Soc 710

Social Theory Through Complaining

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Course Description
This course is an intensive introduction to some main themes in social theory. It is required of first year Ph.D students in the sociology department. Each week we will focus on something grad students complain about when they are forced to take theory. You are required to attend under protest, write a paper that’s a total waste of your time, and complain constantly. Passive-aggressive silence will not be sufficient for credit.

Course Schedule
Week 1  Introduction: This has Nothing to do with my Research Interests
Week 2  This is all just Obfuscatory Bullshit and Empty Jargon
Week 3  It’s Not Like We Can Even Predict Anything
Week 4  Isn’t it more Complicated than that?
Week 5  Aren’t these things Mutually Constitutive?
Week 6  But what about Power?
Week 7  We could easily Fix this mess with some Basic Math
Week 8  This field is Sexist and Racist to its rotten core
Week 9  What is Theory without Praxis?
Week 10  THANKSGIVING BREAK. If You Can Call it a Break.
Week 11  Look, if Everything is Socially Constructed, then Nothing is
Week 12  Can you Believe we didn’t Read any _________?
Week 13  Conclusion: This Whole Project was an Exercise in Symbolic Violence