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Cultural Theory: An Introduction



Synopsis

This second edition of Cultural Theory provides a concise introduction to cultural theory, placing major figures, traditional concepts, and contemporary themes within a sharp conceptual framework. Provides a student-friendly introduction to what can often be a complex field of study Updates the first edition in response to reader feedback and to the changing nature of the field Includes additional coverage of theorists from the classical period to include Nietzsche and DuBois Introduces entirely new chapters on race and gender theory, and the body Considers themes that have become more important in theoretical activity in recent years such as computers and virtual reality, cosmopolitanism, and performance theory Draws on theories and theorists from continental Europe as well as the English-speaking world

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Customer Reviews

"Highly recommended to anyone interested in acquiring a theoretical basis on which to systematize their knowledge of cultural theory. Indeed, the authors manage to make the complex simple enough to understand without oversimplifying." (Discourse Studies, 2010) "Presenting such a wide-ranging and multifarious set of ideas in a coherent manner constitutes a very considerable achievement. The book offers anyone interested in cultural theory a broad conspectus "provided of course it is read as a whole." (Metapsychology Online Reviews, February 2009)

"For those stalking culture, you'd best set out with this mapping of the terrain." Roger Friedland, University of California, Santa Barbara "The second edition of Cultural Theory provides a clear,

lively, and timely introduction to leading thinkers and their ideas. Its lucid writing and comprehensive scope is of great value to students and scholars seeking to understand the field of cultural theory." Robin Wagner-Pacifici, Swarthmore College "Bringing alive a subject as broad as cultural sociology is difficult, but this fresh edition succeeds brilliantly. Books about theory are usually less than exciting, let alone inspiring, but this book glows and absorbs as it informs. I have depended on it for years, cannot do without it, and, given the growth of cultural theory, I cannot see how anyone else can." Barry Schwartz, University of Georgia

If you are serious about becoming an academic researcher in the humanities or social sciences; I would highly recommend this book, even if you think that you have a good understanding of cultural theory. This book really does a great job of providing a solid foundation about the myriad of differing theories that play a vital role in a host of disciplines. One of the book's real strengths is that it is very accessible--which allows you to develop a decent understanding of a variety of topics that can, far too often, be difficult to grasp. This can help you build a solid foundation or give you a good refresher about many topics that shaped (and continue to shape) the humanities and social sciences.

Nice introduction to the material.

I've looked at almost all the books out there that outline cultural sociology. This is THE BEST. It summarizes the important traditions and thinkers and explains theories and concepts with everyday examples that make sense. It would be a wonderful resource for teaching an undergraduate course in the field, preparing for a graduate exam in the field, or just getting an introduction to the field.

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