

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE/SECTION: SOCIOLOGY 333: L01 Contemporary Sociological Theory  
SESSION: Fall, 2009  
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Amal Madibbo  
OFFICE: SS 948  
CONTACT: Phone: 220-6512: Email: [amadibbo@ucalgary.ca](mailto:amadibbo@ucalgary.ca)  
OFFICE HOURS: MF: 12:40 - 13:40 or by appointment  
LECTURES: MWF: 14:00 - 14:50 pm  
LOCATION: ED C287

SOCIOLOGY WEBSITE: <http://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

BLACKBOARD: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> or my.ucalgary.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will focus on contemporary social theorizing, with an emphasis on how social researchers theorize about such issues as power, agency, social structure, social in/equalities, race relations, and gender issues. The work of such theorists as Bourdieu, Dubois, El Saadawi, Giddens and Freire will be examined. The discussions and the theoretical perspectives –both from the North and the Global South- provide diverse ways in which to analyze the working of the structures of in/equalities that characterize post-colonial societies. We will also discuss the merits of a more integrated sociological theorizing. By the end of the course students will be able to effectively integrate sociological theory and concepts within the contexts of concrete empirical issues and substantiate arguments by locating them within a school/s of sociological theory.

**The class format** is primarily organized around lectures and discussions of the assigned readings. As well there will, on occasions, be DVD/video documentaries and guest speakers.

The instructor may make some changes to the content and/or format of the course.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION:**

The final grade for this course will be based on a (1) mid-term exam, a final exam, a term paper outline and a major term paper.

### **1. Examinations**

A (1) **mid-term examination** will be held in class on **Feb 13<sup>th</sup>**.

A **final exam** will be held during the official exam period.

These exams questions are based on the required readings, lecture notes and documentaries we watch in class. These exams will consist of short answer questions, multiple choice questions and short-essay questions.

### **2. Term Paper Outline**

A term paper outline of one (1) double-spaced page (12 font, Times New Roman), not including the bibliography, is due on **Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>**. The term paper outline identifies the research topic you select for the major term paper, your main argument, your research questions and how you plan to conduct your research. It also includes a bibliography (a list of 4-6 sources you plan to use). The sources may include journal articles, book chapters, one (1) internet source or one (1) film/documentary. The bibliography incorporates two (2) sources from the assigned readings.

### **3. Major Term Paper**

The paper will be between six and eight pages (12 font, Times New Roman), not including the bibliography, and is due on **Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>**. This paper will analyze/critique a topic that you find interesting, provoking or problematical. You may, for example, choose to focus on how one or several theorists discussed in the course deal with a central concept such as power, agency, structure, race or gender, and/or compare how two or more authors approach questions of conflict, power, equity, democracy, freedom or revolution. Another possible topic might be viewing the utility of contemporary sociological thought for social order or social change by examining the relevance of the work of one or several authors for a current international event or for other issues such as immigration, education, work and ethnic and racial relations.

Your paper needs to include:

- 1. A Title Page:** Consists of your name and student number, the topic's title, the course's title and number, and the instructor's name.
- 2. An Introduction:** Outlines the overview/summary of the main themes, issues and objectives discussed in the paper.

3. **Analysis:** Analyzes the main concepts, themes and issues. Incorporates the relevant literature review. You need to be analytical (not only describing concepts and themes, but explaining why and how they occur).
4. **A Conclusion:** Summarizes the topic discussed and the findings of your research.
5. **A Bibliography:** A list of the sources used in the paper (6-8 sources). The sources may include journal articles, book chapters, two (2) internet sources or one (1) film/documentary. The bibliography incorporates two (2) sources from the assigned readings.

**Referencing:** Paper should consist of proper referencing in the body of the paper, as well as in the bibliography section at the end of the paper. You may choose to use the style of the American Psychological Association (APA) below:

An example of a style you may wish to use in the body of your paper is the following:

**Example:** Amin (1976) found that social structures are shaped by capitalism and unequal Development.

Examples of a style you may wish to use in the bibliography section at the end of the paper:

**Examples:**

1. Kivisto, P. (2008). *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
2. Durkheim, E. (1972). The Field of Sociology. In A. Giddens (Ed.), *Emile Durkheim: Selected writings* (pp. 51-68). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

More discussion and details on the paper will occur in class. If an extension has not been granted the late penalty is a deduction of 10%, from the mark you earn on your paper, per day if it is late.

**4. Breakdown, Weight, and Due Date of Student Evaluation**

<i>Assignment / Exams</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>% Grade</i>
Mid-term Exam	Friday Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	20 %
Term Paper Outline	Friday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	05 %
Term Paper	Friday April 17 <sup>th</sup>	35 %
Final Exam	During official exam period	40 %

## **5. Letter Grade Assignment**

95 - 100 = A+	67 - 71 = C +
90 - 94 = A	63 - 66 = C
85 - 89 = A -	59 - 62 = C -
80 - 84 = B +	54 - 58 = D +
76 - 79 = B	50 - 53 = D
72 - 75 = B -	00 - 49 = F

**Academic Accommodation:** Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 293, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

### **Deferrals:**

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a "make up" test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U. of C. Calendar. You can find the forms you need at:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATIONS.pdf>

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre.

To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions.

**Student's Union Social Science Rep: Email: [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)**

**Safewalk Service:** The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

**Academic Misconduct:** cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the 2007-2008 University Calendar at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/2005/how/How\\_LB.htm](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/2005/how/How_LB.htm), which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

**The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)** legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public space, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

## **6. Handing in Papers Outside of the Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades**

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public space, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

## **COURSE READINGS**

### **REQUIRRED TEXTBOOK:**

Mann, D. 2007. *A Survey of Modern Social Theory*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

### **COURSE PACKAGES:**

You will also need to purchase a course package consisting of various other articles for the course. Course packages can be ordered online (<http://www.calgarybookstore.ca>) or picked up from the University of Calgary Bookstore, First Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Week 1: Introduction**

Jan 12: Introduction to course and review of syllabus - no readings assigned

Jan 14 & Jan 16: Understanding Society

Maan, D. 2008. "An Introduction to Social Theory" (Chapter 1). *A Survey of Modern Social Theory*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

### **Week 2: The Sociology of Bourdieu**

Jan 19, Jan 21 & Jan 23: Maan, D. 2008. "Pierre Bourdieu and the Varieties of Capital" (Chapter 3), (pp. 85-89). *A Survey of Modern Social Theory*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. &

Jenkins, R. 2002. "Practice, Habitus and Field". In *Pierre Bourdieu* (pp. 66-102). London: Routledge.

### **Week 3: A New Marxist Theorist: Antonio Gramsci**

Jan 26, Jan 28 & Jan 30

Simon, R. 1991. "Gramsci's Political Thought: An Introduction". In *Gramsci's Political Thought* (pp. 11-42). London: Lawrence & Wishart.

## **Week 4: Structure and Agency: Anthony Giddens**

Feb 2

Maan, D. 2008. "Structure vs Agency: The Basics" (pp. 139-141) & "Anthony Giddens on Agency and Structure" (174-178). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Feb 4

Munch, R. 1994. "Power and Agency: Anthony Giddens's Theory of Structuration". In R. Munch. Sociological Theory (pp. 175-199). Chicago: Nelson-Hall &

Layder, R., Ashton, D., and Sung, J. 1991. "The Empirical Correlates of Action and Structure: The Transition from School to Work". Sociology 25: 447-464.

Feb 6: Lecture notes – No readings assigned

## **Week 5: A Sociology for a Revolution: Freire & Guevara**

Feb 9 & Feb 11

McLaren, P. 2000. "A pedagogy for the Revolution of our Time". Che Guevara, Paulo Freire and the Pedagogy of Revolution (pp. 183-207).

Feb 13: **Midterm Exam**

**Feb 15-22 Reading Week – No Classes**

## **Week 6: Postmodernism 1**

Feb 23

Maan, D. 2008. "Postmodernism: Political Economy and Communications" (Chapter 8). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Feb 25 & Feb 27

Maan, D. 2008. "Postmodernism: Time, Space and Culture" (Chapter 9). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press. &

**Documentary – The Story of the Stuff**

## **Week 7: Postmodernism 2**

March 2

McMillan, S. (Interviewed by). 1999. A conversation with Nawal el Saadawi. Retrieved August 20, 2008 from: <http://home.earthlink.net/~twoeyesmagazine/issue1/nes.htm> &

Hill- Collins, P. 2008. "Toward an Afrocentric Feminist Epistemology" (pp. 363-372). In P. Kivisto (ed). *Social Theory: Roots and Branches* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). New York & London: Oxford University Press. &

March 4

Man, G. 2007. "Racialization of Gender, Work, and Transnational Migration: The Experience of Chinese Immigrant Women in Canada". In S. Hier and S. Bolaria (Eds.). *Race and Racism in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Canada* (pp. 235-252). Peterborough: Broadview Press.

March 6

DuBois, W.E.B. 1996. *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study* (pp. 229-256). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press

**Term Paper Outline due on March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 8: Globalization 1**

March 9, March 11 & March 13

Maan, D. 2008. "The Global Village" (Chapter 11). *A Survey of Modern Social Theory*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

**Week 9: Globalization 2**

March 16: Film - The Shape of Water

March 18 & 20: Lecture notes – no readings assigned

**Week 10: Globalization 3**

March 23, March 25 & March 27

Maan, D. 2008. "Globalization, Macdonalization and Corporatism" (Chapter 12). *A Survey of Modern Social Theory*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

**Week 11: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 1**

March 30 & April 1 Documentary: The Corporation

April 3: Lecture notes – no readings assigned

**Week 12: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 2**

**April 6 & April 8**

James Petras and Henry Veltmeyer. 2001. "Globalization: A Critical Analysis".  
Globalization: Unmasked: Imperialism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (pp. 26-60). Halifax, Nova  
Scotia: Fernwood.

April 10: **Good Friday – No Class**

**Week 13: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 2**

April 13, April 15 & April 17: Lecture notes – no readings assigned

**Final Paper due April 17<sup>th</sup>**