



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

SOCI 331.03 Classical Sociological Theory

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| • Fall 2018 | • MWF 9:00-9:50 am | • SA 147 |
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Instructor: Dr. Liza McCoy
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Office Hours: W 10-12:00

Course Description

This is a core course for students majoring in Sociology. It focusses on the development of sociology during the period 1830-1930, through the study of the lives, theories and key works of nine early sociologists: Auguste Comte, Harriet Martineau, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The course has several objectives:

- 1) to provide you with an introduction to the intellectual and social history of sociology. (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 social theorists of the period 1830-1930 and their contributions to modern sociology;
- 3) to provide you with practical experience in reading, critically comparing and writing about original works of social theory and analysis;

- 4) to acquaint you with some of the ways contemporary sociologists use classical theory to examine contemporary issues and practices;
- 5) to provide you with an opportunity to consider 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.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

In this course we read excerpts from the original texts written by the early sociologists, along with a few articles by contemporary sociologists who use classical theory in their research and analytic thinking. There may not be a lot of pages to read in a given week, compared with other courses, but this is difficult material and requires slow, careful reading and re-reading.

All of the readings are available in the D2L site as PDFs which you can print for yourself. For your convenience, Bound & Copied has prepared course packs of the readings.

We will be working closely with the texts in class, so you will need to **bring a hard copy of the text with you to class on the day we are discussing it**. You will not be able to follow the discussion if you don't have the text with you, and a hard copy is essential for close reading and making notes.

Methods of Evaluation

Quiz and Exams: There is one quiz (October 3), one midterm exam (October 22), a short (3-5 page) essay paper (due November 19) and a registrar-controlled final exam (date to be determined). The quiz and exams will cover material from lectures and readings; they may include fixed choice, short answer and essay questions. Prior to the quiz and each exam you will be told what kind of questions to expect and how you should prepare. The topic and detailed instructions for the essay paper will be given in class after the midterm exam.

Quiz	10 %
Midterm exam	25 %
Essay	25 %
Final exam	40 %
Total	100 %

Final Exam Information

There will be a 3-hour registrar-controlled exam (date to be determined). It will include fixed choice, short answer and essay questions.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Passing Grades

Please note that in order to progress to SOCI 333 (Contemporary Sociological Theory), you must attain a grade of C- or better in SOCI 331. This is University policy for courses that will count as prerequisites.

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 the 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. Reassessed grades may be raised or not, but they will not be lowered.

Technology Use

Please note that the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices is **NOT** permitted during lectures and class discussions (both small and large group). Students who require the use of electronic devices for academic accommodation purposes are exempt from this policy, but must provide documentation from Student Accessibility Services to the instructor. Please be sure to mute your cell phone and refrain from using it during class.

Email, Contact and Office Hours

Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails violating customary email conventions will be returned for revision. All other emails will be answered within one business day. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will be returned with a suggestion that you check the course outline. Also,

please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in person after class or during my office hours. If you are not free during my office hours, I can make an appointment to meet with you at another time.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the Social Science Food Court.

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 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-5.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:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

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

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.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 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)