



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

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

SOCIOLOGY 333: L01 Contemporary Sociological Theory

Fall 2018

TR: 9:30 - 10:45

SA 017

Instructor: Dr. Amal Madibbo

Office: SS 948

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Phone: 220-6512

Office Hours: T: 11:00 - 12:00 or by appointment

Course Description

This course will focus on contemporary social theorizing, with an emphasis on how social researchers theorize about such issues as power, agency, social structure, social in/equalities, and revolution. The work of such theorists as Bourdieu, Gramsci, Dubois, El Saadawi, Giddens and Freire will be examined. Based on theoretical perspectives both from the global North and the Global South, we will discuss the merits of a more integrated sociological theorizing.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

1. To provide students with diverse ways in which to analyze the working of the structures of in/equalities that characterize our current post-colonial/modern societies.
2. To effectively integrate sociological theory and concepts within the contexts of concrete empirical issues.
3. To substantiate logical arguments by locating them within a school/s of sociological theory.
4. To be aware of, assess, and criticize major current national and global issues
5. To enhance critical thinking and local and global citizenship

The class format is primarily organized around lectures and discussions of the assigned readings. As well there will, on occasions, be DVD/video documentaries and guest speakers.

The instructor may make minor changes to the content and format of the course.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

(Available at UofC Bookstore)

Mann, Douglas. 2011. *Understanding Society: A Survey of Modern Social Theory* (2nd edition). Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade for this course will be based on three (3) mid-term exams, a term paper outline, a major term paper, and class participation.

Examinations

Three (3) **mid-term examinations** will be held in class. The first mid-term exam will be held on [Tuesday Oct 2](#), the second on [Tuesday Oct 23](#), and the third on [Thursday Dec 6](#).

These exams questions will be based on the required readings, lecture notes, documentaries we watch in class, and invited lectures. These exams **are not cumulative** and will consist of short answer questions, multiple choice questions and short-essay questions.

Term Paper Outline

A term paper outline of one and-a-half (1½) double-spaced pages (12 font, Times New Roman), not including the bibliography, is due [on Thursday Nov 8](#). The term paper outline identifies the research topic you select for your major term paper, your main argument, your research questions, and your methodology (how you plan to conduct your research). It also includes a bibliography (a list of 4-6 sources you plan to use). The sources may include journal articles, book chapters, one (1) internet source, and one (1) film/documentary. The bibliography incorporates two (2) assigned readings. More than one chapter from the same book count as one chapter.

Major Term Paper

The paper will be between six and eight pages (12 font, Times New Roman), not including the bibliography and the title page, and is due on [Thursday Dec 4](#). This paper will analyze/critique a topic that you find interesting, provoking or problematical. You may, for example, choose to focus on how one or several theorists discussed in the course approach a central concept such as power, agency, structure, revolution, or compare how two theorists approach questions of conflict, equity, democracy, or freedom. Another possible topic might be viewing the utility of contemporary sociological thought for social order or social change by examining the relevance of the work of one or two authors for a current inter/national event or for other issues such as work or education.

Your paper needs to include:

1. **A Title Page:** Consists of your name and student number, the topic's title, the course's title and number, and the instructor's name.
2. **An Introduction:** Outlines the overview/summary of the main themes, issues and objectives discussed in the paper.
3. **Analysis:** Analyzes the main concepts, themes and issues. Incorporates the relevant literature review. You need to be analytical (not only describing concepts and themes, but explaining why and how they occur).
4. **A Conclusion:** Summarizes the topic discussed and the findings of your research.
5. **A Bibliography:** A list of the sources used in the paper (7-9 sources). The sources may include journal articles, book chapters, two (2) internet sources, and one (1) film/documentary. The bibliography incorporates three to four (3-4) sources from the course's materials (at least 2 articles). More than one chapter from the same book count as one chapter.

Referencing: Paper should consist of proper referencing in the body of the paper,

as well as in the bibliography section at the end of the paper. You may choose to use the style of the American Psychological Association (APA) below:

An example of a style you may wish to use in the body of your paper is the following:

Amin (1976) found that social structures are shaped by capitalism and unequal development.

Examples of a style you may wish to use in the bibliography section at the end of the paper:

1. Kivisto, P. (2008). *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
2. Durkheim, E. (1972). The Field of Sociology. In A. Giddens (Ed.), *Emile Durkheim: Selected writings* (pp. 51-68). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

More discussion and details on the paper will occur in class.

If an extension has not been granted the late penalty for all assignments is a deduction of 10%, from the mark you earn on your assignment, per day if it is late.

Final Exam Information

NA

Class Participation

The class participation consists of four in-class group work sessions. Each weighs 2.5% of your final grade. They consist of questions that I will first ask you to discuss in small groups then in a large group. The questions will be based on the readings of the specific class that will convened on the day of the discussion.

Breakdown, Weight, and Due Date of Student Evaluation

Assignment / Exams	Due Date	% Grade
Mid-term Exam 1	Tuesday Oct 2	20 %
Mid-term Exam 2	Tuesday Oct 23	20%
Mid-term Exam 3	Thursday Dec 6	10%
Term Paper Outline	Thursday Nov 8	10 %
Final Term Paper	Thursday Dec 4	30 %
Class Participation		10%

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.

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

Please note that the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices is **NOT** permitted during lectures. 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

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 ignored. 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 not be answered. 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 during my office hours.

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.

Hand in hard copies of all your papers, except for your final term paper which you need to hand in in a hard copy and email an e-copy of it to: amadibbo@ucalgary.ca.

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](#)

CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Introduction

Sept 6: Introduction to course and review of syllabus - no readings assigned

Week 2: The Sociology of Bourdieu 1

Sept 11: Introduction to Contemporary Sociological Theory

Maan, D. 2011. “An Introduction to Social Theory” (Chapter 1, pp. 1-5 & “paradigms of Social Theory” (Chapter 1. pp. 20-22). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Sept 13 **Bourdieu 1**

Maan, D. 2011. “Pierre Bourdieu and the Varieties of Capital” (Chapter 3), (pp. 85-89). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. &

Bourdieu, P. 1986. “The forms of capital”. In J. Richardson (Ed.) Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education (pp. 241-258). New York: Greenwood.

Link Only

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/fr/bourdieu-forms-capital.htm>

Week 3: The Sociology of Bourdieu 2

Sept 18 **Bourdieu 2**

Sept 20 Lecture notes – no readings assigned

Week 4: Structure and Agency - Anthony Giddens

Sept 25 & 27

Maan, D. 2011. "Human Agency vs Social Structure" (pp. 144-145) & "Anthony Giddens on Agency and Structure" (pp. 177-181). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. & Munch, R. 1994. "Power and Agency: Anthony Giddens's Theory of Structuration". In R. Munch. Sociological Theory (pp. 175-199). Chicago: Nelson-Hall. (PDF posted to D2L).

Week 5: Sociology for Revolutions 1

Oct 2: Midterm Exam 1

Oct 4 A New Marxist Theorist - Antonio Gramsci 1

Simon, R. 1982. "Gramsci's Political Thought: An Introduction". In Gramsci's Political Thought (pp. 1-42). London: Lawrence & Wishart. (PDF posted to D2L).

Week 6: Sociology for Revolutions 2

Oct 9 A New Marxist Theorist - Antonio Gramsci 1

Oct 11

McLaren, P. 2000. "A pedagogy for the Revolution of our Time". Che Guevara, Paulo Freire and the Pedagogy of Revolution (pp. 183-207). (PDF posted to D2L).

Week 7: Sociology for Revolutions 3

Oct 16 **Documentary:** Berry, M. (Director). 2007. The True Story of Che Guevara. Hermosa Beach, CA: Wild Eyes Productions.

Oct 18 McMillan, S. (Interview by). 1999. A conversation with Nawal el Saadawi. (PDF posted to D2L).

Week 8: Postmodernism

Oct 23 & 25

Maan, D. 2011. "Postmodernism: Political Economy and Communications" (Chapter 8). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press. &

Maan, D. 2011. "Postmodernism: Time, Space and Culture" (Chapter 9). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. &

Documentary –Leonard, A. (Narrated by). 2007. The Story of Stuff. Washington, DC. & Berkeley, CA: Free Range Studios: <http://www.storyofstuff.org/movies-all/story-of-stuff/>

Week 9: Globalization 1

Oct 30: Midterm Exam 2

Oct 30 & Nov 1

Maan, D. 2011. "Globalization, Macdonalization and Corporatism" (Chapter 12). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Week 10: Critical Theory 1

Nov 6

Fuchs, S., and Plass, P. 1999. "Sociology and Social Movements". Contemporary Sociology, 28(3): 271 – 277.

Link Only

<http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/stable/2654139>

Nov 8

Documentary: Bhavnani, K-K. 2006. *The Shape of Water*. USA: Kum-Kum Bhavnani Productions

Term Paper Outline due on Nov 8

Fall break, Nov 11-17. No classes

Week 11: Critical Theory 2

Nov 20

Man, G. 2007. "Racialization of Gender, Work, and Transnational Migration: The Experience of Chinese Immigrant Women in Canada". In S. Hier and S. Bolaria (Eds.). *Race and Racism in 21st Century Canada* (pp. 235-252). Peterborough: Broadview Press. (PDF posted to D2L) &

DuBois, W.E.B. 1996. *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study* (pp. 229-256). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Link Only

<https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3441429>

Nov 22

Sallach, D. 1973. "Critical Theory and Critical Sociology: The Second Synthesis". *Sociological Inquiry*, 43 (2): 131-140.

Link Only

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/doi/10.1111/j.1475-682X.1973.tb00710.x/full> &

Raymond, M. 1985. "Critical theory and critical sociology". *Canadian Review of Sociology & Anthropology*. Vol. 22 Issue 5, p710. 38p.

Link Only

<http://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=sih&AN=10824037&site=ehost-live>

Week 12: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 1

Nov 27 & 29

Documentary: Achbar, M. & Abbott, J. 2003. *The Corporation*. Vancouver: Big Picture Media Corporation.

Week 13: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 2

Dec 4: Final Term Paper due

Dec 6: **Midterm Exam 3**