



# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology  
<http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

## SOCI331 Classical Sociological Theory

- |             |                        |          |
|-------------|------------------------|----------|
| • Fall 2018 | • MWF 10:00 – 10:50 AM | • SA 017 |
|-------------|------------------------|----------|

**Instructor:** Professor Matt Patterson

**Office:** SS 916

**Email:** matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca

**Phone:** 403-220-5037

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

### Course Description

Sociologists agree on almost nothing, including what exactly we do for a living. However one thing we do happen to agree on is that no one should be able to call themselves a sociologist without some basic familiarity with the intellectual origins of the discipline and the theorists and theories that make up the “classical canon”. In a heterodox discipline, classical sociological theory is one of the only things that serves as a common body of knowledge among sociologists.

In this course we will explore the work of Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Georg Simmel and George Herbert Mead. Many of the questions that these theorists were grappling with are still at the forefront of sociology today.

## Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- Developing an in-depth understanding of the landmark classical sociological theories, their application to contemporary social issues, and the basic historical origins of the discipline.
- Learn how to theorize in sociology, including an understanding of how theory fits into empirical research.
- Ability to critically evaluate and synthesize existing sociological theory.
- Ability to write a theoretically-informed analytic paper with an original sociological thesis.
- Ability to grasp and critically evaluate challenging readings.

## Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

In this class you will be expected to read passages from the original (although in most cases translated) writing of the classical theorists. Reading these texts is like eating your vegetables: difficult at first, but ultimately good for you. And just as university students eventually develop a new appreciation of healthy food when they're living away from home, you will soon be reading *The Communist Manifesto* or *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* as easily as if they had been written by Stephenie Meyer. To help you out, I've kept the amount of readings relatively short: about 20 pages per week, or the equivalent of one journal article. The trade-off is that you will almost certainly have to read the passages multiple times. I'd recommend beginning with a quick first reading without taking any notes and pushing through sections that don't seem to make sense. The purpose of this first reading is just to get an overall sense of what the theorist is writing about. With that in mind, go back a second time for a more careful reading. Try to figure out how the theorist constructs the argument, distinguishing key passages from those that are of secondary importance.

### Required Readings

Most of the readings for this course will come from the reader *Classical Sociological Theory (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)*, edited by Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk. This reader is available for purchase through the campus bookstore or through various online sources. The readings contained in Calhoun et al. all come from existing sources, so it is also possible to track down the individual readings themselves as an alternative to purchasing the book.

Additional readings are available online either through the links provided below or through the library website.

### Supplementary Readings

Because all of the required readings are primary sources, you may benefit from a broader overview provided by a secondary source. Below are a few of the most popular textbooks on classical sociological theory that may prove useful. There are also more specific books and articles that may help illuminate particular theorists and theories, so don't be afraid to ask me for recommendations throughout the term.

- Zeitlin, Irving. 2000. *Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. Prentice Hall.

- Coser, Lewis. 2003. Masters of Sociological Thought (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Waveland Printers.
- Giddens, Anthony. 2015. Capitalism and Modern Social Theory (Revised Edition). Cambridge University Press.
- Ritzer, George. 2010. Classical Sociological Theory (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). McGraw-Hill.

## Methods of Evaluation

| Assignment        | Due Date                          | % of Final Grade |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Test #1           | Monday, October 29 <sup>th</sup>  | 15%              |
| Test #2           | Friday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 10%              |
| Position Paper #1 | See below                         | 15%              |
| Position Paper #2 |                                   | 15%              |
| Term Paper        | Friday, November 30 <sup>th</sup> | 35%              |
| Participation     |                                   | 10%              |

### Tests

There will be two in-class tests written in the middle and the end of the term respectively during regular class time. The first test, written on October 29<sup>th</sup>, will cover lecture material from weeks 1 to 7 and will be worth 15% of your final grade. The second test will be written on December 7<sup>th</sup> and cover weeks 8 to 12. Given that the second test will cover less material, it will only be worth 10% of your grade. Both tests will involve multiple-choice questions and cover material in both the lectures and the readings.

### Position Papers

On the last lecture for each theorist, you will have the opportunity to submit a position paper. In this paper you are expected to present some kind of argument that engages with the work of the theorist, such as a critique of their theories, or an application of their theories to some new social issue. You must submit two positions papers in total over the course of the term, but it is up to you to decide which position papers you would like to submit.

| Theorist        | Position Paper Due Date           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Karl Marx       | Friday, October 5 <sup>th</sup>   |
| Emile Durkheim  | Friday, October 26 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Max Weber       | Friday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Simmel and Mead | Friday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>  |

Position papers should be a maximum of 800 words (or approximately 3 pages double-spaced at size 12 font). Additional information on the position papers will be presented in class and posted on D2L.

### Term Paper

In the final term paper you will be expected to comparatively assess two of the classical theorists with regard to some common topic or issue. This could be an empirical topic, such as capitalism or religion, or a theoretical issue such as structure and agency or idealism and materialism. While there is no requirement that you write about the same theorists that you addressed in your position papers, you are free to use the term paper to build on and further develop ideas from those assignments.

The term paper should be a maximum of 2000 words. More information on this assignment, including the list of questions will be provided later in the term.

### Grade Reappraisal

Within one week of the date that a test or assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of their grade must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for the reappraisal. 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 re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same. The re-assessed grade will be final and cannot be changed again.

### Late Papers

Position papers and term papers that are handed in after the due date without a valid reason (see below under Deferrals) will still be accepted, but a late penalty of -5% per day (including weekends) will be imposed.

### Participation

The Friday of each week will be devoted to group discussion of the assigned readings. I will provide questions that relate to the readings and the groups will work together to come up with answers. Participation grades, worth 10% of your course grade, will be based not only on attending discussion classes, but also in contributing to group discussion and presenting group answers to the rest of the class.

## 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+    | 95 – 100%     | 4.0               | Outstanding performance                  |
| A     | 90 – 94%      | 4.0               | Excellent-superior performance           |
| A-    | 85 – 89%      | 3.7               |  |
| B+    | 80 – 84%      | 3.3               |  |
| B     | 75 – 79%      | 3.0               | Good – clearly above average performance |
| B-    | 70 – 74%      | 2.7               |  |
| C+    | 67 – 69%      | 2.3               |  |
| C     | 63 – 66%      | 2.0               | Satisfactory - basic understanding       |
| C-    | 59 – 62%      | 1.7               |  |
| D+    | 55 – 58%      | 1.3               |  |
| D     | 50 – 54%      | 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.

## Email Contact and Office Hours

Please include “SOC331” in the subject of your e-mails. I aim to respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the working week. To ensure a quick response, it is best to keep e-mails simple and straight to the point. More complicated questions should be asked in person during office hours. I also encourage you to ask questions during or right after lectures.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE & READING LIST

Sep 10, 12, 14

### Introduction: Modernity and the Origins of Sociology

#### Readings:

- Calhoun et al. General Introduction (Pp. 1-17)
- Gabriel Abend. 2008. "The Meaning of 'Theory'." Sociological Theory 26(2): 173-99. (Available via <https://library.ucalgary.ca>)

Sep 17, 19, 21

### Karl Marx I: Influences

#### Readings:

- Calhoun et al. Introduction to Part III
- Karl Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 10)

Sep 24, 26, 28

### Karl Marx II: Historical Materialism

#### Readings:

- Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach." (<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/theses/index.htm>)
- Karl Marx, "The German Ideology." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 9)

Oct 1, 3, 5

### Karl Marx III: Capitalism

#### Readings:

- Karl Marx, "Manifesto of the Communist Party." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 11)
- Karl Marx, "Wage-Labour and Capital." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 13)
- Karl Marx, "Classes." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 14)

Mon, Oct 8<sup>th</sup>

### Thanksgiving Monday – No Lecture

Oct 10, 12

## Emile Durkheim I: Methodology

### Readings:

- Emile Durkheim, "The Rules of the Sociological Method." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 15)

Oct 15, 17, 19

## Emile Durkheim II: Solidarity

### Readings:

- Emile Durkheim, "Suicide." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 18)

Oct 22, 24, 26

## Emile Durkheim III: Religion

### Readings:

- Emile Durkheim, "The Elementary Forms of Religious Life." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 17)

---

Monday Oct 29<sup>th</sup>

*IN-CLASS TEST #1*

---

Oct 29, 31, Nov 2

## Max Weber I: The Protestant Ethic

### Readings:

- Max Weber, "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 21)

Nov 5, 7, 9

## Max Weber II: Social Action, Methodology

### Readings:

- Max Weber, "'Objectivity' in Social Sciences." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 19)
- Max Weber, "Basic Sociological Terms." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 20)

Nov 12, 14, 16

## Mid-Term Break - No Class

Nov 19, 21, 23

## Max Weber: Power, Authority, Rationality

### Readings:

- Max Weber, "Class, Status, Party." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 22)
- Max Weber, "Types of Legitimate Domination." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 23)
- Max Weber, "Bureaucracy." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 24)

Nov 26, 28, 30

## Georg Simmel: Individuality

### Readings:

- Georg Simmel, "Group Expansion and the Development of Individuality." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 27)
- Georg Simmel, "The Stranger." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 26)

---

*Fri, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>*

*TERM PAPER DUE*

---

Dec 3, 5

## George Herbert Mead: The Self

### Readings:

- George Herbert Mead, "The Self." (Calhoun et al., Chapter 25)

---

*Fri, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>*

*IN-CLASS TEST #2*

---

*Note: Every attempt will be made to follow this schedule, but it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*



## Other Important Information

### Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at 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](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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](#)