

**Carleton University  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

**Sociology 5005  
Fall 2022  
Recurring Debates in Social Thought**

**Instructor:** Kelly Fritsch

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**Course Schedule:** Tuesday 2:35-5:25 pm

**Method of Delivery:** In person

**Course Description:** What is social theory and what constitutes theoretical knowledge? What is the relationship between research and praxis, knowledge and power, agency and structure, the individual and the social, and which concepts help us productively describe, analyze, engage, or critique various dimensions of our contemporary social world? Challenging our characterizations of theory and what constitutes the social, this course engages contemporary social theory with a focus on recurring tensions and debates in the discipline. Designed for M.A. students in the Graduate Program in Sociology, this course provides an opportunity for students to expand and develop their competence in comfortably reading and understanding primary texts in contemporary social theory; deepen and sharpen their skills in critical analysis, comprehension, and expression; become familiar with key terms and theoretical threads in the discipline of sociology; develop capacities for assessing and engaging competing theoretical claims; build collegial relationships among peers; and learn practices of constructive feedback and peer review. We will delve into a wide variety of theoretical works that explore power, difference, agency, identity, knowledge formation, evidence, affect, social change, resistance, and justice.