

Selected Topics in Sociology A – Week #09 Reading Notes

Foucault, M. (1999). Power as knowledge. In Lemert, C. (ed.), *Social Theory, 2nd edition* (pp. 475-481), Boulder: Westview Press.

- Foucault is advancing a specific way of thinking about power. What ways of conceptualizing power does Foucault object to?
- What does Foucault mean when he says that ‘power comes from everywhere’?
- What is Foucault suggesting when he argues that ‘discourse transmits and produces power’? Likewise what is his point when he argues that discourse ‘reinforces it but also undermines and exposes it’?

Foucault, M. (2007). Discipline and punish. In Calhoun, C. et al., (Eds.), *Contemporary Sociological Theory, 2nd edition* (pp. 209-216), Oxford: Blackwell.

- What are the characteristics, according to Foucault, of a society based around discipline?
- How does Bentham’s Panopticon illustrate the characteristics of a disciplinary society?
- How and why did the rise of a disciplinary society come about?

Redman, P. (2006). *Good essay writing: a social sciences guide*. Milton Keynes: Open University Press, pp. 91-96.

- What are some of the pitfalls of writing from your own experience?
- What is plagiarism and how do you avoid committing it?