Instructor: Prof. Saara Liinamaa
Email: sliinama@uoguelph.ca
Class time: Thursday 7:00pm – 9:50pm
Office: 607 MacKinnon
Office Hours: TBC
Classroom: TBC

Calendar Description
This course outlines and evaluates the major theories in use today. A central aspect of the course is instruction in the application of these theories. Prerequisites: SOAN 2112; SOAN 2120

Course Description
This course examines contemporary developments in social theory by (1) surveying the diversity of voices participating in contemporary theory dialogues, and, (2) exploring how contemporary theory critically illuminates the world around us. Theory doesn’t always have the best reputation; it is often misunderstood as a bunch of difficult texts with indecipherable arguments. This course places high value on students reading a range of texts that demonstrate key currents and debates within contemporary social theory (unfortunately, the part about difficult texts is somewhat true). But, alongside these readings, we will focus on applying and connecting theory to questions of method, research and everyday life. We will approach contemporary social theory as a vibrant area that challenges our thinking about meaning, power and knowledge in contemporary life.

Required Texts
1. All required readings will be made available through library course reserves (ARES).

Evaluation
2 x Tests (20% each)
Contemporary Issues Assignment (25%)
Take Home Final Exam (30%)
Discussion Groups (5%)

Please note: this outline is for information purposes only. The final and full syllabus will be distributed in the first class.