

SOU22062 — Social Theory 2

Module Information	
Module Code	SOU22062
Module Title	Social Theory 2
Department	Sociology
Year Group	Senior Freshman
Module Personnel	Dr Roderick Condon
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	2 lectures per week; 1 tutorial per week

Module Content	
Module Description	This module introduces the field of social theory through a consideration of key sociological theorists and traditions.
Module Learning Aims	Starting from classical and extending to contemporary social theory, the module explores how different theorists have approached modern society and sought to understand, explain, and criticise particular aspects and dimensions. Core themes are considered, including: the constitution of society; the nature of social change, its dynamics and directions; the problem of social order; social action and social systems; social consensus and social conflict; the relationship between society and the individual; the aspects and dynamics of social structure and agency; the micro and the macro and their interrelations. The course aims to introduce students to broader questions of sociological inquiry through different perspectives within the tradition and to awaken a critical consideration of our understanding of society.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students should be able to: • Know the main theorists and traditions in social theory and understand how they relate to each other. • Identify key differences between social theories and conduct comparative analysis of their core ideas.

Module Content

	• Critically assess the texts considered during the course. • Demonstrate awareness of central debates in social theory. • Apply the perspectives of different social theories to various aspects of social life. • Critically consider how to think about society and its dynamics and processes.
Indicative Reading / Resources	The following texts are recommended: • Joas, H. and Knöbl, W. (2009) <i>Social Theory: Twenty Introductory Lectures</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. • Ritzer, G. (2011) <i>Sociological Theory</i>. 8th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. The following are also recommended for supplemental reading: • Calhoun, C. et al. (eds.) (2002) <i>Contemporary Sociological Theory</i>. Oxford: Blackwell. • Calhoun, C. et al. (eds.) (2007) <i>Classical Social Theory</i>. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell. • Lemert, C. (2017) <i>Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings</i>. 6th ed. London: Routledge.

Assessment

Assessment Components	Written Assignment (80%), Presentation (20%)
Assessment Details	

Additional Information

Prerequisites	SOU22061 Social Theory 1
Co-requisites	
Any other information	