
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE/SECTION: SOCIOLOGY 475.02 (L 01)
TRANSNATIONAL AND DIASPORIC COMMUNITIES
SESSION: Winter, 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Lloyd L. Wong
OFFICE: SS 928
CONTACT: Phone: 220-6504: Email: llwong@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: M.W.F. 11:00 – 12:00 noon
LECTURES: M.W.F. 10:00 – 10:50 am

BLACKBOARD: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> or <http://my.ucalgary.ca>
SOCIOLOGY WEBSITE: <http://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

STUDENTS' UNION

SOCIAL SCIENCE REP: Email: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

SAFEWALK SERVICES: 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 with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 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.**

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Sociology 475.02 Course Reading Package

Cohen, R. (1997). Global Diasporas, Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Satzewich, V. and Wong, L. (Eds.) (2006). Transnational Identities and Practices in Canada. Vancouver: UBC Press.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines immigrant and ethnic communities in Canada, and elsewhere, who maintain ties and have interactions with people, and social institutions, which link them across the borders of nation-states. The on-going relationship between these communities' homelands and their current places of work and settlement are examined, particularly in the context of globalization and international migration. The major theories of transnationalism and transnational and diasporic community formation will be examined and then applied to some historical and contemporary examples. Some of the transnational and diasporic communities that may be examined include: African, American, Arab, Armenian, British, Caribbean, Croatian, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Jewish, Latin American, Lebanese, Muslim, and Sikh.

As well, the impact of globalization and international migration on transnational and diasporic communities will be examined in the context of incorporation, exclusion, conflict, racism, ethnic nationalism and de-colonization. The major focus in the first part of the course is on the theories themselves. This is followed by an examination of how deterritorialization, identity, cultural spaces, nation, and citizenship operate within specific communities as case studies.

The class format involves lectures and class discussions based on central questions derived from the readings. There will be occasional video presentations to illustrate specific cases or issues. The major goal of this course is the reading and understanding of a sociological literature on transnational and diasporic communities. Students will be asked to demonstrate their understanding by writing two mid-term and one take-home final exams and a major term paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION:

The final grade for this course will be based on two mid-term examinations, a final take-home exam and a major term paper.

1. Mid-term and Take-Home Examinations

The two mid-term examinations will be held in class on **February 15th and March 19th**. These exams may consist of true/false and multiple choice questions. They are not cumulative with respect to course content. There will be a final take-home essay examination with the questions distributed on **April 14th** and the answers due on **April 21st**.

2. Term Paper

The term paper is due on **April 14th**. More discussion and details on the term paper will occur in class. If you anticipate having difficulty meeting this deadline please contact me well in advance. If an extension has not been granted the late penalty is a deduction of 10%, from the mark you earn on your paper, per day it is late.

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.

3. Breakdown, Weight, and Due Date of Student Evaluation

	<u>Weight (%)</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Mid-term Exam #1	20	February 15 th
Term Paper Proposal	05	February 25 th (last day to submit)
Mid-term Exam #2	20	March 19 th
Term Paper	35	April 14 th
Take-home Exam	<u>20</u>	April 21 st
Total	100	

4. Letter Grade Assignment

95-100 = A+	67 - 71 = C+
90 - 94 = A	63 - 66 = C
85 - 89 = A-	59 - 62 = C-
80 - 84 = B+	54 - 58 = D+
76 - 79 = B	50 - 53 = D
72 - 75 = B-	00 - 49 = F

Academic Misconduct: cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. 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.

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. Term 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 at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of 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 only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Date	Topics	Readings (CRP=Course Readings Package C=Cohen, S & W=Satzewich & Wong)
1	Jan. 14	Theorizing contemporary transnationalism – the work of anthropologists in the 1990s	CRP - # 1, 2, 3,
2	Jan. 21	Theorizing contemporary transnationalism - emerging sociological and anthropological work in the late 1990s	CRP - # 4, 5, 6, 7
3	Jan. 28	Theorizing contemporary transnationalism – the 2000s	CRP - # 8, 9, 10,
	Feb. 01	class cancelled	
4	Feb. 04	Theorizing contemporary transnationalism – the 2000s - continued	CRP - # 11, 12, 13 S & W - Introduction
5	Feb. 11	Theorizing diasporas – classical notions, Jewish diaspora, and relationship of diasporas to transnational communities	C – Introduction, chpt. 1
	Feb. 15	Midterm Exam #1 on CRP	
6	Feb. 18	Reading Week – no classes	
7	Feb. 25	Types of diasporas and specific examples – victim diasporas: Africans and Armenians – labour and imperial diasporas: Indians and British	C – chpt. 2, 3
	Feb. 25	Last day to submit Term Paper Proposal	
8	Mar. 03	Types of diasporas and specific examples – trade diasporas: Chinese and Lebanese – diasporas and homelands: Sikhs and Zionists	C – chpt. 4, 5
9	Mar. 10	Types of diasporas and specific examples – cultural diasporas: Caribbean case – Globalization and diasporas and future of diasporas	C – chpt. 6, 7, 8
10	Mar. 17 Mar. 19 Mar. 21	Transnational practices - Political transnationalism; Midterm Exam #2 on Cohen Good Friday – no class	S & W – chpt. 1, 6,
11	Mar. 24	The Myth of the Clash of Civilizations (video) Imagined transnational practices of Japanese during WWII and of Arabs and Muslims in a post 9/11 era	S & W – chpt. 3, 12
12	Mar. 31	Immigrant transnationalism in Vancouver; Southern-European Transnationalism?; Transnationalism in Canada Selected Cases: Caribbean and Latin American	S & W – chpt. 4 S & W – chpt. 11 S & W – chpt. 7, 10
13	Apr. 07	Selected case: Asian transnationalism and American transnationalism	S & W – chpt. 5, 8, 13 S & W – chpt. 9
14	Apr. 14	Selected cases: Croatian and Jewish transnationalism and others to be announced	S & W – chpt. 14, 15
	Apr. 14	Term Paper Due and Take Home Final Exam Questions (on Satzewich & Wong) distributed	
	Apr. 21	Take Home Final Exam - due	