1. **Title of the module**

SOCI7270 (SO727) Contemporary Sociological Theory

1. **Division or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Division for the Study of Law, Society and Social Justice (School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research)

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 5

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

15 credits (7.5 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn term (term 1)

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or module restrictions**

Pre-requisite – SOCI4080 (SO408) Sociological Theory: The Classics

1. **The courses of study to which the module contributes**

Sociology single and joint honours bachelor degrees - compulsory module

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

8.1 Articulate an awareness of the range of key sociological theories and concepts as featured in contemporary arenas of debate

8.2 Critically understand the contexts and problems for which sociological theories are developed

8.3 Apply key concepts to the phenomena that sociological theorists seek to explain

8.4 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the theorists that are recognised as of ‘contemporary’ relevance to sociology

8.5 Demonstrate a critical understanding of how theoretical ideas are shaping the discipline of sociology

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

9.1 Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with their area(s) of study

9.2 Evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study

9.3 Develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of their subject(s) of study.

9.4 Express themselves well, orally and in writing

9.5 Plan work and study independently

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module provides an introduction to the major issues and controversies that have shaped key developments in contemporary social theory. It surveys the development of social theory through the second half of the twentieth century and up to the present day. Following on from the SO408 module on ‘classical’ social theory, it questions the distinction between the ‘classical’ and the ‘contemporary’ so as to highlight the intellectual decisions, values and problems involved in the packaging of social theory under these terms. It also provides critical introductions to the following theorists and issues: Talcott Parsons and his legacy; Symbolic Interactionism up to Goffman and beyond; The Frankfurt School: Critical theory and the crisis of western Marxism; Jurgen Habermas and the decline of the public sphere; Michel Foucault and a his understanding of ‘power’; Pierre Bourdieu and the reproduction of inequality; From Modernity to Post-modernity?; The feminising of social theory; Globalisation, networks and mobilities; New challenges for the twenty-first century.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Callinicos, A. (2007 2nd edition) Social Theory: A Historical Introduction, Polity

Crow, G. (2005) The Art of Sociological Argument, Basingstoke: Palgrave

Dillon, M. (2010) Introduction to Sociological Theory: Theorists, Concepts and their Applicability to the Twenty-First Century, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell

Elliott. A. (2008) Contemporary Social Theory: An Introduction, Routledge

Harrington, A. (2010) Modern Social Theory, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Jones, P. Bradbury, L and Le Boutiller, S. (2011) Introducing Social Theory, Cambridge: Polity

Ritzer, G and Stepnisky, J. (2011) The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the Major Social Theorists (Vol 2 on the ‘Contemporary’) Wiley-Blackwell

Seidman, S. (2012 5th edition) Contested Knowledge: Social Theory Today, Wiley-Blackwell

1. **Contact hours**

Total contact hours: 22

Private study hours: 128

Total study hours: 150

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

Coursework - seminar participation - 20%

Coursework - essay outline (500 words) - 20%

Coursework - essay (3000 words) - 60%

13.2 Reassessment methods

100% coursework

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Private Study** | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Lectures | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |
| Seminars | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seminar participation (20%) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |
| Essay outline (20%) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Essay (60%) | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The Division/School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

The range of generic skills which will be developed are applicable to international contexts and the specific skills relate to theories applicable to both international and UK contexts.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 2014 | N/K | September 2014 | N/K | N/K |
| 09/2021 EAP | Minor | September 2021 | 13.1, 14 | No |

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| Updated by SSPSSR into CMA compliant format November 2018 |