Amit Prasad
332 Middlebush Hall
Phone: 882-8218
Email: prasada@missouri.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Schedule and Location: 10 am – 12.50 pm, Tuesday; 202 Arts & Science Building.

Course Description
A variety of metaphors (such as lens, toolbox, etc.) are commonly deployed to depict the role(s) of theory. Deployment of different metaphors is indicative of differing uses and roles of theory. Nevertheless, there are certain basic goals that are common. Theory is inseparable from socio-political-economic contexts that it analyzes. It is an epistemological dialogue with other analyses but also an ontological reflection about individual, society, self, ‘other’, and broader social categories such as modernity, class, agency, structure, etc. This graduate seminar in sociological theory is aimed at critically analyzing contemporary social theory by engaging in focused dialogues around three social themes – modernity and post-modernity, agency and social structure (or individual and society), and constitution of the ‘self’ and the ‘other’.

Course Requirements
Grades will be based on class participation (25%) and three analytical papers (3 X 25% = 75%).

Plagiarism will result in the student getting an F in the course. If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify the Office of Disability Services, A048 Brady Commons, 882-4696, or the course instructor immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

Class Participation: Students will be expected to make presentations of assigned readings. The aim of such presentations should not be to summarize the article(s)’ or book’s main arguments, but to raise certain critical issues that the student feels are important and need to be further discussed. Presenter should deal with two-three points and explain why s/he thinks they are important. Students are also expected to participate in discussions in the class. This is a seminar course aimed at fostering dialogue and students will be evaluated for their contributions in that regard.

Analytical Papers: Students are expected to write three analytical papers in relation to the three thematic areas that are being discussed in this class. These papers will have to be
around 3500 words (excluding references). The aim is to clearly and succinctly analyze a particular problematic that the students have chosen. You can use other articles or books but the ones assigned for that particular area have to be a part of the analysis. You can discuss with the instructor in relation to choice of the problematic or your analysis. Students can write the papers as the sole author or as a co-author with another student in the class. The aim of this exercise is to engage with theory as a dialogue among students.

Course Outline

January 19: Introduction

Interrogating Modernity and Enlightenment


Feb 16: 1st Analytical Paper Due

**Individual(s) in the Society**


SPRING BREAK

April 6: 2nd Analytical Paper Due.

**Self & the Other**


(v) Homi Bhabha, “The Other Question: Stereotype, Discrimination and Discourse of Colonialism” and “Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse”, pp. 66-93, in The Location of Culture (Routledge, 1994).

(iv) Bell Hooks, “Postmodern Blackness”, Postmodern Culture (web journal), 1990.


May 10 (by 5 pm): 3rd Analytical Paper Due.