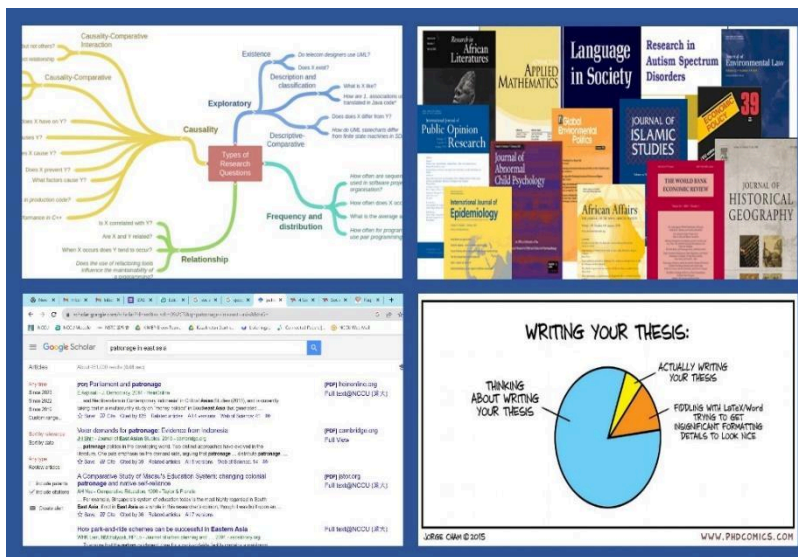


National Chengchi University
International Doctoral Program in Asian Studies (IDAS)

Mechanics of Social Theory: Analysis, Construction and Writing

Fall 2024

Course Number: 1131_265781001_社會理論運用:分析、建構與寫作



Office Hours	TBD	Class Time	Monday 5-8 PM
Office #	綜合North Wing 13F	Classroom #	綜北270205
Instructor	Jacob Reidhead	Website	https://moodle-course02.nccu.edu.tw/course/view.php?id=514
Email	reidhead@g.nccu.edu.tw		

1. Introduction

Content: This course introduces the key elements of social theories and the organization of academic writing including research proposals, prospectuses, dissertations and research articles. Students will analyze the structure of arguments, construct their own arguments and write a theoretical essay, which may be the front-end of a prospectus, thesis or research paper.

Audience: An elective for NCCU IDAS doctoral students, particularly second-year and above. This course may also be of interest to MA students preparing to write a prospectus or thesis.

Prerequisites: No prerequisites. Students will be expected to read and write at a graduate level.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

This course aims to help students master the knowledge domains and academic skills related to analyzing and constructing social theories:

1. Learn the key elements of social theories.
2. Analyze the theoretical arguments in a research paper and across a body of literature.
3. Construct a novel theory which (a) engages with prior theory, (b) identifies a theoretical puzzle and (c) proposes a novel theoretical contribution.
4. Compose a theoretical essay comprised of the narrative elements in (4): (a) prior theory, (b) a theoretical puzzle and (c) a novel theoretical contribution.

3. Course Activities

Course activities are broadly defined below. Detailed instructions and grading rubrics will be uploaded to the course website and introduced in class.

Readings and Quizzes – 25% of Overall Grade

Readings are assigned weekly. Students will prepare to discuss readings in advance of each class. Seven reading quizzes will be scheduled throughout the semester and may or may not be announced in advance. Quizzes will be held at the beginning of class, include 5-10 questions, and time-out after 15 minutes. Each quiz will be worth 5 points. The highest 5 of 7 quizzes will be summed for a score of 25 total possible points.

Literature Review & Theoretical Essay – 75% of Overall Grade

Over the course of the semester, students will write a theoretical essay on a research topic of their choice. The essay is divided into several components:

- A – Introduction
- B – Literature Review
- C – Theoretical Puzzle
- D – Novel Argument
- E – References

The essay will be written and revised over the course of several steps.

1. Reference List (E) = 5 points
2. Drafts 1 and 2 of Lit Review & Theoretical Gap (B + C + E) = 20 points
3. Drafts 1 and 2 of Novel Argument (B + C + D + E) = 20 points
4. Drafts 1 and 2 of Full Essay (A + B + C + D + E) = 30 points

Specific instructions and rubrics will be provided for each step.

4. Policies

Grading Rubric

Graded Assignment	Percent of Overall Grade
Reading Quizzes (Best 5 of 7)	25
Reference List (E)	5
Draft 2 of Lit Review & Theoretical Gap (B + C + E)	20
Draft 2 of Novel Argument (B + C + D + E)	20
Draft 2 of Full Essay (A + B + C + D + E)	30

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted TWO FREE ABSENCES during the semester. After two free absences, each unexcused absence will subtract 5% from the student's overall grade. Arriving to class late, or leaving class early, by more than 10 minutes will be counted as half an absence.

Excused absences will not affect students' grades and do not count as the student's two free absences. Excused absences require:

- a note from a doctor, in the case of a medical emergency
- a note from an administrator, if absent due to an official university event
- the instructor's discretion, in the case of a family emergency (e.g., funeral)

Absences due to the following reasons will not be excused:

- trouble with a vehicle, parking and traffic
- vacations
- jobs and internships
- absence due to working on homework or a class project

5. Materials

Week 1 – What is Theory?

Required

- Abend, G. (2008). The meaning of ‘theory’. *Sociological theory*, 26(2), 173-199.

Week 2 – Classical and Contemporary Theory

Required

- ..

Optional readings on theory

- Abrutyn, S., & Lizardo, O. (Eds.). (2021). Introduction in *Handbook of classical sociological theory*. Springer International Publishing.
- Abrutyn, S. (2016). Introduction in *Handbook of Contemporary Sociological Theory*. Springer International Publishing Switzerland.

Week 3 – Elite view of power

Required

- Mills, C. W. (1959). *The power elite*. Oxford University Press.

Optional readings on power

- ..

Optional readings on theory

- ..

Week 4 – Pluralist view of power

Required

- Dahl, R. A. (1958). A critique of the ruling elite model. *American Political Science Review*, 52(2), 463-469.
- Dahl, R. A. (2005). *Who governs?: Democracy and power in an American city*. Yale University Press.

Optional readings on theory

- ..

Week 5 – Three-dimensional view of power

Required

- Crenson, M. A. (1971). *The un-politics of air pollution; a study of non-decision making in the cities*. Johns Hopkins Press.

Optional readings on power

- Lukes, S. (1974). *Power : a radical view* (4th edition). Macmillan.

Optional readings on causal imagery

- Abbot. *Linear Reality*
- Stinchcombe. *Causal imagery. Construct theory*

Week 6 – Draft 1 of Literature Reviews

Required

- Peer Review Draft 1 Lit Review

Optional

- What's interesting? Davis 1971
- Study: Mention AI = hit
- Novelty & Conventionality. Uzzi 2013.
- Collins – *Sociology of Philosophy*
- More articles on sociology of knowledge production? Polemics? Influencing the field?

Week 7 – Power – a macro-historical perspective

Required

- Scott, J. C. (1999). *Seeing like a state: How certain schemes to improve the human condition have failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Optional readings on power

- Eisenstadt, S. N. (1993). *The political systems of empires*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers.
- Eisenstadt, S. N. (1995). *Power, trust, and meaning: Essays in sociological theory and analysis*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Eisenstadt, S. N. (2017). *The political systems of empires*. Routledge.

- Mann, M. (2012a). *The sources of social power: Volume 4, globalizations, 1945–2011*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Mann, M. (2012b). *The sources of social power: Volume 1, a history of power from the beginning to ad 1760*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Mann, M. (2012c). *The sources of social power: Volume 2, the rise of classes and nation-states, 1760–1914 (2nd ed.)*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Mann, M. (2012d). *The sources of social power: Volume 3, global empires and revolution, 1890–1945*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Optional readings on theory

- ..

Week 8 - Power in fields and institutions

Required

- Wang, Y., & Polillo, S. (2016). Power in organizational society: Macro, meso and micro. *Handbook of contemporary sociological theory*, 43-61.
- Bourdieu, P., et al. (1994). Rethinking the state: Genesis and structure of the bureaucratic field. *Sociological Theory*, 12 (1), 1–18.
- Choose 1 empirical chapter from among Chapters 11-16. Powell, W., & DiMaggio, P. (Eds.). (1991). *The new institutionalism in organizational analysis*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Optional readings on power

- Fields
 - Fligstein, N., & McAdam, D. (2012). *A theory of fields*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Neo-Institutionalism
 - DiMaggio, P., & Powell, W. (1983). The iron cage revisited: Institutional isomorphisms and collective rationality in organizational fields. *American Sociological Review*, 48 (2), 147–160.
 - DiMaggio, P. J., & Powell, W. W. (1991). Introduction. *The new institutionalism in organizational analysis*. The new institutionalism in organizational analysis, 1-38.
 - Powell, W., & DiMaggio, P. (Eds.). (1991). *The new institutionalism in organizational analysis*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
 - Thornton, P. H., Ocasio, W., & Lounsbury, M. (2012). *The institutional logics perspective: A new approach to culture, structure and process*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - Thornton, P. H., Ocasio, W., & Lounsbury, M. (2012). *The institutional logics perspective: A new approach to culture, structure and process*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Optional readings on theory

- Sutton, R. I., & Staw, B. M. (1995). What theory is not. *Administrative science quarterly*, 371-384.
- Van Maanen, J., Sørensen, J. B., & Mitchell, T. R. (2007). The interplay between theory and method. *Academy of management review*, 32(4), 1145-1154.
- Casanave, C. P., & Li, Y. (2015). Novices' struggles with conceptual and theoretical framing in writing dissertations and papers for publication. *Publications*, 3(2), 104-119.
- Weick, K. E. (1995). What theory is not, theorizing is. *Administrative science quarterly*, 40(3), 385-390.
- DiMaggio, P. J. (1995). Comments on "What theory is not". *Administrative science quarterly*, 40(3), 391-397.

Week 9 - Power in exchange relations – a micro perspective

Required

- Blau, P. M. (1964). *Exchange and power in social life*. J. Wiley. (Introduction, Chapter 1 and another chapter)

Optional readings on social exchange theory and expectation states theory

- Emerson, R. M. (1962). Power-Dependence Relations. *American Sociological Review*, 27(1), 31–41. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2089716>
- Blau, P. M. (1964). *Exchange and power in social life*. J. Wiley.
- Emerson, R. M. (1964). Power-Dependence Relations: Two Experiments. *Sociometry*, 27(3), 282–298. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2785619>
- Emerson, R. M. (1972). Exchange theory, Part 1: A psychological basis for social network structures. *Sociological theories in progress*, 2, 58-87.
- Emerson, R. M. (1972). Exchange theory, part II: Exchange relations and networks. *Sociological theories in progress*, 2, 58-87.
- Emerson, R. M. (1976). Social Exchange Theory. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 2, 335–362. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2946096>
- Cook, K. S. (1977). Exchange and power in networks of interorganizational relations. *The sociological quarterly*, 18(1), 62-82.
- Cook, K. S., & Emerson, R. M. (1978). Power, Equity and Commitment in Exchange Networks. *American Sociological Review*, 43(5), 721–739. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2094546>
- Cook, K. S., Emerson, R. M., Gillmore, M. R., & Yamagishi, T. (1983). The Distribution of Power in Exchange Networks: Theory and Experimental Results. *American Journal of Sociology*, 89(2), 275–305. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2779142>
- Ridgeway, C. L., & Berger, J. (1986). Expectations, legitimation, and dominance behavior in task groups. *American Sociological Review*, 603-617.
- Cook, K. S., & Emerson, R. M. (1987). *Social exchange theory*. Newbury Park.

- Cook, K. S., & Whitmeyer, J. M. (1992). Two approaches to social structure: Exchange theory and network analysis. *Annual review of Sociology*, 18(1), 109-127.

Optional readings on theory

- Merton 1968. *Sociological Theories of the Middle Range*

Week 10 – Political Networks and Organizations

Required

- Padgett, J. F., & Ansell, C. K. (1993). Robust Action and the Rise of the Medici, 1400-1434. *American journal of sociology*, 98(6), 1259-1319.
- Gould, R. V. (1996). Patron-client ties, state centralization, and the whiskey rebellion. *American Journal of Sociology*, 102(2), 400-429. Optional

Optional

- Michels, R. (1959). *Political parties: A sociological study of the oligarchical tendencies of modern democracy*. New York: Dover.
- Ostrogorski, M. J. (1922). *Democracy and the organization of political parties: England* (Vol. 1). Transaction Publishers.
- Selznick, P. (1949). *TVA and the grass roots; a study in the sociology of formal organization*. University of California Press.
- Carpenter, D. P. (2010). *Reputation and power : organizational image and pharmaceutical regulation at the FDA*. Princeton University Press.
-

Week 11 – Economic Networks and Organizations

Required

- Uzzi, B. (1997). Social structure and competition in interfirm networks: The paradox of embeddedness. *Administrative Science Quarterly*.
- Hillmann, H., & Aven, B. L. (2011). Fragmented networks and entrepreneurship in late imperial Russia. *American Journal of Sociology*, 117(2), 484-538.
- Yue, L. Q., Luo, J., & Ingram, P. (2013). The failure of private regulation: Elite control and market crises in the Manhattan banking industry. *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 58(1), 37-68.

Readings selected from

- Botelho, T. L., Gulati, R., & Sorenson, O. (2024). The sociology of entrepreneurship revisited. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 50.

Optional

- Saxenian, A. (1996). *Regional advantage: Culture and competition in silicon valley and route 128*, with a new preface by the author. Harvard University Press.
- Soto, H. d. (2002). *The other path : the economic answer to terrorism*. Basic Books.
- Ingram, P., & Simons, T. (2000). State formation, ideological competition, and the ecology of Israeli workers' cooperatives, 1920–1992. *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 45(1), 25-53.
- Carroll, G. R., & Swaminathan, A. (2000). Why the microbrewery movement? Organizational dynamics of resource partitioning in the US brewing industry. *American journal of sociology*, 106(3), 715-762.
- Peng, Y. (2004). Kinship networks and entrepreneurs in China's transitional economy. *American Journal of Sociology*, 109(5), 1045-1074.
- Stark, D., & Vedres, B. (2012). Political Holes in the Economy: The Business Network of Partisan Firms in Hungary. *American Sociological Review*, 77(5), 700-722.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122412453921>
- Veblen, T. (1912). *The theory of the leisure class an economic study of institutions* ([New ed.]). Macmillan Co. <http://www.aspresolver.com/aspresolver.asp?SOTH;S10020684>
- Tilly, C. (1998). *Durable inequality*. University of California Press.
<http://hdl.handle.net/2027/heb.31533>

Week 12 – Comparative Models of Industrialization in East Asia – Part I

Required Reading

- Hamilton, G. G., & Cheng-Shu, K. (2020). *Making money: How Taiwanese industrialists embraced the global economy*. Stanford University Press.

Optional Reading

- Johnson, C. (1982). *MITI and the Japanese miracle: The growth of industrial policy, 1925-1975*. Stanford University Press.
- Feenstra, R. C., & Hamilton, G. G. (2006). *Emergent economies, divergent paths: Economic organization and international trade in South Korea and Taiwan (Vol. 29)*. Cambridge University Press.
- Evans, P. B. (2012). *Embedded autonomy: States and industrial transformation*. In *Embedded autonomy*. Princeton University Press.

Theory & Writing References

Week 13 – Comparative Models of Industrialization in East Asia – Part I

Required Reading

- Hamilton, G. G., & Cheng-Shu, K. (2020). *Making money: How Taiwanese industrialists embraced the global economy*. Stanford University Press.

Optional Reading

- See Week 12

Theory & Writing – Key References

- Kroll, B. M. (1984). Writing for readers: Three perspectives on audience. *College composition and communication*, 35(2), 172-185.
- Collins, R. (2009). *The sociology of philosophies: A global theory of intellectual change*. Harvard University Press.
- Day, A. 2012. Chapter 9. Targeting Journals. In *How to get research published in journals*. Gower Publishing, Ltd.

Theory & Writing – Additional References

- Ede, L. (1984). Audience: An introduction to research. *College Composition and Communication*, 35(2), 140-154.
- Abercrombie, N., & Longhurst, B. J. (1998). *Audiences: A sociological theory of performance and imagination*. Sage.
- Magnifico, A. M. (2010). Writing for whom? Cognition, motivation, and a writer's audience. *Educational psychologist*, 45(3), 167-184.
- Cattani, G., Falchetti, D., & Ferriani, S. (2020). Innovators' acts of framing and audiences' structural characteristics in novelty recognition. *Technology and Creativity: Production, Mediation and Evaluation in the Digital Age*, 13-36.
- Falchetti, D., Cattani, G., & Ferriani, S. (2022). Start with "Why," but only if you have to: The strategic framing of novel ideas across different audiences. *Strategic Management Journal*, 43(1), 130-159.

Week 14 – Draft 1 of Novel Argument

Week 15 – No Class

Week 16 – Post-Hierarchy and Supercorporatism – Part 1

Theoretical Reading

- Prentice, M. (2022). *Supercorporate: distinction and participation in post-hierarchy South Korea*. Stanford University Press.

Readings on Writing

- Day, A. 2012. How to get research published in journals. Gower Publishing, Ltd.
- Becker, Howard S. 1998. Tricks of the Trade: How to Think About Your Research While You're Doing It. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Becker, H. S. (2008). Writing for social scientists: How to start and finish your thesis, book, or article. University of Chicago Press.

Week 17 – Post-Hierarchy and Supercorporatism – Part 1

6. Schedule & Deadlines

Week of	Readings for Discussion	Activity & Lecture	Due Sunday Before Class
1. Sept 9	2008 Abend. (Seven) Meanings of Theory	Discussion: What is theory? Activity: Introduce research interests. Situating yourself within the world of theory. Lecture: Syllabus	
Module 1: Elements of Social Theory			
2. Sept 16	<i>Choose new readings</i>	Discuss Readings Activity: Choose a classical or contemporary theorist. How are they implicated in Type 1-7 theories? Lectures: Argument on Three Levels	
3. Sept 23	Mills. The Power Elite	Conceptualization. Umbrella concepts. Activity: Map out arguments on three levels, focusing on vertical (concepts, variables and measures) Lecture: Inference, Causality, Causal Imagery	Due Sun Sept 22 (5 pts): Reference List & Clusters
4. Sept 30	Dahl. 1958. Critique Mills Dahl 1961. Who Governs?	Discuss Readings Activity: Map out argument on three levels, focusing on horizontal (inference; compare arguments & evidence in two research papers) Lecture: Theory as Narrative	
5. Oct 7	Lukes. 1974. Power. Critiques & Reviews.	Discuss Readings Lecture: Elements of Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Structure, Org, Style, Syntax, Grammar, Diction ● Patterns of Organization 	Due Sun Oct 6: Draft 1 of Lit Review & Gap
6. Oct 14	Draft 1 Lit Reviews	Discuss Draft 1 Lit Reviews Activity: Dissect lit review Lecture: Anatomy of an article <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall word count ● Paragraph count by section 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakdown word count 	
7. Oct 21	Scott. Seeing Like a State	<p>Discuss Readings</p> <p>Activity: Rate novelty & conventionality of articles we have read and plot them on a 2-dim Cartesian coordinates</p> <p>Lecture: Sociology of knowledge production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's interesting? • Novelty, conventionality 	
Module 2: Constructing Social Theories			
8. Oct 28	<p>Power at the macro level:</p> <p>Bourdieu. Bueaucratic fields.</p> <p>From DiMaggio and Powell: Business groups in East Asia (Choose a new one, and save this article for later)</p>	<p>Discuss Readings</p> <p>Activity: Dissect a novel argument</p> <p>Lecture: Anatomy of a new argument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1. Conceptual framework • Part 2. Argument • Part 3. Falsifiable Propositions/Hypotheses 	Due Sun Oct 27 (20 pts): Draft 2 of Lit Review & Gap
9. Nov 4	<p>Power at the micro level:</p> <p>Blau. Exchange in social relations</p>	<p>Discuss Readings</p> <p>Activity: Reconceptualize concepts in relational terms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering Blau's emphasis on social relations: reconceptualize some concepts in relational terms. <p>Activity: Construct new theories using these levers</p> <p>Lecture on Part 2. Levers for constructing new theories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inferential logic (missing var, two competing arguments, etc.) • Definitions (missing concept, vague concept, new operationalization) • Scope (another case, another period, specific to general, general to specific) 	
10. Nov 11	Political Nets & Orgs	Discuss Readings	

	Padgett 1993. Medici Gould 1996. Whisky	Lecture on Part 1: Role of Conceptual Frameworks	
11. Nov 18	Economic Nets & Orgs Uzzi. Paradox of embeddedness Hillman. Entrepreneurship Russia Yue. Failure of Private Regulation	Discuss Readings Activity: Reframing theories to make them more testable Lecture on Part 3: testable theories, falsifiable hypotheses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • propositions, hypotheses • falsifiability: framing argument in a testable way • falsifiability: don't presume the outcome before you've tested it 	Due Sun Nov 17 (20 pts): Draft 3 of Lit Review & Gap
12. Nov 25	Hamilton. Making Money	Workshop Draft 1 Novel Argument Lecture:	
Module 3: Refining Academic Writing			
13. Dec 2	Hamilton. Making Money	Discussion: Types of academic writing. Variation in organization and style. Compare styles, including popular academic writing. Activity: Compare organization and style of academic writing over different time periods. Lecture: Writing for an audience. Who is your audience? Framing.	Due Sun Dec 1: Draft 1 of Novel Argument
14. Dec 9	Read & Peer Review Novel Arguments	Discussion: Writing for an audience. Who is your audience? Framing. Activity: Who is the audience for your research? Re-work arguments and framings for different audiences. Lecture: Rhetoric and persuasion. Rhetorical strategies. Apply to our own writing.	
15. Dec 16	No class	No class	Due Wed Dec 18 (20 pts): Draft 2 of Novel Argument
16. Dec 23	Supercorporate. Intro, 1-3	Discussion: Neo-traditional hierarchy. Work-place ethnography. Lecture: Style & writing tips	
17. Dec 30	Supercorporate. 4-6, Concl	Discussion: Style & writing tips	Due Sun Jan 5: Draft 1 of Full Essay (Final grade for Novel Arg)

		<p>Activity: Present introductions. Critique in class in terms of audience, rhetorical strategy, writing style. Next steps.</p> <p>Activity: Evaluate course. Self-reflections.</p>	
18. Jan 6	No class		<p>Due Wed Jan 26 (30 pts): Draft 1 of Full Essay (Final grade for Full Essay)</p>
<p><i>Deadline for Submitting Grades: Monday February 3</i></p>			