*. Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press. [1 unit]
- Schutz, Alfred. 1945. "On Multiple Realities." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 5(4): 533-576. [1 unit]

Module 5: Epistemological issues [12 reading units]

- Abbott, Andrew. 2001. "Transcending General Linear Reality, and Conceptions of Time and Events in Social Science Methods." Pp. 37-63; 161-82 in *Time Matters : On Theory and Method*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [1 unit]
- Archer, Margaret, Roy Bhaskar, et al., eds. 1998. *Critical Realism: Essential Readings*,. Read "Introduction: Basic Texts and Developments," by Roy Bhaskar and Tony Lawson, pp.3-15; and Margaret Archer, "Introduction: Realism in the Social Sciences," pp. 189-205. [1 unit]
- Gorski, Philip. 2004. "The Poverty of Deductivism: A Constructive Realist Model of Sociological Explanation," and Jack Goldstone's comments, "Response: Reasoning About History, Sociologically ...," with Gorski's short reply, "The Varieties of Deductivism," all in *Sociological Methodology*. [3 units]
- Mannheim, Karl. *Ideology and Utopia*, "The Sociology of Knowledge," pp. 264-311. [1 unit]
- Merton, Robert K. 1957. "Manifest and Latent Functions"; "The Bearing of Sociological Theory on Empirical Research." Pp. 21-111 in *Social Theory and Social Structure*. Glencoe: Free Press. [1 unit]

Mills, C. Wright. 2000 [1959]. *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc. [5 units]

Epistemological Issues: Supplemental Readings [13 reading units]

Goldthorpe, John. 1991. "The Uses of History in Sociology," *British Journal of Sociology* 42: 211-30; 1994 "The Uses of History in Sociology: A Debate," *British Journal of Sociology*, 45/1: 1-77, papers by Bryant, Hart, Mouzelis, and Mann, with a reply by Goldthorpe. [5 units]

Goldthorpe, John. 1997 "Current Issues in Comparative Macrosociology," *Comparative Social Research* (16):1-26; see especially the rejoinders by D. Rueschemeyer & J. Stephens, "Comparing Historical Sequences," pp.55-72, and J.Goldstone, "Methodological Issues in Comparative Macrosociology," pp.107-20, and Goldthorpe's reply, pp.121-32. [5 units]

McDonald, Terrence. 1999. "What We Talk about When We Talk about History: The Conversations of History and Sociology," pp.91-118, in McDonald, ed., *The Historic Turn in the Human Sciences*. [1 unit]

Somers, Margaret, Edgar Kiser and Michael Hechter. 1998. "Selections from 'Symposium on Historical Sociology and Rational Choice Theory'." *American Journal of Sociology* 104:722-816. [2 units]

Module 6: Action [14 reading units]

Alexander, Jeffrey C. 2006. "Selections." Pp. 3-67; 193-209; 549-53 in *The Civil Sphere*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [1 unit]

Alexander, Jeffrey et. al. (eds.). 1987. *The Micro-Macro Link*. Berkeley: University of California Press (pp. 155-175). [1 unit]

Archer, Margaret. 1990. "Human Agency and Social Structure. A Critique of Giddens." Pp. 73-84 in John Clark, Celia Modgil, Sohan Modgil (eds.) *Anthony Giddens: Consensus and Controversy*. London: Falmer Press. [1 unit]

Becker, Gary. 1976. "The Economic Approach to Human Behavior." Pp. 3-14 in *The Economic Approach to Human Behavior*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [1 unit]

Collins, Randall. 1987. *Interaction Ritual Chains, Power and Property: The Micro-Macro Connection as an Empirically Based Theoretical Problem*. Pp. 193-206 in Jeffrey Alexander, Bernhard Giesen, Richard Münch, and Neil Smelser (eds.) *The Micro-Macro Link*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [1 unit]

Coleman, James. 1987. "Microfoundations and Macrosocial Behaviour." Pp. 153-173 in Jeffrey Alexander, Bernhard Giesen, Richard Münch, and Neil Smelser (eds.) *The Micro-Macro Link*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [1 unit]

Emirbayer, Mustafa. 1997. "Manifesto for a Relational Sociology." *American Journal of Sociology* 103:281-317. [1 unit]

Emirbayer, Mustafa and Ann Mische. 1998. What is Agency? *American Journal of Sociology* 103, pp. 962-1023. [1 unit]

Fligstein, Neil and Doug McAdam. 2011. "Toward a General Theory of Strategic Action Fields." *Sociological Theory* 29:1-26. [1unit]

Gross, Neil. 2009. "A Pragmatist Theory of Social Mechanisms." *American Sociological Review* 74:358-79. [1 unit]

Joas, Hans. 1996. "Situation--Corporeality--Sociality: The Fundamentals of a Theory of the Creativity of Action." Pp. 145-95 in *The Creativity of Action*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. [1 unit]

Martin, John Levi. 2011. "Why Questions, What Explanations," Chapter 1, and "A Social Aesthetics," Chapter 6. Pp. 3-23, 191-238 in *The Explanation of Social Action*. New York: Oxford University Press. [1 unit]

Parsons, Talcott. 1935. "The Place of Ultimate Values in Sociological Theory," *International Journal of Ethics* 45:282-316. [1 unit]

Sewell, William. 1992. "Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency and Transformation." *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 98, pp. 1-29 [1 unit]

Action and choice: Supplemental readings

Padgett, John F and Christopher K Ansell. 1993. "Robust Action and the Rise of the Medici, 1400-1434." *American Journal of Sociology* 98:1259-319. [1 unit]

Module 7: Structure [21 reading units]

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1984 [1979]. "Introduction," selection from "The Habitus and the Space of Life-Styles," chapter 3, and "Conclusion." Pp. 1-7, 169-177, 466-484 in *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. [1 unit]

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. "The Forms of Capital." Pp. 241-57 in *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, edited by J. Richardson. New York: Greenwood Press. [1 unit]

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1988. "A Book for Burning, and Types of Capital and Forms of Power." Pp. 1-29; 73-127 in *Homo Academicus*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. [1 unit]

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1990. "Book 1: Critique of Theoretical Reason." Pp. 1-141 in *The Logic of Practice*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [3 units]
- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1993. "The Field of Cultural Production, or: The Economic World Reversed." Pp. 29-73 in *The Field of Cultural Production: Essays on Art and Literature*, edited by R. Johnson. New York: Columbia University Press. [1 unit]
- DiMaggio, Paul, and Walter Powell. 1983. "The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields." *American Sociological Review* 48:147-160. [1 unit]
- Fuchs, Stephan. 2001. "Beyond Agency" *Sociological Theory* 19: 24-40. [1 unit]
- Giddens, Anthony. 1984. *The Constitution of Society*, chapters 1, 4, and 5. Cambridge: Polity Press. [3 units]
- Luhmann, Niklas 1995. "Introduction by Eva Knodt," and "System and Function." Pp. ix-xxxvi; 12-58 in *Social Systems*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [1 unit]
- Martin, John Levi. 2003. "What is Field Theory?" *American Journal of Sociology* 109:1-49. [1 unit]
- Martin, John Levi. 2009. "Introduction." Pp. 1-25 in *Social Structures*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press. [1 unit]
- Merton, Robert. 1996. "Social Structure and Anomie." Pp. 132-151. In Piotr Sztompka *Robert Merton on Social Structure and Science*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [1 Unit]
- Olson, Mancur. 2001 [1965]. "A Theory of Groups and Organizations." Pp. 5-52 in *The Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. [1 unit]
- Parsons, Talcott. 1963. "On the Concept of Influence." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 27: 37-62. [1 unit]
- Parsons, Talcott. 1966 [1963]. "On the Concept of Political Power". Pp. 240-265 in Reinhard Bendix and Seymour Lipset (eds.). *Class, Status and Power*. New York: Free Press. [1 unit]
- Tilly, Charles. 1984. "Intellectual Equipment, and Four Pernicious Postulates." Pp. 1-42 in *Big Structures, Large Processes, Huge Comparisons*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. [1 unit]
- White, Harrison. 2008. "Identities Seek Control," chapter 1, and "Networks and Stories," chapter 2. Pp. 1-62 in *Identity & Control: How Social Formations Emerge*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [1 unit]

Module 8: Social construction [15 reading units]

- Berger, Peter L. and Thomas Luckman. 1967. "Introduction through Scope and Modes of Institutionalization." Pp. 1-91 in *The Social Construction of Reality: A Treatise in the Sociology of Knowledge*. Garden City, NY: Anchor Books. [1 unit]
- Blumer, Harold. 1986 [1969]. "The Methodological Position of Symbolic Interactionism, and What is Wrong with Social Theory?" Pp. 1-60; 140-52 in *Symbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [1 unit]
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000 [1990]. "Distinguishing Features of Black Feminist Thought, and US Black Feminism in Transnational Context." Pp. 21-43; 227-250 in *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge. [1 unit]
- Foucault, Michel. 1995 [1977]. "Torture--The Body of the Condemned, Punishment, Discipline, and Prison." Pp. 3-31; 135-308 in *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage Books. [3 units]
- Foucault, Michel. 1990 [1978]. "The Deployment of Sexuality: Method." Pp. 92-102 in *The History of Sexuality, An Introduction*. New York: Vintage Books. [1 unit]
- Goffman, Erving. 1959. "Selections." Pp. xi-xii; 1-76; 106-40; 238-55 in *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. New York: Anchor Books. [3 units]
- Garfinkel, Harold. 1984 [1967]. "What is Ethnomethodology?" Pp. 1-34 in *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [1 unit]
- Goffman, Erving. 1974. "Introduction," and "The Anchoring of Activity," chapter 8. Pp. 1-16, 247-300 in *Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience*. New York: Harper Colophon Books. [1 unit]
- Goffman, Erving. 1983. "The Interaction Order. American Sociological Association 1982 Presidential Address." *American Sociological Review* 48:1-17. [1 unit]
- Searle, John. 2008. "Language and social ontology" *Theory and Society* 37 (5), pg. 443-459. [1 unit]
- Smith, Dorothy. 1990 [1974]. "Introduction, and Women's Experience as a Radical Critique of Sociology (Ch 1)." Pp. 3-30 in *Conceptual Practices of Power: A Feminist Sociology of Knowledge*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. [1 unit]

Module 9: Social Change [16 reading units]

Beck, Ulrich. 1999. "Introduction: The Cosmopolitan Manifesto', and 'Risk Society Revisited.'" Pp. 1-18; 133-52 in *World Risk Society*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, Ltd. [1 unit]

Elias, Norbert. 1978 [1939]. "Synopsis: Towards a Theory of Civilizing Processes," and "Postscript" Pp. 365-483 in *The Civilizing Process. Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations*. New York: Urizen. [2 units]

Fraser, Nancy. 1992. "Rethinking the Public Sphere: A Contribution to the Critique of Actually Existing Democracy." Pp. 109-42 in Craig Calhoun (ed.) *Habermas and the Public Sphere*. Cambridge: MIT Press. [1 unit]

Gramsci, Antonio. 1971. Selections from "The Intellectuals," chapter 1, and "Notes on Italian History," chapter 3 in "Problems of History and Culture," "State and Social Civility," chapter 2 in "Notes on Politics," and "The Study of Philosophy," chapter 1 in "The Philosophy of Praxis." Pp. 5-14, 52-63, 102-104, 210-217, 325-343 in *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. New York: International Publishers. [3 units]

Habermas, Jürgen. 1984. "Relations to the World and Aspects of Rationality in Four Sociological Concepts of Action." Pp. 75-101 in *The theory of communicative action*. Boston: Beacon Press. [1 unit]

Habermas, Jürgen. 1991. *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* Cambridge: MIT Press. [5 units]

Hall, Stuart. 1996. "The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power." Pp. 184-228 in Stuart Hall, David Held, Don Hubert, and Kenneth Thompson (eds.) *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*. Malden, MA: The Open University. [1 unit]

Parsons, Talcott. 1969 [1964]. "Evolutionary Universals in Society". Pp. 684-710 in Lewis A. Coser, and Bernard Rosenberg. *Social Evolution and Social Change*. London: Collier-Macmillan. [1 unit]

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2004. *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. [1 unit].

History and social change: Supplemental readings

Bryant, Joseph. 2004. "An evolutionary social science? A skeptic's brief, theoretical and substantive" *Journal of the Philosophy of Social Science* 34: 451-492. [1 unit]