

Department of Sociology  
University of Calgary

SOCI 331  
Classical Sociological Theory  
Fall 2014

**Course Times:** Tuesday 12:30pm-1:45pm, Thursday 12:30pm-1:45pm  
**Course Location:** ST 130

**Instructor:** Dr. Dean Curran

**Office:** SS 918

**Email:** [dcurran@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dcurran@ucalgary.ca)

**Phone:** 403-220-6520

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 11am-12pm, Thursday 11am-12pm

### **Course Overview**

This is a required course for students majoring in Sociology. This course is intended as an introduction to classical sociological theory. In addition to serving as a prerequisite for SOCI 333, Contemporary Sociological Theory, classical sociological theory provides an introduction to: research areas, issues of concern, theories, methods, and concepts that continue to significantly influence contemporary sociology more generally.

### **Aims and Objectives**

At the end of this course, students should have knowledge and understanding of:

- The dominant theoretical approaches in classical sociological theory.
- How these different approaches relate to each other and to developments in contemporary society.

This course should also enhance students' ability to:

- To theorize in a critical and analytical manner about social life.
- Write clearly and cogently about classical social theory.
- Make a contribution to existing debates in classical sociological theory by fashioning and defending their own arguments.

### **Theory and Theorizing**

In this course it is essential that students engage in a theoretical manner with the course material in their participation and writing. It is essential that students not merely describe and summarize the readings. A theoretical analysis seeks to abstract certain key ideas, arguments, concepts from the specific content of a text and then reconstructs the arguments, ideas, or concepts in such a way that we are able to better grasp the relations between different ideas and concepts. This process of abstraction and reconstruction may be for the purpose of: better understanding a specific concept of a theorist (such as Weber's "rationalization" or Durkheim's "anomie"); better understanding the relation between the different concepts of a specific thinker (such as how Marx's theory of class relates to his theory of value); or better understanding the relation between two thinkers'

conception of social reality (such as the connection between Marx's understanding of "alienation" and Durkheim's "social facts"). This improved understanding through the process of abstraction and reconstruction may be for such purposes such as: (1) helping to better understand the theorist's work in their own terms, (2) critiquing the work of the thinker, or (3) identifying how to apply the basic theories of a thinker to a very different context than the one for which they were originally formulated.

### **Required Texts**

- Craig Calhoun, Joseph Gerteis, James Moody, Steven Pfaff, and Indermohan Virk (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. [This book is available at the UCalgary Bookstore].
- Anthony Giddens (1971) *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [This book is available at the UCalgary Bookstore].
- Some Readings on Desire2Learn

Students are expected to bring the readings to the lectures to discuss the material.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Format of the Course

- 13 two X a week 1 hour 15 minute lectures and discussions (with exceptions of weeks with midterm and reading days)
- 4 critical reading summaries (Due at the beginning of the Thursday lecture)
- 1 Mid-term (to be in-class in week 7)
- 1 Term Paper (Due **Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014**)
- 1 Final Exam (To be scheduled in the exam period)

### **Course Assessment**

Participation: 10%

4 one-page reading summaries: 10% (2.5% each)

Mid-term: 20%

Term Paper: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

### **Course Participation (10%)**

Students are expected to regularly attend the lectures and to have completed the readings prior to the Thursday lecture. It is important that each student be prepared to contribute to the discussion of the readings, both for their own learning and for the benefit of the class as a whole. It is particularly important that students who hand in their critical reading summary for a given week be prepared to discuss the texts for that week.

### **4 Critical Reading Summaries (4x2.5%=10%)**

These summaries will be marked pass or fail based on the level of critical engagement with the texts. They are expected to be between 400 and 500 words in length and to outline the argument of one of the texts and provide a critical analysis of this argument. They must be handed as a print copy in before the Thursday lecture of the week. To hand in the reading summaries in it is necessary to attend the lecture.

**Term Paper (30%) (Due November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014)**

The final term paper is a core component of assessment for this course. The term paper assignment is intended to enable students to develop a substantive theoretical paper and to further develop the skills associated with this task. The readings in this course are intended to provide an in-depth introduction to many of the key debates in classical sociological theory. The final term paper involves a comparison or contrast of the key ideas of two key thinkers in this course. This paper is due in the twelfth week of class. Students are heavily encouraged to plan ahead and consult with the instructor regarding their proposed essay topic.

**Mid-Term (20%) (in-class in Week 7) and Final Exam (30%) (Exam Period)**

The mid-term will take place in week 7 and will be on the readings and lectures of the first six weeks of the course. The final exam will take place during the exam period and will cover the entire course material, both readings and lectures.

**Submission and Late Policy**

Reading summaries must be handed into the instructor as a hard copy before the beginning of the Thursday lecture and will not be accepted after this time. The term paper is to be handed in as a hard copy in class to the course instructor the day of class that it is due. The paper will receive a late penalty of FIVE (5) MARKS PER FULL OR PART DAY (a weekend counts as two full days). Any paper more than one (1) week late without a valid extension will receive a mark of zero (0). Accommodations are unlikely to be allowed for late entry other than illness or another serious and documented situation – talk to me prior to the deadline.

**Instructor Contact Policy**

**Email:** Please use “SOCI 331” in the subject line of all course-related emails. It may take up to 48 hours (not including weekends) for me to respond to you. Email responses will also be kept short. To discuss anything in-depth, come along during office hours.

**Office Hours:** During office hours you are free to drop by without an appointment at any time. If you are unable to make that time, please contact me in advance so that we can try to arrange an appointment. Office hours are a very effective and efficient way of providing help and I encourage all students to make use of my office hours.

**Class Etiquette**

Use of cell phones or internet on laptops are disruptive to lectures and discussions and are not permitted.

**General Referencing Guidelines**

1. Always include page numbers of the source you are referencing - just using a date is not enough. Harvard style (in text citations with date and page e.g. (Marx 1848: 139) is recommended)

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
70-74 B-	49 or less F

### **Course Notes**

1. **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 reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.
2. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
3. **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>
4. **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."
5. **Ethical 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. Research with human subjects should not be undertaken in this theory course.
6. **Deferrals:** If possible, please provide advance notice to the instructor 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 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://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp\\_Su\\_DFE\\_App.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.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).

7. **Student Representation:** The 2014-15 Students' Union VP Academic's email is: Hana Kadri [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>
8. **Emergency Evacuation:** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Professional Faculties - Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for your other classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
9. **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.
10. **Academic Accommodation:** Students who require academic accommodation, must register with Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Disability Resource Centre) at MC 452 (or phone 403-220-8237). 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.

## Course Readings

### Week One: Introduction to course and precursors to Classical Sociological Theory

Sept 9 & 11, 2014

- C.B. Macpherson (1962) "The State of Nature" in *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism: Hobbes to Locke*. Oxford: OUP, pp. 19-29 [on D2L].
- Pickering, Mary "Auguste Comte" in G. Ritzer (eds) *The Blackwell Companion to Major Classical Social Theorists*. Malden: Blackwell, pp. 13-25 [on D2L].

### Week Two: Marx I: Early Marx

Sept 16 & 18, 2014

- Marx, K. "The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, pp. 146-155.
- Karl Marx ([1843] 1983) From "The Kreuznach Manuscripts: Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right" in E. Kamenka (ed.) *The Portable Karl Marx*, London:

Penguin, pp. 87-90 [on D2L].

- Giddens, A. (1971) “Marx’s Early Writings” chapter 1 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*, pp. 1-17.

### **Week 3: Marx II: Historical Materialism**

**Sept 23 & 25, 2014**

- Marx, K. “The German Ideology” and “Manifesto of the Communist Party” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, pp. 142-45, 156-171.
- Giddens, A. (1971) “Historical Materialism” chapter 2 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*, pp. 18-34.

### **Week 4: Marx III: On Production and Class**

**Sept 30 & Oct. 2, 2014**

- Marx, K. “Wage Labour and Capital” and “Classes” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, pp. 182-191.
- Giddens, A. (1971) “The relations of production and class structure” chapter 3 in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*, pp. 35-45.

### **Week 5: Durkheim I: the Rules of Sociological Method**

**Oct 7 & 9, 2014**

- Durkheim, E. “The Rules of Sociological Method” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, pp. 201-19.
- Giddens, A. “Durkheim’s conception of sociological method”, in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*, pp. 82-94.

### **Week 6: Durkheim II: the Division of Labour**

**Oct 14 & 16, 2014**

- Durkheim, E. “The Division of Labour in Society” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, pp. 220-242.
- Giddens, A. (1971) “Durkheim’s early works” in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*, pp. 65-81.

### **Week 7 Midterm and Durkheim III: on Religion**

**Oct 21 & 23, 2014**

Midterm on Tuesday

- Durkheim, E. “The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life”, in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, pp. 243-252.
- Giddens, A. (1971) “Religion and Moral Discipline”, in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*, pp. 105-118.

### **Week 8 Weber I: Protestant Ethic and Capitalism**

**Oct 28 & 30, 2014**

- Weber, M. “The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, **pp. 291-309.**
- Giddens, A. (1971) “Max Weber: Protestantism and Capitalism” in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*, **pp. 119-132.**

### **Week 9 Weber II: Social Science and Methodology**

**Nov 4 & 6, 2014**

- Weber, M. “Objectivity in Social Science” and “Types of Social Action”, in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, **pp. 273-279, 289-290.**
- Giddens, A. (1971) “Weber’s Methodological Essays” and “Fundamental Concepts of Sociology” in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*, **pp. 133-168.**

### **Week 10 Weber III: Class and Power**

No class on Tuesday.

**Nov 13, 2014**

- Weber, M. “The Distribution of Power within the Political Community” and “The Types of Legitimate Domination” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, **pp. 310-327.**
- Giddens, A. (1971) “The spread of secular rationalism” in ch. 12 “Rationalisation, the “world religions” and western capitalism” in *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory: An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*, **pp. 178-184**

### **Week 11: Mead and Simmel**

**Nov 18 & 20, 2014**

- Mead, G.H. “The Self” in in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, **pp. 347-360.**
- Simmel “The Stranger” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, **pp. 361-365.**
- Simmel “Group Expansion and the Development of Individuality” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, **pp. 366-81.**

### **Week 12: The Excluded (Paper due on Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014)**

**Nov 25 & 27, 2014**

- Du Bois “The Souls of Black Folks” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, **pp. 404-409**
- Degler, C. (1956) “Charlotte Perkins Gilman on the Theory and Practice of Feminism” *American Quarterly* 8(1): 21-39 [[www.jstor.org/stable/2710295](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2710295) link also on D2L]

## **Week 13: Merton and Functionalism**

**Dec 2 & 4, 2014**

- Merton, R. “Manifest and Latent Functions” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, **pp. 523-530.**
- Merton, R. “On Sociological Theories of the Middle Range” in Calhoun et al. (eds) (2012) *Classical Sociological Theory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, **pp. 531-542.**