

Department of Sociology
University of Calgary

SOCI 331

Classical Sociological Theory

Winter 2009

Instructor: Dr. Liza McCoy

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Office hours: Tuesdays 12:30 - 1:30 pm; Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 pm; and by appointment

Course Description

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

- 1) to provide students with an introduction to the intellectual history of their chosen discipline (How and when did it become possible to study “society”? What topics were important to early social theorists and sociologists? How do these topics relate to the social, political and economic context at the time? When and how did sociology become a recognized field of inquiry?);
- 2) to acquaint students 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 students with practical experience in reading and responding to original works of social theory and analysis;
- 4) to provide students 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

Assignments: two “thinkpiece” essays of 3-4 pages each.

Thinkpiece #1 assigned January 29, due February 10

Thinkpiece #2 assigned March 12, due March 24

Tests: an in-class midterm (March 5) and a registrar-controlled final (date to be determined).
These tests will include multiple choice, matching, short answer and essay questions.

Grading

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| Assignment 1 | 15 % |
| Assignment 2 | 20% |
| Midterm | 30% |
| Final exam | 35% |

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. How to communicate with me outside of class:

For administrative questions about the course: Post questions in the “Course Administration” forum on Blackboard. You may post anonymously. (Check the course outline or university calendar first; the answer is often in one of those places.)

For questions about course content (lectures, readings, theoretical musings): Post questions in “Course Content” forum or visit me during office hours.

For personal matters related to your participation in the course: Email me directly or visit during office hours.

2. Electronic submission of assignments will not be accepted. Assignments must be submitted in class, in hard copy, on the day they are due.
3. I do not distribute copies of my lecture notes and slides. If you miss class, you will need to get notes from another student.
4. If you are going to use your computer to take notes during class, please overcome the temptation to surf the Internet, check Facebook, or write email, even if you do so quietly. People sitting near you can see what you are doing, and it distracts them.
5. In accordance with University policy, I report all cases of plagiarism. Plagiarized assignments get an automatic grade of 0. The Associate Dean may decide that the student should also fail the entire course, in addition to being put on disciplinary probation. The easy way to avoid this?
Don't download material from the Internet; write your assignments 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 of Readings

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| Week 1 January 13 & 15 | Introduction and Chapter 1 |
| Week 2 January 20 & 22 | Chapter 2, St. Simon, Comte & Martineau Martineau reading in course pack |
| Week 3 January 27 & 29 | Chapter 3, Spencer & Sumner Spencer reading |
| Week 4 February 3 & 5 | Chapter 5, Marx & Engels Marx & Engels reading |
| Week 5 February 10 & 12 | Chapter 4, Durkheim Durkheim reading Assignment 1 due Feb. 10 |
| Reading Week February 15-22 | |
| Week 6 February 24 & 26 | Chapter 7, The Webers Weber reading |
| Week 7 March 3 & 5 | Review and midterm |
| Week 8 March 10 & 12 | Chapter 8, Simmel Simmel reading |
| Week 9 March 17 & 19 | Chapter 9, Pareto & Michels Chapter 10, Veblen & Schumpeter |
| Week 10 March 24 & 26 | Chapter 11, Gilman & Potter Webb Gilman reading Assignment 2 due March 24 |
| Week 11 March 31 & April 2 | Chapter 12, Du Bois Du Bois reading |
| Week 12 April 7 & 9 | Chapter 13, Cooley, Mead & Freud Cooley reading, Mead reading |
| Week 13 April 14 & 16 | Chapter 14 and review |