

The University of Calgary  
Department of Sociology

SOCI 301.8: Sociology of Education  
Spring 2018  
MW 9:00 – 11:45 am  
ES 162

**Instructor**

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Office Hours: by appointment.

**Course Description**

This course examines the field of education from a sociological perspective. The focus is mainly upon primary/secondary schools and post-secondary institutions in Canada, but studies of other educational domains and countries are included with the objective of enhancing the course. Attention is given both to the ways in which social structures and systems influence educational practices and outcomes, and to the ways in which educational experiences influence individuals and society.

**Course Objectives**

This course will provide the students with the opportunity to:

1. Examine the role that education has in their lives from a sociological perspective.
2. Grasp the complex relationships between educational institutions and students.
3. Explore different theoretical approaches to the field of education.
4. Develop an understanding of the ways in which the field of education influences individuals and societies.

**Required Textbook**

Wotherspoon, Terry. (2018). *The Sociology of Education in Canada*. Fifth Edition. Canada: Oxford University Press.

**Evaluation**

Participation (Class Activities or Forum Discussions)	20%
Quizzes and Assignments	20 %
Midterm examination (Wednesday, June 6)	30 %
Final Project (Friday, June 22)	20 %

Final Exam (Monday, June 25)	10 %
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**Class Activities** are team exercises designed to enhance the understanding of the topics discussed in class. They will be completed during lecture to provide the possibility of class discussions and involve students in the learning process. Those students who cannot attend lecture at some point during the course can obtain the percentage assigned to participation by posting class activities on D2L.

**Quizzes and Assignments** are individual in nature and will evaluate students' understanding of the textbook and assigned papers. The dates when they are due are detailed in the "Readings and Quizzes Outline" in D2L. Quizzes and Assignments will not be accepted after their due dates unless a documented reason for not submitting them is provided (acceptable reasons: illness, family affliction, religious observance).

The **Midterm examination and the Final Exam** will consist of multiple choice questions. They are non-cumulative.

The **Final Project** will be a paper in which the students will present their research and analysis of the field of education in a country of their choosing. In teams of four persons, the students will gather information from different sources and, using concepts learned in the course, will write an analytical essay about the field of education selected by them.

**Grading**

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

Number Grade Letter Grade

95-100	A+
90-94	A
85-89	A-
80-84	B+
75-79	B
70-74	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
55-59	D+
50-54	D
49 or less	F

**Course Overview**

1. Ideological, historical, theoretical, and methodological foundations
  - a. Sociological theories of education
  - b. Research methods for the study of education
  - c. Ideology and history of education in Canada

- d. Education across the lifespan in contemporary Canada
2. Schooling, social reproduction, and subjectivity
  - a. The social world of schools
  - b. Social background and educational outcomes
  - c. The production of subjectivities through educational experience
3. Selected contemporary issues
  - a. Bullying and school violence
  - b. University ranking systems and neo-liberal politics
  - c. Surveillance and integration in American secondary schools
  - d. Challenges of a relationship in crisis. Education and Mexican Youth
  - e. Challenges of girlhood in post-feminist times

### **Course Notes:**

### **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 for entertainment purposes is **NOT** permitted during lectures.

### **Email**

Feel free to contact me over email. Please include your full name and student ID. 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.

### **Emergency Evacuations**

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

### **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-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](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 2017-18 Students’ Union VP Academic is Tina Miller ([suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](#)