

## **Contemporary Social Theory**

Course code: 300618

Spring semester

### Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the major contemporary sociological theories. We will focus on functionalism, conflict theory, exchange theory, rational choice theory, game theory, symbolic interactionism, dramaturgy, phenomenological sociology, ethnomethodology, critical theory (Jurgen Habermas), structuralism and poststructuralism, structuration theory and the work of Pierre Bourdieu. Particular emphasis is given on the conceptual frameworks and theoretical debates (e.g. agency and structure, social constructionism and realism) which define social theory, and contributions to contemporary social analysis.

### Objectives:

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- critically assess the key ideas and the differences between diverse theoretical approaches,
- appropriately apply these theories to empirical settings.

Required Text: (to be purchased and read by all students)

Ritzer George, 2007 seventh edition, *Modern Sociological Theory*, Mc Graw Hill.

Course Evaluation for Erasmus Students: One essay of 3.000-3.500 words based on the above topics and readings, due in the exam period.