



The University of British Columbia  
**School of Social Work**  
 Course Outline – SOWK621(001)

*School Vision: Building upon a foundation of social justice and an ethic of care, we are a community of learners actively engaged in the development of critical, transformative knowledge for social work practice.*

Year/Term	2013-2014, Term 1
Course Title	Social Theory, Ideology and Ethics
Course Schedule	Tuesday, 9:00-12:00
Course Location	SOWK223

Instructor	Office Location	Office Phone	e-mail address
Richard Sullivan	343	604-822-4278	<a href="mailto:Richard.sullivan@ubc.ca">Richard.sullivan@ubc.ca</a>
Office Hours	By appointment via email		

**Course Description:**

This course provides a lens through which students may critically analyze major social theories, their development and contribution to social work. The course identifies three competing domains seeking to guide and understand human behavior: social theory, social ideology and social ethics. Each of these is defined and studied following the distinctions introduced in class. In addition, metatheoretical perspectives are identified to assist the student in their studies.

**Prerequisites and/or Course Restrictions:**

Graduate status or permission of instructor.

**Format of the course:** Seminar

**REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Format for all papers:**

Papers should reflect your own original work in the integration, synthesis, application and critique of theory. You should follow the citation format of the American Psychological Association style guide which you can find in an abbreviated form on the internet:

Please refer to this site or the 5th edition of the APA Publication Manual.

The student is expected to complete the following papers:

Paper 1: This is a 10 page paper identifying the differences and similarities between ideology, theory and ethics based on reading and discussions. This is a position paper and will be graded on the arguments the student constructs to advance his or her perspective. Due Week 5 (Oct. 6). (25%)

Paper 2: This is a 10 page paper comparing rational-empiricism to any other major perspective on the philosophy of science (eg. critical theory). Due Week 8 (Oct. 27). (25%)

Final Paper: The final paper will be presented in two parts. The first part will outline the metatheoretical analysis necessary to arrive at a decision about what theories to consider in relation to your plan of research. The second part will provide a critical application of theory to the conceptualization of your research plan and will answer the question of how your theoretical conceptualization might accommodate change in the course of your research. This may require you to consider alternative theoretical formulations of the problem or modifications to your original theoretical formulations. (50%) This paper is due on December 8.

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**Required and Recommended Reading:****Required:**

Delanty, Gerard & Strydom, Piet (2003) *Philosophies of Social Science: The Classic & Contemporary Readings*. Open University Press

Olena Hankivsky (2004) *Social policy and the ethics of care*. Vancouver: UBC Press

Collier, Andrew (1994) *Critical Realism: An introduction to Roy Bhaskar's Philosophy*; London: Verso

Bhaskar, Roy (1986) *Scientific Realism and Human Emancipation*. The Thetford Press: Thetford, Norfolk U.K.

Readings Packet can be purchased from the UBC Bookstore.

**Recommended**

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James A. Forte (2007) *Human Behavior in the Social Environment*. Belmont CA; Thompson Ed. Press

Roberta R. Greene (1994) *Human behavior theory: a diversity framework*. New York: Aldine De Gruyter

Payne, M. (2005) *Modern social work theory (third edition)*. Chicago: Lyceum Books, Inc.

Nigel Parton & Patrick O'Byrne (2000) *Constructive social work: toward a new practice*. New York: St. Martin's Press

White, J.M. (2005). *Advancing Family Theories*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

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**Course Readings, Due dates and Grading:**

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**Week 1** (Sept. 8)

Introduction to Course.

School wide orientation – no class

Independent reading and review of course preface written by instructor and distributed in advance of the first class meeting.

**Week 2,3 & 4: THEORY, IDEOLOGY and ETHICS****Week 2:** (Sept. 15)

Discussion of the following readings.

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James A. Forte (2007) *Human Behavior in the Social Environment*. Belmont CA; Thompson Ed. Press Chapters 1 & 2 – if you need to review theory basics – definitions, types, components and structures etc.

Nigel Parton (2000) “*Some thoughts on the relationship between theory and practice in and for social work*” *British Journal of Social Work*. **30**, 449-463

Jonathan H Turner, (1986) *The Structure of Sociological Theories* Chicago Ill: Dorsey Press  
- Introduction

Jonathan H. Turner (2003) “*The misuse and use of metatheory*”, *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 5, No.1  
37-53

Eileen Gambrill (1995) “Less marketing and more scholarship” *Social Work Research*. Vol. 19, #1, March 1995 pp. 38-47

**Week 3:** (Sept. 22)

Don Martindale (1981) *Nature & Types of Sociological Theory*.

Chapter 1 The Road to Sociology pp 3-22

Chapter 2 The Humanistic and Scientific Poles of Western Intellectuality pp23-47

Chapter 3 Ideologies, Paradigms, and Theories pp. 48-62

**Recommended:**

David A Schum (1994) *Evidential foundations of probabilistic reasoning*. New York: Wiley  
-with sections on The Study of Evidence; Rhetoric, Logic and Philosophy( persuasive arguments and valid arguments, evidence and chains of reasoning, problems of induction);  
The Properties of Evidence; The Inferential Force of Evidence (from narrative stories to statistics)

Payne, M. (2005) *Modern social work theory (third edition)*. Chapters 9, 10, 11 pp. 181 - 250

**Week 4:** (Sept. 29)

Readings

Delanty, Gerard & Strydom, Piet (2003) *Philosophies of Social Science: The Classic & Contemporary Readings*. Open University Press

Part 1

Positivism, its dissolution and the emergence of post-empiricism pp. 1 -81

Henry Sidgwick (1873) "Utilitarianism" *Utilitas* Vol. 12, No.3, November 2000.pp253-260

Sidgwick's essay, originally presented in 1873 addresses key dilemmas in a philosophy of ethics that can grapple *reasonably* with the relationship between public and private interests. At the same time, he confronts the difficulty of rendering empirical those aspects of personal experience or human satisfaction that are profoundly subjective yet of public consequence.

Alison Hills (2003) "The significance of the dualism of practical reason" *Utilitas* Vol 15, No. 3. November 2003 pp 315-329

Hills challenges the utility of dualism in Sidgwick's thinking and explores the possibility of compromise between utilitarianism and egoism or hedonism in the construction of a plausible social ethic.

Olena Hankivsky (2004) *Social policy and the ethics of care. Chapters 1& 2: pp.1-40*

#### **Recommended:**

Glenn Drover & Patrick Kerans.(Eds.) (1993) *New approaches to welfare theory*. Aldershot, Hants, England ; Brookfield, Vt. : E. Elgar,  
Call Number: HV31 .N49 1993  
Location: KOERNER LIBRARY stacks

#### **Week 5: (Oct. 6) Pragmatism & Anti-Foundationalism**

##### Readings

Delanty, Gerard & Strydom, Piet (2003) *Philosophies of Social Science: The Classic & Contemporary Readings*. Open University Press

Part 4

Pragmatism, semiotics and transcendental pragmatics pp. 277- 320

Susan Haack (1998) *Manifesto of a Passionate Moderate: Unfashionable Essays*. Chaps 1,4 & 6 (If you are so inclined and need it, her chapter 5 also sets up a fictional dialogue between Peirce and Rorty constructed from their essays)

Charles Sanders Peirce - essays :Critical Common Sensism & The Scientific Attitude and Fallibilism – anything you can find

I have put two of his other books on reserve: *Pragmatism as a principle and method or right thinking (the 1903 Harvard lectures on pragmatism)*; and

*Reasoning and the logic of things.(the 1989 Cambridge Conferences – see in particular Feb. 14. "Types of reasoning"*  
*Feb 17 "The logic of relatives*

Feb. 21 "The first rule of logic"  
Feb 28 "Causation and force"

Amalie Rorty (1966) *Pragmatic Philosophy*. New York: Anchor Books.

At least Part I, Ch. 1 on the early pragmatics- read her on C. S. Peirce. pp. 1-118

### **Week 6: (Oct. 13) The Problem of Rationality: the Limits of Reason**

Readings:

Stefano Gattei (2002) "The ethical nature of Karl Popper's solution to the problem of rationality". *Philosophy of the Social Science*, Vol. 32 No. 2, June 2002 pp. 240-266

Stanley Houston (2005) "Philosophy, theory and method in social work: Challenging empiricism's claim on evidence-based practice". *Journal of social Work*, 5(1) pp. 7-20

Stephen C. Hayes, Linda J. Hayes & Hayne W. Reese (1988) *Finding the philosophical core: A review of Stephen C. Pepper's World Hypotheses: A Study in Evidence*. *J. of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*. 50(1) 97-111

**Recommended:** John Hospers (1953, 1967) *An introduction to philosophical analysis*.

- with sections on Meaning and Definition; The Sources of Knowledge; Analytic Truth and Logical Possibility; The principles of Logic; The problem of Induction; The Philosophy of religion; and other metaphysical problems including Meta-ethical Theories; Theories of Goodness; and Theories of Conduct

### **Week 7. (Oct. 20) Reformulating Economic Theories**

Readings:

Olena Hankivsky (2004) *Social policy and the ethics of care*.

Chapter 5 "Economic costing in social policy: The ethics of quantifying intangible losses pp 82-104;

Chapter 6 "Caregiving: Reconceptualizing the public/private divide" pp 105-130

Roberta Garner (2001) *Social theory: continuity & confrontation*. Peterborough Ontario: Broadview press

Chapter 5: Postwar perspectives

Chapter 6: Melting Rays

### **Weeks 8 & 9: Critical Theory**

#### **Week 8 (Oct. 27) Beyond objectivity and objectification**

Delanty, Gerard & Strydom, Piet (2003) *Philosophies of Social Science: The Classic & Contemporary Readings*. Open University Press

Part 3 The critical tradition pp 207-267

Habermas, Jurgen (1971) *Knowledge and human interests*. Part I The crisis of the critique of knowledge; Part II Positivism, pragmatism, historicism; Part III Critique as the unity of knowledge and interest

Recommended:

Marx - The German ideology

Payne- Chapter 12

Smith. Standpoint Theory

### **Week 9 (Nov. 3) Language: What is revealed and what is obscured?**

Readings:

Delanty, Gerard & Strydom, Piet (2003) *Philosophies of Social Science: The Classic & Contemporary Readings*. Open University Press

Part 5 : The structural controversy: language, discourse and practice pp 321- 364

Dorothy Smith (2001) "The conceptual practices of power: A feminist sociology of knowledge" in Roberta Garner (2001) *Social theory: continuity & confrontation*. Peterborough Ontario: Broadview press. pp. 478-485 plus the introduction to chapter 7

Jacques Derrida (1978) *Writing and Difference*

Chapter 1: Force and Signification pp. 3- 30

Chapter 10: Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences

Recommended:

Jacques Derrida (1974) *Of Grammatology*. Part I: Writing before the letter pp.1-94

Chaps 1 & 3 On Grammatology

### **Week 10. (Nov. 10) Social Structure and Social Consciousness: Interactionist Theories**

Readings:

Roberta R. Greene (1994) *Human behavior theory: a diversity framework*. Chapter 4. "Symbolic interactionism"

Payne · Chapter 8 "Social psychology and social construction"

### **Weeks 11 - 13: Critical Realism – The reintegration of the subjective and objective**

**Week 11 (Nov. 17)**

Readings:

Collier, Andrew (1994) *Critical Realism: An introduction to Roy Bhaskar's Philosophy*, London: Verso

- Chapter 1 "Why Realism? Why Transcendental?" pp 3-30
- Chapter 3 "The Impossibility of Empiricism and Idealism" pp 70-106

**Week 12** (Nov. 24)

Readings:

Bhaskar, Roy (1986) *Scientific Realism and Human Emancipation*. The Thetford Press: Thetford, Norfolk U.K.

- Chapter One – Scientific realism and the aporia of contemporary philosophy pp 1-98

**Week 13.** (Dec. 1)

Readings:

Bhaskar, Roy (1986) *Scientific Realism and Human Emancipation*. The Thetford Press: Thetford, Norfolk U.K.

- Chapter Two – Critical naturalism and the dialectic of human emancipation pp 103-211

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Course Policies:

The calendar says: Regular attendance is expected of students in all their classes (including lectures, laboratories, tutorials, seminars, etc.). Students who neglect their academic work and readings may be excluded from the final examinations. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructors on return to classes

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting Readings, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

*Academic Dishonesty:*

1. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please read the UBC Calendar, "Academic Regulations", for the University's policies on cheating and plagiarism. All Incidents of academic dishonesty will be referred to the President's Office.

*Other:*

1. Students must retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss), or if the need for a Review of Assigned Standing arises (see "Academic Regulations", UBC Calendar).

2. All assignments must be typewritten.

Spelling and grammar will be considered in evaluating all written work.

**Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned**

**Standings. Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examination remains the property of the university.**

**Additional Bibliography:**

- Ainslie, George (2002), A Research-Motivated Theory of Addiction, *Law and Philosophy* 19, 77-115.
- Allen, K. (2000). A conscious and inclusive family studies. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 62, 4-17.
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- Andersen, M. (1991). Feminism and the American family ideal. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies* 22, 235-246.
- Apel, K. (1981). *Charles S. Peirce: From pragmatism to pragmaticism* (J. Krois, Trans.). Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press.
- Arneson, Richard, (2003), Equality, Coercion, Culture and Social Norms, Politics, *Philosophy and Ethics* 2, 139-63.
- Baber, K., & Allen, K. (1992). *Women and families: Feminist reconstructions*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Baltes, P., & Nesselroade, J. (1984). Paradigm lost and paradigm regained: Critique of Dannefer's portrayal of life-span developmental psychology. *American Sociological Review* 49, 841-846.
- Bateson, G., Jackson, D., Haley, J., & Weakland, J. (1956). Toward a theory of schizophrenia. *Behavioral Science* 1, 251-264.
- Becker, G. (1981). *A treatise on the family*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap.
- Belsky, J. (1990). Parental and nonparental child care and children's socioemotional development: A decade review. *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 52, 885-903.
- Berger, P., & Kellner, H. (1964). Marriage and the construction of reality. *Diogenes* 46, 1-25.
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- Blumer, H. (1962). Society as symbolic interaction. in A. M. Rose (Ed.), *Human behavior and social processes* (pp. 179-192). Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
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- Boss, P. (1987). Family stress. In M. B. Sussman & S. Steinmetz (Eds.), *Handbook of marriage and the family* (pp. 695-723). New York: Plenum.
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- Boss, P. (1999). *Ambiguous loss: Learning to live with unresolved grief*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
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- Broderick, C. (1993). *Understanding family process*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Broderick, C., & Smith, J. (1979). The general systems approach to the family. In W. Burr, R. Hill, F. I. Nye, & I. Reiss (Eds.), *Contemporary theories about the family* (Vol. 2, pp. 112-129). New York: Free Press.
- Bronfenbrenner, U. (1979). *The ecology of human development*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Bronfenbrenner, U. (1989). Ecological systems theory. In R. Vasta (Ed.), *Annals of child development* (Vol 6, pp. 187-249). Greenwich, CT: JAI.
- Brooks, D., & Wiley, E. (1986). *Evolution as entropy: Toward a unified theory of biology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Buchler, J. (Ed.). (1955). *Philosophical writings of Peirce*. New York: Dover.
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- Bulcroft, Richard and White, James M. (1997). Family research methods and levels of analysis. *Family Science Review* 10, 2-19.
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- Coleman, J. S. (1990). *Foundations of social theory*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap.
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