

**Department of Sociology  
University of Calgary**

**SOCI 331.02  
Classical Sociological Theory  
Fall 2015**

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 pm; and by appointment

**Course Description**

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

- 1) to provide you with an introduction to the intellectual and social history of the discipline. (How and when did it become possible to study “society” in a systematic way? What topics were important to early social theorists and sociologists? How did these topics emerge from the social, political and economic contexts of 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 (some of these ideas are still in broad circulation while others have dropped to the margins – why?);
- 3) to provide you with practical experience in reading original works of social theory and analysis (we’ll work on this together in class);
- 4) to provide you with an opportunity to examine contemporary issues and practices (e.g., gender, racialization, consumer society, social media, inequality) through the lens of classical theory, thereby evaluating the continuing relevance of the theory – while also building your skills as a critical sociologist.

**Course Readings**

Kenneth Allan, *Explorations in Classical Sociological Theory: Seeing the Social World*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2013).

A collection of excerpts from the original works of the theorists (available from the University of Calgary Book Store).

## Activities and Assessment

**Exams:** The course is organized into three units, with a test after each unit. There are two mid-term tests (October 6 and November 10) and a registrar-controlled final exam (date to be determined). Tests and the final exam will cover material from lectures, the textbook, and the theorists' original works; they will include fixed choice, short answer and essay questions.

Midterm tests #1 and #2 are not cumulative. Some parts of the final are cumulative.

**Essay:** This is a 2-3 page (1000 words maximum) essay due October 27. In this essay you will use ideas from classical theory to consider a contemporary situation. The topic will be assigned at least two weeks before the due date.

## Grading

Essay	15 %
Midterm test #1	25 %
Midterm test #2	25 %
Final exam	35 %
Total	100 %

Please be aware that **you must achieve a final grade of 60% or higher in order to proceed to 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+	90-94	A
85-89	A-	80-84	B+
75-79	B	70-74	B-
67-69	C+	63-66	C
60-62	C-	55-59	D+
50-54	D	0-49	F

## **Instructor's Policies (Please read!)**

1. Laptop computers and tablets are permitted for the purpose of making notes or doing course-related work. If you are using your device for non-course related purposes and this is distracting to me or to other students, you will be courteously asked to bring your use in line with course policy. Permission to use a computer or other electronic device in class may be revoked for students who continually flout class policy.
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 SOCI 331.02. Images or recordings must be deleted before December 31, 2015. They must not be shared with anyone outside the class.
3. I will answer email within 24 hours during the school week (usually much quicker); I may not respond to email over the weekend, unless it is an urgent matter.
4. Please check the course outline and the D2L site before emailing me with questions about due dates, requirements, or test formats. The information you are seeking may already have been provided to you. If you need clarification of posted information, please do contact me.
5. Some material from the lecture may be posted in D2L after the lecture. I will do this if I have presented wordy or complex slides. Otherwise, I will not routinely post slides or my lecture notes, so if you miss class, you will need to get notes from another student. I highly recommend that you set up a note-sharing arrangement with one or more of your classmates.
6. In accordance with University policy, I report all cases of plagiarism. Plagiarized work gets an automatic grade of 0. The easy way to avoid this? *Don't download material from the Internet and don't crib directly from the textbook: write your essays in your own words and properly cite all quoted material.*
7. If you are ill or unable to write a test, *contact me before the test*. Be aware that you may be required to bring documented proof of illness or other affliction. Please see below for information about scheduling make-up tests and deferrals.
8. My decisions about whether to round up any final grades falling on the cusp between letter grades will take into consideration your overall performance in the course. I am most likely to round a grade up when (a) the grade is more than halfway to the grade above *and* (b) the letter grade for the final exam is higher than the cumulative final grade for the course.

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

### Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **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.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

### 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 Faculty 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

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>

### Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice 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, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment 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](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 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the Food Court in the Professional Faculties Building. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your 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 seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodation is available at  
[http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

## Course Schedule

Date	Topics, readings, tests
Sept. 8 Sept. 10	Introduction, historical background Allan, ch. 1
Sept. 15 Sept. 17	Background, continued Allan, ch. 2 (Spencer), pp. 24-43; 52-55
Sept. 22 Sept. 24	Spencer reading in course pack Allan, ch. 3 (Marx), pp. 58-64; 70-95; 99-102; 105-107
Sept. 29 Oct. 1	Marx reading in course pack Marx, continued & review for test
Oct. 6 Oct. 8	<b>Test #1</b> Allan, ch. 4 (Durkheim), pp. 110-117; 121-147; 151-155
Oct. 13 Oct. 15	Durkheim reading in course pack Durkheim, continued
Oct. 20 Oct. 22	Allan, ch. 5 (Weber), pp. 158-180; 187-207; 210-214 Weber reading in course pack
Oct. 27 Oct. 29	<b>Essay due</b> Weber, continued Allan, ch. 6 (Simmel section), pp. 237-253; 261-262
Nov. 3 Nov. 5	Simmel reading in course pack Simmel, continued & review for test
Nov. 10	<b>Test #2</b>
Nov. 17 Nov. 19	Allan, ch. 7, pp. 264-277; 281-282 + Martineau reading in course pack Allan, ch. 7 (Gilman section), pp. 282-297
Nov. 24 Nov. 26	Gilman reading in course pack Allan, ch. 8, pp. 310-322; 326-327 + Du Bois reading in course pack
Dec. 1 Dec. 3	Allan, ch. 6 (Mead section), pp. 220-237; 261-262 Mead reading in course pack
Dec. 8	Prep for final

**Please note:** Test and due dates are fixed. Dates for topics and readings may be adjusted to suit the pace of the course.