

**Department of Sociology  
University of Calgary**

**SOCI 331  
Classical Sociological Theory  
Fall 2009**

Instructor: Dr. Liza McCoy

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Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 12:30-1:30 pm; and by appointment

Emergency Evacuations: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Professional Faculties Building.

**Course Description**

This is a core course for students majoring in Sociology. It has several objectives:

- 1) to provide you with an introduction to the intellectual history of the discipline (How and when did it become possible to study “society”? What topics were important to early social theorists and sociologists? How did these topics emerge from the social, political and economic context at the time?);
- 2) to acquaint you with the key ideas of some of the most influential sociological theorists of the period 1830-1940, and to consider how these ideas have contributed to the development of sociology;
- 3) to provide you with practical experience in reading and responding to original works of social theory and analysis;
- 4) to provide you with an opportunity to examine contemporary issues and ideas through the lens of classical theory, thereby evaluating the continuing relevance of the theory.

**Course Readings**

Bert N. Adams and R.A. Sydie, *Classical Sociological Theory* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2002).

A collection of excerpts from the original works of the theorists (available from Bound & Copied).

**Course Communication**

Blackboard will be used to post course documents and assignments and for electronic communication outside of class.

### **Assessment**

Assignment: one essay (4-5 pages) assigned October 14, due November 16. Details to be given with the assignment.

Tests: Two in-class midterms (October 9 and November 9) and a registrar-controlled final (date to be determined). These tests will include multiple choice, matching, short answer and essay questions.

### **Grading**

Midterm Test #1	20 %
Midterm Test #2	20 %
Essay	30 %
Final exam	30 %
Total	100 %

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

Percentage 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

## **Instructor's Policies**

1. Essays must be submitted in class, in hard copy, on or before the due date.
2. I do not routinely distribute or post copies of my lecture notes and slides. If you miss class, you will need to get notes from another student.
3. In accordance with University policy, I report all cases of plagiarism. Plagiarized essays get an automatic grade of 0; this includes essays that are only partially plagiarized. The easy way to avoid this? *Don't download material from the Internet; write your essay in your own words.*

## **Department and University Policy Information**

**Exam Policies:** You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination 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. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a "make up" exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

**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.

**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.

**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 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.*

**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 or teaching assistant 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.

## Schedule

Week 1 Sept. 9, 11	Introduction and Chapter 1
Week 2 Sept. 14, 16, 18	Chapter 2, Comte & Martineau Martineau reading
Week 3 Sept. 21, 23, 24	Chapter 3, Spencer Spencer reading
Week 4 Sept. 28, 30, Oct. 2	Chapter 5, Marx & Engels Marx & Engels reading
Week 5 Oct. 5, 7, 9	Marx & Engels, continued; review <b>Test #1 (October 9)</b>
Week 6 Oct. 14	Chapter 4, Durkheim; essay assignment explained (Oct. 12 – Thanksgiving; class cancelled Oct. 16)
Week 7 Oct. 19, 21, 23	Ch. 4, Durkheim, continued Durkheim reading
Week 8 Oct. 26, 28, 30	Chapter 7, Weber Weber reading
Week 9 Nov. 2, 4, 6	Chapter 8, Simmel Simmel reading; review
Week 10 Nov. 9	<b>Test #2 (November 9)</b> (November 11-13, Reading Days) (
Week 11 Nov. 16, 18, 20	Chapter 11, Gilman Gilman reading <b>Essay due Nov. 16</b>
Week 12 Nov. 23, 25, 27	Chapter 12, Du Bois Du Bois reading
Week 13 Nov. 30, Dec. 2, 4	Chapter 13, Cooley & Mead Cooley reading, Mead reading
Week 14 Dec. 7	Chapter 14 and review <b>Final exam – date to be announced</b>