

INTS 3320: Social Justice Theory Fall 2015

Dr. Jennifer Miller

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Office Hours: TBA

Office Location: TBA

Class Meets: TH 101

Class Time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 – 10:50

Description of Course Content

In this course students are introduced to theories of social justice that seek to understand, explain, critique, and challenge a range of historical and contemporary instances of injustice. Students will develop a critical vocabulary and range of concepts to help them evaluate various social, cultural, and political phenomena from a theoretically informed and interdisciplinary perspective. Students will be asked to analyze contemporary social issues through a social justice framework using the theoretical models and critical thinking skills introduced and developed in class.

Student Learning Outcomes for Course

- Define keywords and concepts pertaining to theories of social justice.
- Recognize key social justice theorists and describe their main arguments.
- Identify, describe, and analyze various modes of social injustice including racism, sexism, and economic exploitation.
- Engage theories of social justice to analyze contemporary instances of injustice.

Textbook

Lemert, Charles C. 2013. *Social Theory: The Multicultural, Global, and Classic Readings*. Fifth. Westview Press.

Grading Policy

The following scale will be applied to both individual assignments and to the course grade as a whole:

- A= 90-100 points
- B=80-89 points
- C=70-79 points
- D=60-69 points
- F=<60 points

Assignments

Essays

Students are responsible for completing **three 2-page essays**. The instructor will provide a prompt for each of the essay assignments. Detailed directions are available on Blackboard.

Final grades for the course will be based on the following assignments:

Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Response Paper One	10%
Response Paper Two	10%
Response Paper Three	10%
Total	100%

Late Work Policy

- Papers must be submitted through SafeAssign by 9:30am on the date due.
- Late papers will receive a 10-point grade deduction every 24 hours they are late beginning after the start of class. For example, if a paper is due Tuesday at 9:30am and is turned in between Tuesday at 9:31am and Wednesday at 9:30am it will receive a 10 point deduction.
- Exceptions may be made when students present documentation of an unforeseeable, significant, and unavoidable situation that prevented their completion of the assignment on time. **Please contact the instructor if you think this applies to you.**
- There will be **no make-ups for exams** unless students can demonstrate well-documented emergencies. You are expected to plan around exam dates.

Drop Policy

The last Day to Drop is _____. Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's

responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Academic Dishonesty

Academic Integrity: students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services Available:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those

students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

E-Culture Policy

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the university email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UTA is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

Students are responsible for checking their UTA email regularly, and the instructor will not be responsible for missed messages sent to UTA email accounts.

Student Feedback Survey

At the end of each term, students will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Emergency Exit Procedures

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located _____ . When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

COURSE CALENDAR—Fall 2015

*Note – Reading assignments should be done by the day that they are listed on the syllabus. The instructor may change readings with advanced warning.

8/27 Thursday – Introduction

- Course Overview
- Review Syllabus
- Reading Theory

9/1 Tuesday – What is Social Theory?

C. Wright Mills “The Sociological Imagination” (266- 269) and Berger and Luckmann “Society as a Human Product” (291-294)

9/3 Thursday – Representations

Durkheim “The Cultural Logic of Collective Representation” (72- 79)

9/8 Tuesday – Ideology

Althusser “Ideology and the Ideological State Apparatus” (245-248)

9/10 Thursday – Marx on Labor

Karl Marx “Estranged Labor” (29 -33)

Cultural Text: *China Blue* (In-class)

9/15 Tuesday – Race and Labor

W.E.B. DuBois “Black Reconstruction and the Racial Wage” (184 -186)

9/17 Thursday – Vulnerable Bodies, Dangerous Labor

Sarah Nir “Perfect Nails, Poisoned Workers” *The New York Times*

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/11/nyregion/nail-salon-workers-in-nyc-face-hazardous-chemicals.html?_r=1

9/22 Tuesday – Marx on Commodities

Karl Marx “Capital and the Value of Commodities” (41 – 47) and Karl Marx “Capitalism and the Fetishism of Commodities” (47 – 48)

9/24 Thursday – Self/Other

Response Paper One Due

Erving Goffman “Presentation of Self” (255 – 257) and Charles Horton Cooley “The Looking Glass Self” (142)

9/29 Tuesday – Raced Others

W.E.B. DuBois “Double-Consciousness and the Veil” (126 – 130)

Cultural Text: Alex Landau – *Traffic Stop* (2015) <http://storycorps.org/animation/>

10/1 Thursday – Gendered Others

Simone de Beauvoir “Woman as Other” (259 – 261)

10/6 Tuesday – Strangers and Ghettos

Georg Simmel “The Stranger” (139 – 142) and Lewis Wirth – “The Significance of the Jewish Ghetto” (195 – 198)

10/8 Thursday – Difference Defines the Norm – Queer Theory

Eve Sedgwick “Epistemology of the Closet” (429 – 431) and Arlene Stein and Ken Plummer (1994) “I Can’t Even Think Straight” (361 – 363)

10/13 Tuesday – Difference Defines the Norm – Critical Race Theory

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. "Race as the Trope of the World" (390 – 393)
Cultural Text: Phillis Wheatley "On Being Brought from Africa to America"
<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/174733>

10/15 Thursday – Midterm Exam Review Day

10/20 Tuesday – Midterm Exam

10/22 Thursday – Heteronormativity and Performativity

Judith Butler "Imitation and Gender Insubordination" (419 – 426)

10/27 Tuesday – Power/Knowledge

Michael Foucault "Power as Knowledge" (353 – 356)

Cultural Text: "The Birth of Sexology"

<http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/resources/sexology.html>

10/29 Thursday – Knowledge/Experience

Patricia Hill Collins "Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination" (403 - 411)

Cultural Text: Wendy Moore "Racial Masquerades, White Domination, and Rachel Dolezal's Racist Co-optation of Black Identity. "

<http://www.racismreview.com/blog/2015/06/13/racial-masquerades-white-domination-and-rachel-dolezals-racist-co-optation-of-black-identity/>

11/3 Tuesday – Becoming You

Pierre Bourdieu (1974) "Structures, Habitus, Practices" (329 – 332) and Nancy

Chodorow (1978) "Gender Personality and the Reproduction of Mothering" (305 - 307)

11/5 Thursday – World Economy

Response Paper Two Due

Immanuel Wallerstein "The Modern World-System" (298 – 302) and Immanuel

Wallerstein "The Modern World System in Crisis" (448 – 450)

11/10 Tuesday – Economic Globalization

Manuel Castells "The Global Network" (464 – 466)

11/12 Thursday – Globalization and the Organization of Power

James Coleman "The New Social Structure and the New Social Science" (380 – 382) and

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri "The Multitude Against the Empire" (499 – 501)

11/17 Tuesday – Neoliberalism

David Harvey "Neoliberalism on Trial" (453 – 454)

Cultural Text: "The "Commons" Versus the "Commodity": Alter-globalization, Anti-privatization and the Human Right to Water in the Global South" by Karen Bakker

<http://www.urbanjustice.net/courses/sides2015/readings/week10/class20/bakker.pdf>

11/19 Thursday – Globalization and US Jobs

William Julius Wilson “Global Economic Changes and the Limits of Race Relations Vision” (497 – 499)

11/24 Tuesday– Globalization and Activism

Saskia Sassen “Towards a Feminist Analytics of the Global Economy” (468 – 470)

Cultural Text: United Nations “Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women”

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>

11/26 Thursday – NO CLASS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

12/1 Tuesday – Understanding the Present

Zygmunt Bauman “Liquid Modernity” (450 – 453)

12/3 Thursday – Statelessness

Giorgio Agamben “Sovereign Power and Bare Life” (507 – 509)

12/8 Tuesday – Final Exam Review Day

Response Paper Three

12/17 Thursday – Final Exam 8am – 10am