CULTURE
Comprehensive Examination Reading List
School of Sociology, University of Arizona
Revised October 2024

Part I. Lineages of Classical Theory
Durkheim
Durkheim, Emile. 1995 [1915]. *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life.* New York: Free Press. [Read "Introduction"; "Origins of These Beliefs—Conclusion"; "The Negative Cult and Its Functions--the Ascetic Rites"; and "Conclusion"].

Durkheim, Émile. 1984 [1896]. *The Division of Labour in Society*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Macmillan.

Douglas, Mary. 1975. "Jokes." *Implicit Meanings.* London: Routledge, 90-114. Reprinted in Mukerji and Schudson, 291-310.

Sewell, William H. Jr. 1996. "Historical Events as Transformations of Structures:Inventing Revolution at the Bastille." *Theory and Society* 25:841–81.

Wagner-Pacifici, Robin and Barry Schwartz. 1991. "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial : Commemorating a Difficult Past1." *American Journal of Sociology* 97(2):376–420.

Marx and Engels
Marx, Karl, and Frederick Engels. 1947 [1846]. *The German Ideology.* New York: International Publishers. [Esp. Marx's preface (1-2), "Feuerbach" (3-78), and "Theses on Feuerbach' (195-99).]

Gramsci, Antonio. 1971 [1929-35]. *The Prison Notebooks.* New York: International Publishers, 323-35. Excerpted as "Culture and Ideological Hegemony" in Seidman, Steven, and Jeffrey C. Alexander (eds.) 2001. The New Social Theory Reader: Contemporary Debates. London: Routledge.

Willis, Paul 1981 [1977]. *Learning to Labor: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs.* New York: Columbia University Press.

Weber
Weber, Max. 1958 [1904-5]. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (New York: Scribner), esp. "The Spirit of Capitalism" (47-78) and "Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism" (155-83).

Weber, Max. 1958 [1913]. "The Social Psychology of the World Religions." In H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills (eds.), *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Oxford), 267-301.

Weber, Max. 1978. "Types of Social Action." In G. Roth and C. Wittich (eds.), *Economy and Society*. Vol. 1, p. 24-26.

Abramson, Corey M. 2012. "From 'Either-Or' to 'When and How': A ContextDependent Model of Culture in Action." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour* 42(2):155–80.

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture." *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic), 3-30.

Swidler, Ann. 1986. "Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies," *American Sociological Review* 51: 273-86.

Expanding the Cannon of Classical Cultural Analysis
Du Bois, W. E. B. 1904. *The Souls of Black Folk*. Toronto, Canada: Blue Heron Press. [Read "Chapter 1: Our Spiritual Strivings."].

Patricia, Hill Collins. 2000. "Black Feminist Epistemology." Pp. 251–72 in *Black Feminist Thought*. Routledge.

Lengermann, Patricia, and Gillian Niebrugge. 2007. *The Women Founders: Sociology and Social Theory, 1830-1930 : A Text/Reader*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. [Read Chapter 1: Present at Creation – Women in the History of Sociology and Social Theory].

Part II. Contemporary Cultural Analysis: Theories & Methods
Symbols, Language, Codes
Bernstein, Basil. 1964. "Elaborated and Restricted Codes: Their Social Origins and Some Consequences." *American Anthropologist* 6: 55-69.

Cerulo, Karen. 1998. *Deciphering Violence: The Cognitive Structure of Right and Wrong*. New York: Routledge: Chapter 3.

Santa Ana, Otto. 2002. *Brown Tide Rising: Metaphors of Latinos in Contemporary American Public Discourse*. Austin: University of Texas Press. [Read Pp. 17-21, 26-33, 39-43, 65-94, 99-103].

Practice
Bourdieu, Pierre. 1990. *The Logic of Practice*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [Read "Structures, Habitus, Practices" and "The Kabyle Household or the World Revisited"].

Collins, Randall. 2004. *The Program of Interaction Ritual Theory*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Read Chapter 1].

Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, 1973. [Read "Religion as a Cultural System," "Ethos, Worldview, and the Analysis of Sacred Symbols," and "Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight"].

Mohr, John. W., and Vincent Duquenne. 1997. "The Duality of Culture and Practice: Poverty Relief in New York City, 1888-1917." *Theory and Society* 26: 305-356.

Body and Embodiment

Martin, Karin. 1998. "Becoming a Gendered Body: Practices of Preschools." *American Sociological Review* 63: 494-511.

Wacquant, Loïc J. D. 2004. *Body & Soul: Notebooks of an Apprentice Boxer*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press. [Read preface through p. 127].

Mason, Katherine. 2013. "Social Stratification and the Body: Gender, Race, and Class." *Sociology Compass* 7(8):686–98. doi: 10.1111/soc4.12058.

Gong, Neil. 2024. *Sons, Daughters, and Sidewalk Psychotics: Mental Illness and Homelessness in Los Angeles*. 1st ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [Read Chapter 1].

Talley, Heather Laine. 2014. *Saving Face: Disfigurement and the Politics of Appearance*. New York, NY: New York University Press. [Read Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, and Chapter 6]

Strings, Sabrina. 2019. *Fearing the Black Body: The Racial Origins of Fat Phobia*. 1st ed. New York: NYU Press. [Read Introduction and Chapter 6].

Repertoires and Resources

Swidler, Ann. 2001. *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters* (U Chicago Press), Introduction, Chapters 1-2, 6-8, Conclusion (pp. 1-40, 111-214).

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. "The Forms of Capital." Pp. 241–58 in *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, edited by J. Richardson. Westport, CT: Greenwood.

Mears, Ashley. 2015. "Girls as Elite Distinction: The Appropriation of Bodily Capital." *Poetics (Amsterdam)* 53:22–37. doi: 10.1016/j.poetic.2015.08.004.

Sallaz, Jeffrey J., and Jane Zavisca. 2007. "Bourdieu in American Sociology, 1980-2004." *Annual Review of Sociology* 33(1):21–41. doi: 10.1146/annurev.soc.33.040406.131627.

Boundaries

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1978. *Distinction.* [Read preface, Introduction, Chapters 1-5, 7, Conclusion].

Lamont, Michèle. 1992. *Money, Morals, & Manners: The Culture of the French and the American Upper-Middle Class.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Ch 1-5, 7 (pp. 1149, 174-192).

Peterson, Richard A. And Roger M. Kern. 1996. "Changing Highbrow Taste: From Snob to Omnivore." *American Sociological Review* 61: 900-907.

Carlson, Jennifer. 2016. "Moral Panic, Moral Breach: Bernhard Goetz, George Zimmerman, and Racialized News Reporting in Contested Cases of Self-Defense." *Social Problems (Berkeley, Calif.)* 63(1):1–20. doi: 10.1093/socpro/spv029.

Group Meaning Systems

Eliasoph, Nina, and Paul Lichterman. 2003. "Culture in Interaction." *American Journal of Sociology* 108(4):735–94. doi: 10.1086/367920.

Grindstaff, Laura, and Ming-Cheng M. Lo. 2019. "Culturalizing Sociology." Pp. 104–23 in *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Sociology*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Leschziner, Vanina, and Gordon Brett. 2021. "Have Schemas Been Good To Think With?" *Sociological Forum (Randolph, N.J.)* 36(1):1207–28. doi: 10.1111/socf.12767.

Basov, Nikita, Wouter De Nooy, and Aleksandra Nenko. 2018. "Local Meaning Structures: A Mixed-Method Socio-Semantic Network Analysis." doi: 10.48550/arxiv.1807.06623.

Vaisey, Stephen, and Omar Lizardo. 2010. "Can Cultural Worldviews Influence Network Composition?" *Social Forces* 88(4):1595–1618. doi: 10.1353/sof.2010.0009.

Fine, Gary Alan. 2021. *The Hinge: Civil Society, Group Cultures, and the Power of Local Commitments*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press. [Read Introduction and Conclusion].

Methods
Measurement and Analysis
DiMaggio, Paul, Manish Nag, and David Blei. 2013. "Exploiting Affinities between Topic Modeling and the Sociological Perspective on Culture: Application to Newspaper Coverage of U.S. Government Arts Funding." *Poetics* 41 (6):570-606.

Jepperson, Ronald L. and Ann Swidler. 1994. "What properties of culture should we measure?" *Poetics* 22, pp. 359-71.

Mohr, John W. 1998. "Measuring Meaning Structures." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24: 345-370.

Causal Reasoning
Kaufman, Jason. 2004. "Endogenous Explanation in the Sociology of Culture." *Annual Review of Sociology*.

Sewell Jr., William. 1992. "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency and Transformation." *American Journal of Sociology* 98:1-29

Tavory, Iddo, and Ann Swidler. 2009. "Condom Semiotics: Meaning and Condom use in Rural Malawi." *American Sociological Review* 74 171-189.
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Cultural Production and Reception

Becker, Howard. 1984. *Art Worlds.* Berkeley: University of California Press.⌐SEP⌐

Bourdieu, Pierre. "The Field of Cultural Production, or: The Economic World Reversed" and "The Market of Symbolic Goods," pp. 29-73 and 112-141 in *The Field of Cultural Production* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993).

Griswold, Wendy. 1987. "Fabrication of Meaning: Literary interpretation in the United States, Great Britain and the West Indies," *American Journal of Sociology* 92 (5): 1077-1117.

Lizardo, Omar and Sara Skiles. 2012. "Reconceptualizing and Theorizing 'Omnivorousness': Genetic and Relational Mechanisms." *Sociological Theory* 30(4):263–82.

Organizations and Networks

Bearman, Peter S., and Katherine Stovel. 2000. "Becoming a Nazi: A Model for Narrative Networks." *Poetics* 27: 69-90.

Emirbayer, Mustafa, and Jeff Goodwin. 1994. "Network Analysis, Culture, and the Problem of Agency." *American Journal of Sociology* 99: 1411-54.

Pachucki, Mark A. and Ronald L. Breiger. 2010. "Cultural Holes: Beyond Relationality in Social Networks and Culture." *Annual Review of Sociology* 36(1):205–24.

Culture and Cognition

Bergesen, Albert J.. 2005. Culture and Cognition. In M. Jacobs and N. Hanrahan (Eds.) *The Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Culture.* New York: Basil Blackwell.

Brubaker, Rogers Mara Loveman and Peter Stamatov. 2004. "Ethnicity as Cognition." *Theory and Society* 33: 31-64.

D'Andrade, Roy G. 1992. "Schemas and Motivation." Pp. 23–44 in *Human Motives and Cultural Models*. Cmbridge University Press.

DiMaggio, Paul "Why Cognitive (and Cultural) Sociology Needs Cognitive Psychology," 274-81. In Cerulo, Karen (ed.). 2002. Culture *in Mind: Toward a Sociology of Culture and Cognition* (New York: Routledge).

Lizardo, Omar, and Michael Strand. 2010. "Skills, Toolkits, Contexts and Institutions: Clarifying the Relationship between Different Approaches to Cognition in Cultural Sociology." *Poetics* 38(2):205–28. doi: 10.1016/j.poetic.2009.11.003.

Patterson, Orlando. Introduction, Part I, and II. "Making Sense of Culture." Annual Review of Sociology 40 (2014), 1-15.

Values, Meaning, and Time

Vaisey, Stephen. 2009. "Motivation and Justification: A Dual Process Model of Culture in Action." *American Journal of Sociology* 114: 1675-1715.

Miles, Andrew. 2015. "The (Re)Genesis of Values: Examining the Importance of Values for Action." *American Sociological Review* 80(4):680–704. doi: 10.1177/0003122415591800.

Luft, Aliza. 2020. "Theorizing Moral Cognition: Culture in Action, Situations, and Relationships." *Socius*.

Sánchez-Jankowski, Martín. 2008. *Cracks in the Pavement: Social Change and Resilience in Poor Neighborhoods*. Berkeley, California: University of California Press. [Read Introduction, Chapter 1, and Chapter 4].

Frye, Margaret. "Bright Futures in Malawi's New Dawn: Educational Aspirations as Assertions of Identity." 2012 American Journal of Sociology, 117(6), pp. 1565-1624

Tavory, Iddo. 2018. "Between Situations: Anticipation, Rhythms, and the Theory of Interaction." *Sociological Theory* 36(2):117–33. doi: 10.1177/0735275118777007.

Gong, Neil. 2015. "How to Fight Without Rules: On Civilized Violence in 'De-Civilized' Spaces." *Social Problems (Berkeley, Calif.)* 62(4):605–22. doi: 10.1093/socpro/spv014.

Identity
Brubaker, Rogers and Fred Cooper. 2000. "Beyond Identity." *Theory and Society* 29:1-47.

Butler, Judith. 1991. "Imitation and Gender Subordination" In Diana Fuss (ed.), *Inside/Out* (New York: Routledge), 13-29. Excerpt in Seidman and Alexander (2001), Cornell, Stephen, and Douglas Hartman. 1998. *Ethnicity and Race: Making Identities In a Changing World* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press), esp. chs. 4-6 (72-194) and 8 (233-52).

Goffman, Erving. 1961. *Asylums; Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.

Hunt, Darnell. 1997. "Raced Ways of Seeing," *Screening the Los Angeles 'Riots': Race, Seeing, and Resistance* (Cambridge U Press), chs. 2, 7.333-45.

Miles, Andrew. 2014. "Addressing the Problem of Cultural Anchoring: An IdentityBased Model of Culture in Action." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 77(2):210–27.

Seidman, Steven. 2001. "From Identity to Queer Politics: Shifts in Normative Heterosexuality." *Citizenship Studies* 5(3): 321-8.

Culture and Politics
Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (New York: Routledge, Chapman Hall). à Brief excerpt is in Seidman and Alexander (2001), 224-30.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1991. "On Symbolic Power." In Language and Symbolic Power, pp. 163-170.

Eliasoph, N. 1996. "Making A Fragile Public: A Talk-Centered Study of Citizenship and Power." *Sociological Theory* 14: 3: 262-289.

Culture, Poverty, and Inequality
Abramson, Corey Michael. 2015. *The End Game: How Inequality Shapes Our Final Years*. Cambridge, London: Harvard University Press. [Read "The Meaning of Who you Know"; "Game Day Strategies"; "Old is A Different Animal Altogether".

Sánchez-Jankowski, Martín. 2008. *Cracks in the Pavement: Social Change and Resilience in Poor Neighborhoods*. University of California Press.

Small, Mario Luis, David J. Harding, and Michèle Lamont. 2010. "Reconsidering Culture and Poverty." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 629(1):6– 27.

Vaisey, Steve. 2010. "What People Want: Rethinking Poverty, Culture, and Educational Attainment." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 629:75– 101.

Rivera, Lauren A. 2012. "Hiring as Cultural Matching: The Case of Elite Professional Service Firms." *American Sociological Review* 77(6):999–1022. doi: 10.1177/0003122412463213.

Lamont, Michele. 2009. *The Dignity of Working Men: Morality and the Boundaries of Race, Class, and Immigration*. Harvard University Press. [Read Introduction, Conclusion, and Appendix A].

Valentino, Lauren, and Stephen Vaisey. 2022. "Culture and Durable Inequality." *Annual Review of Sociology* 48(1):109–29. doi: 10.1146/annurev-soc-030320-102739.

Race
Clerge, Orly. 2019. *The New Noir: Race, Identity, and Diaspora in Black Suburbia*. 1st ed. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Read Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 6, and Conclusion].

Rawls, Anne Warfield. 2020. *Tacit Racism*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press. [Read Chapter 1, Chapter 6, and Conclusion].

Gender, Medicine, and Culture
Gong, Neil. 2019. "Between Tolerant Containment and Concerted Constraint: Managing Madness for the City and the Privileged Family." *American Sociological Review* 84(4):664–89. doi: 10.1177/0003122419859533.

Brewer, Alexandra, Melissa Osborne, Anna S. Mueller, Daniel M. O'Connor, Arjun Dayal, and Vineet M. Arora. 2020. "Who Gets the Benefit of the Doubt? Performance Evaluations, Medical

Errors, and the Production of Gender Inequality in Emergency Medical Education." *American Sociological Review* 85(2):247–70. doi: 10.1177/0003122420907066.

Cottingham, Marci D., and Jill A. Fisher. 2022. "Gendered Logics of Biomedical Research: Women in U.S. Phase I Clinical Trials." *Social Problems (Berkeley, Calif.)* 69(2):492–509. doi: 10.1093/socpro/spaa035.

Wingfield, Adia Harvey. 2019. *Flatlining: Race, Work, and Health Care in the New Economy*. 1st ed. Berkeley, California: University of California Press. [Read Chapter 1, Chapter 5, and Conclusion].

Menchik, Daniel A., and Maya Giaquinta. 2024. "The Words We Die By." *Social Science & Medicine (1982)* 340:116470–116470. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.116470.

Culture and Markets
Alexander, Jeffrey C. 2011. "Market as Narrative and Character." *Journal of Cultural Economy* 4 (4):477-488.

Collier, Jane Fishburne. 1997. *From Duty to Desire: Remaking Families in a Spanish Village*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 1, 2, 5, & 6.

Quinn, Sarah. 2008. "The Transformation of Morals in Markets: Death, Benefits, and the Exchange of Life Insurance Policies." *The American Journal of Sociology* 114(3):738–80. doi: 10.1086/592861.

Rivera, Lauren. a. 2012. "Hiring as Cultural Matching: The Case of Elite Professional Service Firms." *American Sociological Review* 77(6):999–1022.