

**Department of Sociology  
University of Calgary**

**SOCI 331**

**Classical Sociological Theory  
Fall 2012**

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Office hours: Wednesdays 10-12; and by appointment

**Course Description**

This is a core course for students majoring in Sociology. It has several objectives:

- 1) to provide you with an introduction to the intellectual history of the discipline (How and when did it become possible to study “society”? What topics were important to early social theorists and sociologists? How did these topics emerge from the social, political and economic context at the time?);
- 2) to acquaint you with the key ideas of some of the most influential sociological theorists of the period 1830-1940, and to consider how these ideas have contributed to the development of sociology;
- 3) to provide you with practical experience in reading and responding to original works of social theory and analysis;
- 4) to provide you with an opportunity to examine contemporary issues and ideas through the lens of classical theory, thereby evaluating the continuing relevance of the theory.

**Course Readings**

Kenneth Allan, *Explorations in Classical Sociological Theory: Seeing the Social World*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2012).

A collection of excerpts from the original works of the theorists (available from Bound & Copied in MacEwan Student Centre).

## Course Communication

Blackboard will be used to post course documents and assignments and for electronic communication outside of class. It will also be used to enable communication among the members of each presentation group.

## Activities and Assessment

**Tests:** There will be two in-class/take-home midterm tests (October 12 and November 16) and a registrar-controlled final (date to be determined). Tests will cover material from all components of the course (lectures, textbook, and the theorists' original works), and will include fixed choice (e.g., multiple choice, matching), short answer and essay questions. The take-home portions will involve one or more essay questions; you will turn in your written (word-processed and printed) responses before the start of the in-class portion. The final exam is cumulative (e.g., the essay questions will cover all of the theorists studied in the course). Before each test I will post a study/preparation guide, and I will go over in class the types of questions you can expect.

**Group presentation:** Working in groups of 4-5, you will prepare and deliver a short presentation on one theorist. (See description of assignment posted in Blackboard). The grade for the presentation will have an individual and a group component.

## Grading

Presentation		20 %
		(15% individual; 5% group)
Midterm Test #1	20 %	
Midterm Test #2		25 %
Final exam	35 %	
Total	100 %	

Achieving a passing grade in the course does not require a passing grade in all of the course components. Please be aware, however, that you must achieve a final grade of 60% or higher in order to register in SOCI 333, the second required theory course for Sociology majors.

Your final letter grade will be determined according to the following schedule:

95-100	A+	67-69
	C+	

90-94			A	63-66
			C	
85-89			A-	60-62
			C-	
80-84			B+	55-59
			D+	
75-79			B	50-54
			D	
70-74	B-	49 or less	F	

### **Instructor's Policies**

1. Laptop computers, tablets and related devices are permitted only for the purpose of making notes or doing course-related work. Permission may be revoked for students who use their devices during class for non-course-related purposes in ways that are distracting to me or other students.
2. Please ask permission before making any visual or audio recordings of class proceedings. Permission to record will only be granted for personal use, which includes sharing with other students currently enrolled in this section of SOCI 331. Images or recordings must be deleted before December 31, 2012.
3. I will answer email within 24 hours during the school week (usually *much* more quickly); I may not respond to email over the weekend, unless it is an urgent matter.
4. Please check the course outline and the Blackboard site before emailing me with questions about due dates, requirements, test formats, etc. I am happy to answer your questions, in person or electronically, but not in cases where the information is already available to you.
5. I do not distribute or post copies of my lecture notes and slides. If you miss class, you will need to get notes from another student. I highly recommend that you set up a note-sharing agreement with one or more of your classmates.
6. In accordance with University policy, I report all cases of plagiarism. Plagiarized essays get an automatic grade of 0; this includes essays that are only partially plagiarized (a few sentences or parts of sentences). The easy way to avoid this? *Don't download material from the Internet; write your essays in your own words.*
7. Make-up tests will be held at the times and places established in the Sociology Department's schedule for invigilated make-up tests. Please note the University guidelines below concerning

deferrals. If you are ill or unable to complete an assignment or write a test, *contact me before the due date or test*. Be aware that you may be required to bring documented proof of “just cause.”

8. Electronic submission of take-home essays will only be accepted in cases of illness or affliction; remember to contact me first (see above).

## **Department and University Policy Information (*I don't write this part*)**

### ***Emergency evacuations:***

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the food court located on the lower level of the Professional Faculties Building.

### ***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 Enrolment Services and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U of C Calendar. You can find the forms and information you need online at:

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final)

***Ethics in 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.

***Academic Misconduct:*** Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. 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. Written 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, phone 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 in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and 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 be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

## Course Schedule of Topics, Readings, Presentations, and Tests

Note: Test and presentation dates are fixed; dates for covering theorists and readings are approximate and will be updated throughout the course.

Week 1	Sept. 10, 12, 14 Allan pp. 1-5
Week 2	Sept. 17, 19, 21 Allan, pp. 5-22 (Comte) Comte reading
Week 3	Sept. 24, 26, 28 Allan, ch. 2 (Spencer) Spencer reading
Week 4	Oct. 1, 3, 5 Allan, ch. 3 (Marx) Marx reading
Week 5	Oct. 10, 12 (no Monday class – Thanksgiving) Presentations and review (Comte, Spencer, Marx) Test #1 on October 12
Week 6	Oct. 15, 17, 19 Allan, ch. 4 (Durkheim) Durkheim reading
Week 7	Oct. 22, 24, 26 Allan, ch. 5 (Weber) Weber reading
Week 8	Oct. 29, 31, Nov 2 Allan, ch. 6, pp. (Simmel) Simmel reading
Week 9	Nov. 5, 7, 9 Allan, ch. 6, pp. (Mead) Mead reading

Week 10 Nov. 14, 16 (no Monday class – Reading days)  
Presentations and review (Durkheim, Weber, Simmel, Mead)  
Test #2 on Nov 16

Week 11 Nov. 19, 21, 23  
Allan, ch. 7 (Martineau and Gilman)  
Martineau reading  
Gilman reading

Week 12 Nov. 26, 28, 30  
Allan, ch. 8 (DuBois)  
Du Bois reading

Week 13 Dec. 3, 5, 7  
Allan, ch. 9  
Presentations and review (Martineau, Gilman, DuBois)

Final exam TBA (2 hours)