***Intro to Social Theory: A Cheese Plate of the Social Sciences***

This class will explore, in brief, a variety of central concepts in social theory. The primary mode of teaching will be through recorded lecture videos, quotes, discussion, and connection to relevant current dialogues.

No student (or instructor) should expect to fully comprehend any of these concepts by the end of the class. The (ideally more realistic) goals of the class are as follows:

* Students should become somewhat conversant in all of these major themes and the related theory
* Students will be able to apply these theories to their lives and use them to better understand the world around them.
* Students will develop an appreciation of social theory **and** a predisposition toward applying these theories to whatever field they choose to pursue in college or later in life.

**Big themes by week, followed by source texts:**

1. Human Interaction I: The Adam Smith Story
   1. *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* – Adam Smith
   2. *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* – Adam Smith
2. What Makes a Democracy?
   1. *Of the Social Contract, Or Principles of Political Right* – Jean-Jacques Rousseau
   2. *On Democracy in America* – Alexis de Tocqueville
3. Is Nietzsche Evil?
   1. *Beyond Good and Evil* – Friedrich Nietzsche
   2. *On the Genealogy of Morality* – Friedrich Nietzsche
4. Theories of History
   1. *Critique of Pure Reason* – Immanuel Kant
   2. *Capital* – Karl Marx
5. Human Interaction II: Why Foucault is Awesome
   1. *Discipline and Punish* – Michel Foucault
   2. *History of Sexuality* – Michel Foucault
6. Gender
   1. *The Second Sex* – Simone de Beauvoir
   2. *Gender Trouble* – Judith Butler
7. Existence and Interaction
   1. *Being and Nothingness* – Jean-Paul Sartre
   2. *The Theory of Communicative Action* – Jürgen Habermas
   3. *A Theory of Justice* – John Rawls