

SOCI 333 - Contemporary Sociological Theory, Mon, Wed, Fri, 9:00 am - 9:50 am, in ST 130. Brant Downey.
Office hours: Wed and Fri, 10:00 am-11:00 am in SS 950, or by appointment. E-Mail: bdowney@ucalgary.ca

Course Description and Objectives: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to modern sociological theory (i.e., theoretical works created between the end of WW II and the present). In addition to reading about contemporary sociological theorists and their ideas, students are expected to develop their critical thinking skills through writing and discussing course material. Since my educational philosophy is one that stresses the importance of reading and writing across the board, all of the assignments and tests are essay based. The sustained or overarching themes in this class include power, gender, human agency, and assumptions about human nature. Lastly, since ideas do not develop in a vacuum, we will pay some attention to the historical roots of contemporary theories. The main textbook was chosen partly because of its solid grounding in classical theory.

Textbook and Readings: This course is grounded in one textbook that is available at the University of Calgary bookstore: Douglas Mann, *Understanding Society: A Survey of Modern Social Theory* (Second Edition), Oxford University Press, 2011. In addition, we will draw on about a dozen supplemental readings, available online through the course Blackboard site.

Keeping Up with the Readings: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before the related lecture. Doing so will not only assist comprehension of the lecture material but also will enable thoughtful participation on the student's part. There are a series of discussion questions posted on Blackboard, If you miss a lecture, please ask another student if you can copy their notes. Then, after taking that step on your own, see me if you want to clarify anything, or if you have further questions.

Grading:

Two In-class Exams – 2 X 20% = 40% (short essay format; based on the lectures and assigned readings)

Term Paper -- 20% (essay format)

Final Exam -- 35% (short essay and long essay format; based on the lectures and assigned readings)

Attendance, in-class etiquette*, and your informed participation -- 5%

*Note: Laptop computers should be used only for class related tasks. Similarly, texting is not appropriate during class time. This class should be viewed as a public space.

Grading, Dept of Sociology	Letter	Percent
	A+	95-100
	A	90-94
	A-	85-89
	B+	80-84
	B	75-79
	B-	70-74
	C+	67-69
	C	63-66
	C-	60-62
	D+	55-59
	D	50-54
	F	Less than 50 -- Fail

Marks are not final until posted by the Registrar's Office, since the department reserves the right to scale grades for the sake of department wide consistency and fairness to all students.

Some Important Dates – University of Calgary, Winter 2013

Last day to change registration (add, drop, or swap courses).	
Last day to withdraw from full session Summer Term courses.	
Final examination period. Note: Students must be available for this time period.	

SCHEDULE for SOCI 333 (Contemporary Sociological Theory), University of Calgary Winter, 2013

Date	Assigned Sections: Main Text	Assigned Supplemental Readings: See Blackboard Site
Wed, Jan 9	None. Introduction to the course	
Fri, Jan 11	Ch 1: whole chapter	
Mon, Jan 14	Ch 2: Parsons, Merton	
Wed, Jan 16	None. Instead, read =====>	Mary Douglas "Pollution"
Fri, Jan 18	Ch 2: Coser	Randall Collins, "Dirty Little Secret of Credential Inflation"
Mon, Jan 21	Ch 3: Gramsci, Althusser	
Wed, Jan 23	Ch 3: Bourdieu	Pierre Bourdieu, "Social Space and Symbolic Power"
Fri, Jan 25	Ch 4: Adorno	
Mon, Jan 28	Exam 1	
Wed, Jan 30	Ch 4: Marcuse	Herbert Marcuse, "The New Forms of Control"
Fri, Feb 1	Ch 4: Habermas, "Spectacle and the Situationists"	
Mon, Feb 4	Ch 5: "Athena's Tale," "Agency and Social Structure," Gadamer	
Wed, Feb 6	Ch 5: "Rational Choice Theory," Homans, Blau (pp. 170-176)	
Fri, Feb 8	Ch 5: Giddens	
Mon, Feb 11	Ch 6: Cooley, Mead, Blumer	
Wed, Feb 13	Ch 6: Goffman, ethnomethodology	
Fri, Feb 15	Exam 2	
Feb 17-24	READING WEEK: No Classes	
Mon, Feb 25	NONE. Instead, read =====>	Erving Goffman, "On Face Work"
Wed, Feb 27	NONE. Instead, read =====>	Hochschild, "Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, Social Structure"
Fri, Mar 1	Ch 7: Birmingham School	Stuart Hall, "Encoding, Decoding"
Mon, Mar 4	Ch 7: "Poststructuralism," Derrida (pp. 237-250)	
Wed, Mar 6	Ch 7: Foucault	Michel Foucault, "Truth and Power"
Fri, Mar 8	Foucault continued	Foucault continued
Mon, Mar 11	Ch 8: Lyotard	
Wed, Mar 13	Ch 9: Baudrillard, "Postmodern Pop Culture"	
Fri, Feb 15	Ch 10: Feminism – 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Waves, Firestone (pp. 321-333)	Betty Friedan, "The Problem With No Name"
Mon, Mar 18	Ch 10: Standpoint Theory (Harding, Smith)	
Wed, Mar 20	NONE. Instead, read =====>	Patricia Hill-Collins, "Learning from the Outsider Within"
Fri, Mar 22	Ch 10: Haraway	
Mon, Mar 25	Ch 11: Menzies	
Wed, Mar 27	Term papers due	
Fri, Mar 29	GOOD FRIDAY: No Classes	
Mon, Apr 1	NONE. Film on globalization TBA	
Wed, Apr 3	Ch 12: "Theories of Globalization," Giddens	
Fri, Apr 5	Ch 12: Bauman	Zygmunt Bauman, "Sociology after the Holocaust"
Mon, Apr 8	Ch 12: Klein	
Wed, Apr 10	Ch 13: Butler	
Fri, Apr 12	Ch 13: Queer theory	
Mon, Apr 15	NONE. Instead, read =====>	C. Ball, "Martha Nussbaum, Essentialism, & Human Sexuality"
Final Exam	TBA by Registrar's Office	This exam may draw on material from the entire course.

Important Administrative Information

Emergency evacuations: in the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to your building's assembly point. **The assembly point for ST is the Professional Faculties Food Court.**

Deferrals: If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay 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 physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus 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://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.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).

Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

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.

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 Departmental 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.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor's office, the department office etc.) Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.