This course is designed to introduce students to basic social theory, and to the relationship between theory and ethnography.

Preference to majors.

Required books:
Peter Kivisto, ed., Social Theory: Roots and Branches, 3rd ed.
Sherry B. Ortner, Life and Death on Mt. Everest: Sherpas and Himalayan Mountaineering
Steven Gregory, The Devil Behind the Mirror: Globalization and Politics in the Dominican Republic.

Week 1: Introduction

THEORY I

Week 2: “Karl Marx” in Kivisto

Week 3: “Max Weber” in Kivisto

Week 4: “Feminist Theory” in Kivisto

ETHNOGRAPHY I

Week 5: S. Ortner, Life and Death on Mt. Everest, Chapters 1-5

Week 6: S. Ortner, Life and Death..., Chs. 6-10.

*** Paper #1 due: Apply some aspects of the theory readings to the ethnography, 6-8 pages.

THEORY II

Week 7: “Structuralism, Poststructuralism, and Postmodernism,” in Kivisto
Week 8: “World Systems and Globalization Theory” in Kivisto

ETHNOGRAPHY II

Week 9: S. Gregory, The Devil Behind the Mirror, Introduction and Chs. 1-3

Week 10: S. Gregory, The Devil..., Chs. 4-6.

*** Paper #2 due: Apply some aspects of the theory readings to the ethnography, 6-8 pages.

Grading: Paper 1, 40%, Paper 2, 60%. 100% attendance is expected but I cannot assign a figure to it. Let’s just say that absences and/or indications of lack of preparation will color the way I read the papers.