



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Office of the Chair  
University Senate Council  
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8 August 2002

TO: Members, University Senate

FROM: University Senate Council

RE: Course/Program Actions: Effective Date: Fall Semester, 2002,  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

The Senate Council circulates for your approval the following curricular actions. Objections will be accepted from University Senators and faculty members and must be received on or before August 25, 2002. All other requirements for the courses or programs as approved below must be met.

SENATE COUNCIL

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Proposal: Re-authorization of Graduate Certificate in Social Theory

Background: Below find information regarding the past and ongoing activities of the Committee on Social Theory, particularly regarding the re-authorization of the Graduate Certificate in Social Theory for an additional six-year period. The re-authorization has been approved by the Graduate and Senate Councils and is forwarded to the University Senate for review and final approval.

1. Academic Objectives

The Graduate Certificate in Social Theory is designed to offer master's and doctoral students the opportunity to gain recognition for concentrated study in multidisciplinary approaches to social theory. Social theory is the theoretical analysis of social life, embracing substantive questions about the composition, structure, and development of social phenomena as well as epistemological issues concerning their comprehension. Today, it is one of the most significant and fastest growing arenas in the humanities and social sciences. It brings together scholars from a multitude of disciplines to consider such topics

as the social constitution of individuals in contemporary and historical contexts, the nature of the political process, the structure of agency, cultural and economic processes associated with globalization, and the constitution of public space and civil society. Students receive ten hours of systematic training in social theory through a set of multidisciplinary courses described below.

## 2. Participating Faculty

Director:	Wolfgang Natter, <i>Geography and Social Theory</i>
Acting Director:	John Paul Jones III, <i>Geography</i>
Co-Director:	Ted Schatzki, <i>Philosophy</i>
Associate Faculty:	Dana Nelson, <i>English and Social Theory</i>

## 3. Affiliated Faculty:

Appalachian Center:  
Dr. Betsy Taylor

Architecture:  
Tony Roccanova

Wallis Miller

Anthropology:  
Mary Anglin

Monica L. Udvardy

Classics:  
James Francis

Communications:  
Joachim Knuf

Ramona Rush

Education:  
Richard Angelo

Karen Tice

English:  
Jonathan Allison  
Janet Eldred  
Michael Eubel

Virginia Blum  
David Miller  
Gregory A. Waller

Susan Bordo  
Ellen Rosenman

French:  
John Erickson

Jeff Peters

Suzanne R. Pucci

Geography:  
Paola Bacchetta  
Richard Schein

Karl Raitz

Susan M. Roberts

German:

Theodore Fiedler                                      Michael Jones

History:

Pat Cooper    Bruce Eastwood                                      Kathi Kern  
Joanne Pope Melish                                      Jeremy D. Popkin                                      Gerald Smith

Management:

Andrew J. Grimes

Philosophy:

Daniel Breazeale                                      Joan Callahan                                      Christopher Zurn

Political Science:

Herbert G. Reid                                      Ernest J. Yanarella

Psychology:

Betty Lorch

Russian and Eastern Studies:

Doug Slaymaker

Sociology:

Dwight Billings                                      Brian Gran                                      Tom Janoski  
Patrick Mooney                                      Shaunna L. Scott

Spanish:

Dianna Niebylski

4. Admission Requirements/Procedures

Students interested in the Certificate must have been admitted to a graduate-degree program at the University. The Committee asks prospective students meet with the Director, indicating their interest in the program. Admission is normally agreed upon and the student then begins her or his coursework.

5. Requirements for Completion

To receive the Certificate, a student must successfully complete a minimum of 10 graduate credit hours with a GPA of 3.00 consisting of the following four courses:

1. **ST 500**, Introduction to Social Theory, providing students with a broad survey of social theoretical issues spanning the humanities and social sciences (3 hours).
2. **ST 600**, Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Social Theory, a topical, team-taught seminar conjoined with a public lecture series (3 hours).

3. **ST 610**, *disClosure* Editorial Collective, offering professional editorial and research experience (1 hour).
4. Either **ST 690**, a topical seminar jointly taught by faculty members from the humanities and social sciences, or **an approved elective theory course** from outside the student's home discipline selected from Committee members' offerings (3 hours).
5. For a list of past certificate earners, contact the College or the Senate Council office.

6. Rationale for Continuation

The University of Kentucky's Committee on Social Theory was formed in 1989 to facilitate multidisciplinary teaching and research in this area. Underlying the initiative was the realization that, because many social theoretical issues refuse containment within extant disciplinary demarcations, they are best studied within a multidisciplinary framework. The Committee was formed to contest traditional disciplinary narrowness by fostering trans-disciplinary theoretical understandings and informing empirical research with them. UK social theory is especially concerned with building theoretical bridges between the humanities and social sciences.

Today, the Committee includes a large number of active faculty associates, spanning 18 units and several colleges. It offers students and faculty an innovative opportunity to pursue social thought in a genuinely dialogical and multidisciplinary fashion. Its forums include team-taught graduate seminars, a public lecture series coordinated with these seminars, public symposia, broad-based theory courses, a working paper series for participating faculty, the annual visit of a Distinguished Author in Social Theory, and an editorial practicum associated with the student-run journal, *disClosure*, now in its tenth year of publication. The Committee is a founding institutional member of the International Consortium of Social Theory Programs. Along with the Appalachian Center, the Committee was recently awarded a prestigious, three-year Rockefeller Foundation grant to study civil society and civic practice.

The Graduate Certificate in Social Theory is an important facet of the overall operations of the Committee on Social Theory.

7. Additional Information

Complete information on the Committee and its various activities may be found on the website: <http://www.uky.edu/AS/SocTheo>.