

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Department of Sociology**

**Sociology 445**  
**Sociology of the Body**  
**Winter 2017**

Instructor: Dr. Liza McCoy  
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Office hours: Tuesdays 2-4:00 pm and by appointment

**Course overview and objectives:**

Bodies are always there in society, although they have often been oddly absent in sociology. In recent years there has been an increased interest in bringing bodies (back) into sociology, extending our ability to recognize, theorize and empirically investigate the embodied character of human social practice and experience. This includes attention to ordinary practices of everyday life, as well as to the ways bodies are depicted, known and governed through contemporary discourses and modes of rule; it also involves examination of the ways that social processes of gendering and racialization happen – and can be resisted or transformed -- at the level of the body.

In this course we will learn and practice a phenomenological approach to the study of embodied social experience. We will read (about) some of the key theoretical works in the field of sociology of the body, along with a selection of empirical studies in which researchers put these theories to work. An important component of the course will be our own analytic work. Throughout the semester we will draw on course material to explore our own experiences and practices as well as the particularities of our contemporary social context. Each student will also have the opportunity to conduct individual empirical research using the approaches developed in the course.

**Course readings:**

All readings for this course are available for download through the course D2L site. It is *highly encouraged* that you print out the readings, so that you can make notes on them and have them easily accessible for consultation during class discussion, studying for tests, and writing your research paper.

## Assignments and Assessment

Contribution	5 %
“Botanizing” presentation	5 %
First writing assignment	15 %
Midterm test	25 %
Final test	10 %
Research paper	40 %
Total	100%

*Contribution to collaborative exploration:* This is a seminar/group learning course. It is expected that you will come to class having thoughtfully read the assigned reading for that day and that you will participate in class discussions – that is, contribute to group learning -- in ways that are *comfortable for you* and *respectful of others*. Expected forms of contribution include helping to summarize the key points of readings, sharing relevant examples from your knowledge or experience, and engaging in collaborative analysis.

*“Botanizing” presentation.* Each member of the class will be responsible for making one short presentation about a current event, news item or contemporary practice, which you will consider using the approach we are developing in the course. Guidelines will be given in class.

*First writing assignment* (due February 2). This is a short (3-5 page) phenomenological description of your own embodied practice or body technique of everyday life. Guidelines will be given in class.

*Tests* (March 2 and April 6). There will be an in-class midterm and a short final in-class test. These will be written tests, involving short and longer essays.

*Research paper* (due April 14). You will conduct one in-depth, qualitative interview with someone who has firsthand knowledge of some embodied practice or experience. You will write a paper in which you present what you learned from your interview, drawing on course readings and other relevant material in order to frame your analysis. Detailed instructions for planning, conducting, analysing and writing up your research will be given in class. A short written proposal for your research is due on February 16 and must be approved by me before you can conduct your interview.

## Grading

Your final letter grade will be determined according to the following schedule:

95-100	A+	67-69	C+
90-94	A	63-66	C
85-89	A-	60-62	C-
80-84	B+	55-59	D+
75-79	B	50-54	D

## **Instructor's Policies**

**Electronic submission:** Your written assignment and your research paper must be submitted in hard copy. If you are unable to come to the University on the day an assignment is due, for reasons of illness, family affliction, or religious observance, you may submit an electronic version by email and then provide a hard copy when you return to class. Please contact me ahead of time to obtain permission for temporary electronic submission.

**Late assignments:** A late penalty (maximum 5% per day late) will be deducted from the grade on any assignments handed in after the due date. Extensions will be granted for illness or family affliction; these must be requested *in advance* of the due date.

**Plagiarism:** In accordance with University policy, I report all cases of plagiarism, including the unintentional kind. Make sure you know what counts as plagiarism and how to avoid it.

**Missed tests:** If you must miss an in-class test for University-approved reasons, I will schedule a make-up test for you, to be written as soon as possible during the Sociology Department's designated schedule for make-up exams.

**Grade reappraisal:** If you would like an exam or assignment to be reappraised, or if you have questions about your grade, contact me within two weeks of the return of the exam or assignment. I may ask you to put your request in writing for clarity and so I have a record.

**Rounding up final grades:** My decisions about whether to round up any final grades falling on the cusp between letter grades will take into consideration your overall performance in the course, including contributions to class learning. I am most likely to round a grade up when (a) the grade is more than halfway to the grade above *and* (b) the letter grade for the final exam is higher than the cumulative final grade for the course.

## **Department and University Policy Information (*I don't write this part*)**

### **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-2-1.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 2016-17 Students’ Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz ([suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@ucalgary.ca). You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

**Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point in the Social Science Building Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**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**

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (MC 293, phone 403-220-8237) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>. Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.