

**SOCI 331 - Classical Sociological Theory**, Tues/Thurs from 9:00 am-11:50 am in PF 120. Brant Downey.  
Office hours: Room SS 903, on Tues and Thurs, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, or by appointment. E-Mail: bdowney@ucalgary.ca

**Course Description:** Students who take this course can expect a university level survey of a discipline that takes its roots seriously. To put the matter another way, since modern sociology is grounded in classical theory, students who successfully complete the requirements of this course will have a useful foundation for further studies (SOCI 333, Contemporary Social Theory, builds on this class). The course addresses material from (roughly) between the mid-1800s and the mid 1900s. Three questions will provide a loose framework for our investigation: 1) In what ways is a given theory tied to the intellectual, political, economic, and social currents of its era? 2) In what ways did a given theory build upon or challenge existing theories? 3) Is the theory or concept of use today; or is it chiefly of historical interest? The case will be made that many of the theories that fit under the umbrella term “classical” are still relevant today, in the sense of ideas retaining their explanatory power.

**Objectives:** This course is dedicated to the development of three interrelated skills: reading, essay writing, and clarity of reasoning. Accordingly, you will be expected to read and assess original source documents from the early years of the discipline. Furthermore, since scholarly interest in classical theory is alive and well in our own era, one of your written projects will allow you to examine contemporary journal articles. Lastly, participation in class via group work and general discussions/questions regarding the course material is encouraged and expected.

**Keeping Up with the Readings:** Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before the related lecture. Doing so will not only assist comprehension of the lecture material but also will enable thoughtful participation on the student’s part. If you miss a lecture, please ask another student if you can copy their notes. (This is not an ideal situation; but, considering that lectures are only given once, it will have to suffice.)

**Textbook and Readings:** This course is grounded in one textbook that is available at the University of Calgary bookstore: George Ritzer, *Classical Sociological Theory, Sixth Edition* (Boston, McGraw-Hill, 2011). In addition, we will draw on a booklet of Supplementary Readings, also available at the U of C Bookstore, and a number of original sources, available online. All readings are itemized below and most links are supplied for the online selections.

**Grading:**

In-class Mid-Term exam -- 25% (short essay and long essay format; based on the lectures and assigned readings)

Term Paper -- 30% (essay format)

Final Exam -- 35% (short essay and long essay format; based on the lectures and assigned readings)

Attendance, in-class etiquette\*, and your informed participation -- 10%

\*Note: Laptop computers should be used only for class related tasks. Similarly, texting is not appropriate during class time. This class should be viewed as a public space.

| Grading, Dept of Sociology | Letter | Percent              |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------|
|                            | A+     | 95-100               |
|                            | A      | 90-94                |
|                            | A-     | 85-89                |
|                            | B+     | 80-84                |
|                            | B      | 75-79                |
|                            | B-     | 70-74                |
|                            | C+     | 67-69                |
|                            | C      | 63-66                |
|                            | C-     | 60-62                |
|                            | D+     | 55-59                |
|                            | D      | 50-54                |
|                            | F      | Less than 50 -- Fail |

Marks are not final until posted by the Registrar’s Office, since the department reserves the right to scale grades for the sake of department wide consistency and fairness to all students.

**Some Important Dates – University of Calgary, Summer 2013**

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|--|-----------|
| Last day to change registration (add, drop, or swap courses).                    | July 4    |
| Last day to withdraw from full session Summer Term courses.                      | Aug 14    |
| Final examination period. Note: Students must be available for this time period. | Aug 15-17 |

**SOCI 331 (Classical Theory), University of Calgary Summer Semester, 2013**

|                      | <b>Chapters in Main Text and Supplementary Readings</b>  | <b>Online Readings and Class Activities</b>   |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Tues, July 2         | Ritzer, Appendix at the back of the book: pages A1-A10. ==>  | Overview of course; lecture: Enlightenment / Definitions / Ritzer. Please read the Appendix in Ritzer at your convenience over the next couple of weeks.  |
| Thurs, July 4        | Comte (Ritzer, Chapter 4)<br><b>* Pick Up Term Paper Instructions Sheet *</b>  | First half: Lecture on Comte. Second half: Comte, "The Positive Philosophy." <a href="http://www.humanistictexts.org/comte.htm">http://www.humanistictexts.org/comte.htm</a><br><b>[group work on the above original source – please print off a copy and bring it with you to class]</b>   |
| Tues, July 9         | Spencer (Ritzer, Chapter 5), "Spencer on Evolution and Dissolution" (see Supplementary Readings)   | First half: Lecture on Spencer. Second half: Spencer, "Preparation in Psychology," pp. 351-378. <b>[group work]</b> U of C library version: <a href="http://solomon.soth.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/cgi-bin/asp/philo/soth/getdoc.pl?S10019078-D000016">http://solomon.soth.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/cgi-bin/asp/philo/soth/getdoc.pl?S10019078-D000016</a>                         |
| Thurs, July 11       | Marx (Ritzer, Chapter 6) and Gramsci (see Supplementary Readings)  | First half: Lecture on Marx. Second half: "Communist Manifesto" <b>[group work]</b><br><a href="http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch01.htm#007">http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch01.htm#007</a>  |
| Tues, July 16        | Durkheim (Ritzer, Chapter 7), "Classical Theory and the Sociology of Gender" (see Supplementary Readings)<br><b>*Pick Up Midterm Exam Sheet*</b> | First half: Lecture on Durkheim/ Second half: "What is a Social Fact?" <b>[group work]</b> U of C library version: <a href="http://solomon.soth.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/cgi-bin/asp/philo/soth/getdoc.pl?S10021370-D000002">http://solomon.soth.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/cgi-bin/asp/philo/soth/getdoc.pl?S10021370-D000002</a>  |
| Thurs, July 18       | Martineau (Ritzer, pp. 292-299 only from Chapter 10) and Weber (Ritzer, Chapter 8)   | First half: Short lecture on Martineau; please read "What to Observe," pp. 61-67 of <i>How to Observe Morals and Manners</i> .<br><a href="http://www.gutenberg.org/files/33944/33944-h/33944-h.htm#pii">http://www.gutenberg.org/files/33944/33944-h/33944-h.htm#pii</a><br>Begin lecture on Weber<br>Second half: Finish lecture on Weber.  |
| Tues, July 23        | Simmel (Ritzer, Chapter 9)   | First half: Lecture on Simmel. Second half: "The Stranger" <b>[group work]</b> <a href="http://www.ucc.ie/social_policy/the_stranger.htm">http://www.ucc.ie/social_policy/the_stranger.htm</a>  |
| Thurs, July 25       | <b>No Readings</b> =====>  | <b>Midterm Exam – 1 hr, 30 min time limit</b>   |
| Tues, July 30        | DuBois (Ritzer, Chapter 11) and Veblen (Ritzer, Chapter 12)  | First half: Lecture on DuBois.<br>Second half: Lecture on Veblen  |
| Thurs, Aug 1         | Mead (Ritzer, Chapter 15); And W. I. Thomas =====>   | First half: Lecture on Mead<br>Second half: Lecture on Thomas. Please read this section from Lewis Coser's <i>Masters of Sociological Thought</i> .<br><a href="https://www.d.umn.edu/~bmork/2111/readings/thomascoser.htm">https://www.d.umn.edu/~bmork/2111/readings/thomascoser.htm</a>  |
| Tues, Aug 6          | Charles H. Cooley (see Supplementary Readings)   | <b>Term Paper due</b><br>First half: Film clip: Lester Ward: a Life's Journey; Begin Lecture on Cooley. Second half: Finish Cooley; Groupwork on "Statement of a Prostitute" (in class handout).  |
| Thurs, Aug 8         | Early Women Sociologists (Chapter 10 of Ritzer, but pp. 299-319 only)<br><b>* Pick Up Final Exam Sheet *</b>                                     | First half: Lecture on Addams, Perkins Gilman, Wells Barnett, and Cooper. Second half: Film: "The Women of Hull House: Harnessing Statistics for Progressive Reform" (20 minutes); Please read: Leta Hollingsworth -- "Social Devices for Impelling Women to Bear and Rear Children"<br><a href="http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Hollingsworth/children.htm">http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Hollingsworth/children.htm</a> |
| Tues, Aug 13         | Mannheim (Ritzer, Chapter 14)  | First half: Lecture on Mannheim. Second half: Finish any subjects still needing attention, review for final – select topics.  |
| Final Exam, Date TBA | Likely Aug 15, 16, or 17   | Two hour time limit   |

## Important Administrative Information

### ***Emergency evacuations:***

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to your building's assembly point. **The assembly point for Professional Faculties (PF) Building is the Education Block Food Court.**

### ***Deferrals:***

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay 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 physical or emotional problem 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://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM\\_0.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.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).

***Academic Misconduct:*** Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. 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. Written 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.

***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.

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