

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
FACULTY OF ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE/SECTION: SOCIOLOGY 333: L01 Contemporary Sociological Theory
SESSION: Winter 2015
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Amal Madibbo
OFFICE: SS 948
CONTACT: Phone: 220-6512; Email: amadibbo@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: TuThu: 14:00 – 15:00 or by appointment
LECTURES: TuThu: 11:00 - 12:15
LOCATION: SA 247

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, and revolution. The work of such theorists as Bourdieu, Gramsci, 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, format and/or time of the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION:

The final grade for this course will be based two (2) mid-term exams, a final exam, a term paper outline, a major term paper, and class participation.

Examinations

Two (2) **mid-term examinations**: the first will be held in class on **Tuesday Feb 10th** and the second on **Tuesday March 10th**.

The final exam will be held during the Official Exams Period.

These exams questions are based on the required readings, lecture note, documentaries we watch in class, and invited lectures. These exams **are not cumulative** and will consist of short answer questions, multiple choice questions and short-essay questions.

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 Thursday March 19th**. The term paper outline identifies the research topic you select for your 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, and one (1) film/documentary. The bibliography incorporates two (2) assigned readings. More than one chapter from the same book count as one chapter.

Major Term Paper

The paper will be between six and eight pages (12 font, Times New Roman), not including the bibliography and the title page, and is due on **Tuesday April 14th**. 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 approach a central concept such as power, agency, structure, revolution, or compare how two theorists approach questions of conflict, equity, democracy, or freedom. 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 two authors for a current inter/national event or for other issues such as work or education.

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 (7-9 sources). The sources may include journal articles, book chapters, two (2) internet sources, and one (1) film/documentary. The bibliography incorporates three to four (3-4) sources from the course's materials (at least 2 articles). More than one chapter from the same book count as one chapter.

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: 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:

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 for all assignments is a deduction of 10%, from the mark you earn on your assignment, per day if it is late.

Ethical Research: Ethical Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Hand in hard copies of your papers. The instructor will not accept e-copies of your papers.

Breakdown, Weight, and Due Date of Student Evaluation

<i>Assignment / Exams</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>% Grade</i>
Mid-term Exam 1	Tuesday, Feb 10	15 %
Mid-term Exam 2	Tuesday, March 10	20%
Term Paper Outline	Thursday, March 19	05 %
Final Exam	During OEP	25 %
Final Term Paper	Thursday, April 14 th	30 %
Class participation		05%

Letter Grade Assignment

95 - 100 = A+	67 – 69 = C +
90 - 94 = A	63 – 66 = C
85 – 89 = A -	59 – 62 = C -
80 – 84 = B +	55 – 58 = D +
75 – 79 = B	50 – 54 = D
70 – 74 = B -	00 – 49 = F

Grade Reappraisal: Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one’s mark. The

instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.

Academic Misconduct: Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Protection of Privacy: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. "If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment."

Deferrals: If possible, please provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments 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 health issue 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 Department of Sociology. **Deferred Final Exam Form:** Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

Student Representation: The 2013-14 Students' Union VP Academic is [name]; email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at {*location*}. Please check these assembly point locations for your other classes at:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk: 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 Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, must register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 293, phone 403-220-8237). Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.

COURSE READINGS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: (Available at UofC bookstore)

Mann, Douglas. 2011. Understanding Society: A Survey of Modern Social Theory (2nd edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press

COURSE PACKAGE:

You will also need to purchase a course package consisting of other articles for the course. Course packages can be picked up from the University of Calgary Bookstore, First Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.

Course Readings that are not included in the course package are posted on blackboard (<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> or my.ucalgary.ca)

CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Introduction

Jan 13: Introduction to course and review of syllabus - no readings assigned
Understanding Society

Jan 15: Introduction

Maan, D. 2011. "An Introduction to Social Theory" (Chapter 1, pp. 1-5 & "paradigms of Social Theory" (pp. 20-22). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Week 2: The Sociology of Bourdieu

Jan 20 & Jan 22

Maan, D. 2011. "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: Structure and Agency - Anthony Giddens

Jan 27 & 29

Maan, D. 2011. "Human Agency vs Social Structure" (pp. 144-145) & "Anthony Giddens on Agency and Structure" (pp. 177-181). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

&

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

Week 4: A New Marxist Theorist - Antonio Gramsci

Feb 3 & 5

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

Week 5: A Sociology for a Revolution 1

Feb 10: Midterm Exam 1

Feb 12

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

Feb 15-22 Reading Week – No Classes

Week 6: A Sociology for a Revolution 2

Feb 24

Documentary: Berry, M. (Director). 2007. The True Story of Che Guevara (91 mins). Hermosa Beach, CA: Wild Eyes Productions.

Feb 26

McMillan, S. (Interview by). 1999. A conversation with Nawal el Saadawi. Retrieved August 20, 2012 from: <http://www.minimumsecurity.net/aboutme/writing/nes.htm>

Week 7: Postmodernism

March 3 & 5

Maan, D. 2011. "Postmodernism: Political Economy and Communications" (Chapter 8). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

&

Maan, D. 2011. "Postmodernism: Time, Space and Culture" (Chapter 9). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press. &

Documentary –Leonard, A. (Narrated by). 2007. The Story of Stuff. Washington, DC. & Berkeley, CA: Free Range Studios: <http://www.storyofstuff.org/movies-all/story-of-stuff/>

Week 8: Sociology & Social Movements

March 10: Midterm Exam 2

March 12

Fuchs, S. and Plass, P. 1999. "Sociology and Social Movements". Contemporary Sociology, 28(3): 271 – 277

Week 9: Globalization 1

March 17

Maan, D. 2011. "Globalization, Macdonalization and Corporatism" (Chapter 12). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

March 19

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 21st Century Canada (pp. 235-252). Peterborough: Broadview Press.

&

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

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/detail.action?docID=10491886>

Term Paper Outline due on March 19

Week 10: Critical Theory

March 24 & 26

Documentary – Bhavnani, K-K. 2006. The Shape of Water. USA: Kum-Kum Bhavnani Productions

&

Davidal, S. 1973. "Critical Theory and Critical Sociology: The Second Synthesis". Sociological Inquiry, 43 (2): 131-140.

&

Raymond, M. 1985. "Critical theory and critical sociology". Canadian Review of Sociology & Anthropology. Vol. 22 Issue 5, p710. 38p. .

Week 11: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 1

March 31 & April 2

Documentary: Achbar, M. & Abbott, J. 2003. The Corporation. Vancouver: Big Picture Media Corporation.

Week 12: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 2

April 7 & 9

Lecture notes – no readings assigned

Week 13: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 3

April 14: Lecture notes – no readings assigned

Final Term Paper due April 14th