

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
Department of Sociology  
Sociology 331

## **Classical Sociological Theory**

Course Outline  
Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Mark B. Durieux

Note - Lecture Notes, Course Calendar, and Other Postings will be available through the University of Calgary Blackboard system.

**Office:** SS 902; **Tel:** (**Soci Main Office**) 220-6501 (Preferred contact is by email via [mbdurieux@shaw.ca](mailto:mbdurieux@shaw.ca)). I can only respond to email sent to this address since my U of C account is disabled.

**Office Hours:**  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before class.

Class Hours and Room: TuTh 14:00 - 15:50 ST 064 2009/5/14 - 2009/6/26

### **BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course, we explore the development of classical sociological theory. However, in so doing we will be following Kenneth Tucker's lead. Tucker offers a contemporary appreciation of classical theory. This works to ensure that the classical theorists are appreciated for their relevance and enduring contributions. If, as Charles Lemert has maintained, familiarity with social theory is a key "survival skill" for the lay person to possess these days, then it becomes all the more important that sociologists (and any others who take seriously the study of society) become particularly familiar with sociological theory.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To review European and North American classical sociological theory from its nineteenth-century origins onwards.
- 2) To discover the relevance and application of classical sociological theory to present-day social issues and subsequent self-conscious and responsible sociological inquiry.
- 3) As a result of 2) above, to better understand the nature of "our" contemporary society.
- 4) To experience reading and analyzing theoretical accounts.
- 5) To stimulate critical thinking and writing skills, enabling students to better express themselves as emerging sociological theorists and investigators.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Kenneth Tucker (2002). *Classical Social Theory: A Contemporary Approach*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell.

Not all of the material covered in the text is discussed in class. Nor is all the material from the lectures outlined in the text. Therefore, please note that you are responsible for both the readings and the lectures. You are unlikely to succeed in this course if you ignore the book and only attend the lectures. Conversely, you should not simply read the text and miss the classes.

Some other points I'd like to make:

- \* Full PowerPoint lecture notes are posted in the appropriate location on the University Blackboard system. It is worth your time to learn how to access that system.

\* A couple of caveats, however. While I will do everything I can to get my notes up at least one hour in advance, I cannot guarantee that this will always happen. Also, please remember that those notes are subject to revision after lecture.

\* Finally, selected class handouts, lecture notes, and readings are also considered required materials and will be presented as needed.

#### **STUDENT ACTIVITIES & ASSESSMENT**

\* **Weekly Discussions**: Each week a group of about 5 students or so will prepare to lead text-based reading and discussion for a minimum of 1 hour. This is not "show-and-tell" (i.e., depending solely on PowerPoint) but active discussion. Can include small group activities and fun games. Pass/fail, 10%.

\* **Quizzes** on BlackBoard: Each consists of several true-false and/or multiple choice questions drawn directly from the associated text, lectures, class discussions, lecture notes, and other complementary but required materials. Posted regularly, the quizzes in total account for 25% of your course grade. All quizzes must be completed by 11:55 pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of their posting. Challenging but "open book."

\* **Team Term Paper**: Working in groups of five or so, students will submit a term paper exploring some noteworthy contemporary event (or theme) from the perspective of classical social theory. **Due at the start of the semester's last class**. Paper length requirement is **minimum** 1,000 words per group member (no maximum) and is worth 25%. The material should be editorially well-integrated; no choppy separate sections. Consult Blackboard for further details concerning expectations, suggestions for completion, marking criteria, etc. Please be sure to keep multiple backups of this assignment throughout its development - "our computers all had simultaneous meltdowns and we lost everything" cannot be honoured.

\* **Examinations**: There are three exams. Exam #01 is worth 10%. The last two exams are worth 15% each. Dates TBA.

#### **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Please see BlackBoard for details...

#### **COURSE POLICIES**

**Exam Policies:** You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination 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. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a "make up" exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

**Research Ethics:** 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.

**Academic Misconduct:** cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, 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 place, 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.

**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, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, 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.

**Handing in Papers Outside of 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 or teaching assistant 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 place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). 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.