

Review of Part III

Please Note: This is NOT an exhaustive overview of what has been covered in Part III of the course. I have tried to summarize *some* of the key issues. You are *entirely responsible* for being familiar with the material associated with Part III of the course. See the “Course Schedule” section of the course outline for the material that is covered in Part III.

Micro Theory I: Georg Simmel

How addressed in the course:

- biographical sketch of Simmel’s life
- overview of his key theoretical ideas

Basic time frame:

- late 19th century to early 20th century

Historical importance:

- Simmel had an impact on the development of American sociological theory (influencing theorists of the Chicago School, who focussed on micro theory)

Some theoretical ideas and concepts:

- types of interactants and forms of interaction
- domination as a form of social interaction (and domination in relation to individuals, groups, or principles)
- conflict as a form of social interaction (and key points about conflict)
- interaction in different kinds of groups
- modern culture and types of culture

Micro Theory II: George Herbert Mead and Symbolic Interactionist Theory

How addressed in the course:

- the Chicago School, Mead, Blumer, Goffman, and symbolic interactionist theory were introduced in the lecture on “Later Sociological Theory” (in Part II of the course)
- biographical sketch of Mead’s life
- brief background on Goffman’s life
- overview of key theoretical ideas (presented by Mead and Goffman)

Basic time frame:

- early 20th century to late 20th century

Historical importance:

- Mead developed ideas that formed the basis for what we now know as symbolic interactionist theory

- Goffman built on some of the topics explored by Mead (especially with regard to analysis of the self), but he took symbolic interactionist theory in interesting new directions or went beyond it (through dramaturgical theory, analysis of stigma, and frame analysis)

Some theoretical ideas and concepts:

- of Mead

- the act and the social act (as well as the concepts associated with each)

- mind

- self (and stages in the development of the self)

- the significant other and the generalized other

- the “I” and the “me”

- society

- of Goffman

- dramaturgical theory

- the role (and associated concepts)

- the stage (front stage and back stage)

- impression management

- presentation of self in everyday life

- stigma, types of stigma, and their connection to dramaturgical interaction

- frames and frame analysis

Feminist Theory

How addressed in the course:

- feminist theory was introduced in the lecture on “Later Sociological Theory” (in Part II of the course)

- detailed discussion of different forms of feminist theory

Basic time frame:

- late 19th century to the present

Historical importance:

- feminist theory presented a challenge to established sociological theory (much of which was seen as male-centred)

- feminist theory offered a woman-centred approach to understanding society and the social world

Some theoretical approaches:

- cultural feminism

- liberal feminism

- radical feminism

- socialist feminism

Some theoretical ideas and concepts:

- sex and gender
- “feminine personality”
- gender difference, gender inequality, gender oppression, structural oppression
- patriarchy
- private patriarchy and public patriarchy

Race and Sociological Theory: W.E.B. Du Bois

How addressed in the course:

- biographical sketch of Du Bois’ life
- overview of his key theoretical ideas

Basic time frame:

- early 20th century to mid 20th century

Historical importance:

- Du Bois paved the way for sociological analysis of race or ethnicity by doing research on blacks in the United States and developing theoretical ideas out of this research

Some theoretical ideas and concepts:

- “grades” of blacks in Philadelphia
- the veil
- double consciousness
- global exploitation through colonialism