



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Fall 2019

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: Classical Sociological Theory			
Course Number	Soci 331 Lec 3		
Pre/Co-Requisites	Soci 201		
Instructor Name	Ariel Ducey	Email	aducey@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	I am available during office hours – students can schedule appointments with me at calendly.com/aducey . I am happy to meet with students, but please observe the following norms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Except for cases in which you have been instructed to email something, contact the instructor by email for administrative purposes only. For instance, you may email to schedule an appointment outside of office hours available on calendly.• Students with substantive questions should come to office hours or schedule an appointment. Students with questions related to grading, readings, or who simply wish to discuss the course in greater depth, should make an appointment.		
Office Location	SS938	Office Hours	Will vary by week, see calendly
Telephone No.	(403) 220-5054		
Class Dates	MWF		
Class Times	1:00 – 1:50 p.m.		
Class Location	MS217		

Course Description

This course surveys classical sociological theory in the modern West, focusing on the period between the revolutions of 1848 and the First World War. In this course, we will seek to understand the concepts and arguments of major classical theorists in two ways: how those concepts were situated in their

particular historical times and discourses; and how those concepts may be useful for understanding our own time and discourses.

As Calhoun and coauthors discuss in their introduction, sociology is the study of how social life is organized, while sociological *theory* is a guide to how to go about studying social life and making sense of observations and events in social life. Sociological theory, therefore, is the infrastructure that holds together ways of asking questions, methods for study, and explanations or interpretations that follow. Sociological theory is what organizes our study of social life; without it, sociology would be a collection of observations and facts, not a science. Sociological theory develops concepts and languages for identifying and describing tendencies, patterns, and laws in social life, which contributes to knowledge but also to efforts at changing or improving social life.

Sociology, however, contains multiple competing paradigms, or theoretical frameworks, for ordering knowledge. Therefore, in our discipline we can readily see how “facts” and knowledge are intertwined with theoretical concepts, preferred practices and styles of research, and moral and normative views. In this class, we will examine these competing paradigms, as articulated by major classical theorists, and consider the possibilities these paradigms offer for the kinds of sociology we can do, and the kinds of sociologists we can be.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The goals for this course are as follows:

- To learn the fundamental concepts of major classical social theorists
- To be able to identify and articulate theorists’ major arguments
- To recognize major themes/issues that form core debates in classical social theory
- To be able to compare and contrast social theorists in terms of their positions on those major themes/issues
- To gain confidence in reading social theory
- To recognize the implications of social theories for doing sociology and understanding social life, in our own times

Skills to be developed or enhanced:

- *Reading skills:* Students will read primary texts written by theorists living in different times and contexts than ours, and deploying sophisticated forms of argument that may not be familiar. Students will learn to piece together the conversations the theorists are participating in and to identify the strategies theorists use to persuade their readers, by careful reading of primary texts. These skills will be developed through in-class exercises and writing assignments.
- *Writing skills:* Students will begin to learn how to turn effective reading into effective writing; how to recognize arguments and the elements that make up a good argument, and how to make their own arguments.
- *Sociological Imagination:* The theorists covered in the course disagree about the definition and focus of sociology, but by the end of the course students should nevertheless be able to recognize, if not fully define, what makes sociology distinct as a way attending to and understanding the world.
- *Substantive knowledge:* Students will learn foundational concepts in sociology, the major contours of individual theorists’ work, and something about the historical and intellectual contexts in which their work was produced.

- *Critical thinking*: students will examine the ways in which social theorists refuse to accept taken-for-granted assumptions about the world and begin to apply their own critical thinking to the theorists' work. Critical thinking pays particular attention to social structures and relations of power that make it difficult to imagine the world in another way. Critical means recognizing that things could be otherwise.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

1) There is **one book to purchase for this course**, available at the UofC bookstore:

- Calhoun, Craig, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, Indermohan Virk, eds. *Classical Sociological Theory: Third Edition*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Readings *must be completed by the Monday for the week they are assigned* (see attached schedule). Students must bring to class the readings we will be discussing. We will be reading about 50 pages per week for this course, but the reading is not evenly distributed. Study the course schedule and plan accordingly. **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** will generally be devoted to lecture but may include occasional quizzes or informal check-in assessments. **Fridays** will be generally be devoted to in-class skill development, group work, and exam preparation.

I may add, omit, or change some readings during the semester as needed. Any changes in the course schedule will be announced in class and on the course D2L site. Students are responsible for attending class and checking the D2L site regularly.

Recommended Secondary Sources

- Giddens, Anthony. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge University Press, 1971.
- Ritzer, George. *The Blackwell Companion to Major Classical Social Theorists*. Blackwell, 2003.
- Collins, Randall. *Four Sociological Traditions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Graded course components

- 1) Midterm one – 20%
- 2) Midterm two – 25%
- 3) Final exam – 35%
- 4) In-class quizzes, exercises, writing, group activities – 20%

Midterms will be in-class exams, consisting of a variety of question types, mostly short answer. They will also be open-book exams, meaning students can bring and refer to their course book and course notes. Study guides for the exams will be distributed about one week prior to each exam. The midterms are not cumulative.

A variety of in-class activities will be assigned during the term, sometimes requiring advance but reasonable preparatory work. Activities can include quizzes, group work, and various exercises. Watch the course D2L site for information on this work as needed. **Fridays** will always be used for these activities, though they may also occur on Mondays or Wednesdays (with notice given by the instructor in class and on D2L). The activities are intended to build students' skills in the areas discussed above

and prepare students for exams. Such assignments will be graded out of 10 points, with possible scores of 0, 5, 8, and 10 only, considering both effort and correctness. In cases where work can also be scored (such as a quiz) with points, this score will be provided for the student's information and exam preparation.

Final Exam Information

The final exam for this course will be a take-home exam, due during final exam week: **Friday, December 14th**. The exam will be set-up for electronic submission (through D2L). The exam will be cumulative, covering all work during the course term, and will require written answers in response to 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 performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

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 one's 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. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Technology Use

Students are permitted to use laptops or tablets for purposes of taking notes. Smaller devices must be turned to silent and stowed out of sight. Functions for calls and messaging must be turned off on devices being used to take notes for the duration of each class. Students observed to be using devices for purposes other than those related to class will be required to leave. Please note that such use is in all likelihood distracting to those seated nearby.

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 can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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 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.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without

permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

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.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

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 can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/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).

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.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here:

<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.

Course Schedule

Sept 6 – Introduction to the Course

- Calhoun et al., “Introduction” (pp. 1-18)

Sept 9 – Imagining Modernity, Imagining Society

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), “On the Social Contract” (Chapter 2 in Calhoun et al.)
- Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), “What is Enlightenment?” (1784) (Chapter 3 in Calhoun et al.)
- Adam Smith (1723-1790), “The Wealth of Nations” (1776) (Chapter 4 in Calhoun et al.)
- Calhoun et al., “Introduction to Part I” (pp. 21-29) [**optional**]

Week of Sept 16 – Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895)

- Calhoun et al., “Introduction to part III”
- Karl Marx, “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” (Ch. 10 in Calhoun et al.)
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “The German Ideology” (1845) (Ch. 9 in Calhoun et al.)

Week of Sept 23 – Marx and Engels Part II

- Karl Marx, “Wage Labor and Capital” (1847) (Ch. 13 in Calhoun et al.)
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (1848) (Ch. 11 in Calhoun et al.)

Week of Sept 30 – Karl Marx III, First exam

- Karl Marx, “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louise Bonaparte” (1852) (Ch. 12 in Calhoun et al.)
- **Friday, Oct 4: Exam One**

Week of Oct 7 – Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

- Calhoun et al., “Introduction to Part IV” (pp. 195-200)
- Emile Durkheim, “The Division of Labor in Society” (1893) (Ch. 16 in Calhoun et al.)
- Emile Durkheim, “The Rules of Sociological Method” (1895) (Ch. 15 in Calhoun et al.)

Week of Oct 14 – Emile Durkheim Part II

- **NO CLASS Oct 14 (Thanksgiving)**
- Emile Durkheim, “Suicide” (1897) (Ch. 18 in Calhoun et al.)
- Emile Durkheim, “The Elementary Forms of Religious Life” (1912) (Ch. 17 in Calhoun et al.)
- Robert Merton (1910-2003), “Manifest and Latent Functions” (1949) (Ch. 38 in Calhoun et al.)

Week of Oct 21 – Finish Emile Durkheim, begin Max Weber (1864-1920)

- Max Weber, “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism” (1930) (Ch. 21 in Calhoun et al.)

Week of Oct 28 – Max Weber (1864-1920)

- Max Weber, “‘Objectivity’ in Social Science” (1904) (Ch. 19 in Calhoun et al.)
- Max Weber, “The Types of Legitimate Domination” (1914) (Ch. 23 in Calhoun et al.)
- Max Weber, “Basic Sociological Terms” (1914) (Ch. 20 in Calhoun et al.)

Week of Nov 4 – Weber continued; Second exam

- Max Weber, “Bureaucracy” (1922) (Ch. 24 in Calhoun et al.)
- **Friday Nov 8: Exam Two**

Week of Nov 18 – George Herbert Mead (1863 – 1931) and Georg Simmel (1858-1918)

- George Herbert Mead, “The Self” (Ch. 25 in Calhoun et al.)
- Georg Simmel, “The Stranger” (1908) (Ch. 26 in Calhoun et al.)

Week of Nov 25 – W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963) and Max Horkheimer (1895-1973)

- W.E.B. Du Bois, “The Souls of Black Folk” (1903) (Ch. 30 in Calhoun et al.)
- Max Horkheimer, “Traditional and Critical Theory” (1937) (Ch. 32 in Calhoun et al.)

Week of Dec 2 – Walter Benjamin (1892-1940)

- Walter Benjamin, (1936) “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” (Ch. 33 in Calhoun et al.)

Final exam due: Friday, December 14th