

Course Outline

Soci 333, Contemporary Theory, Fall 2010, T/Th 2:00-3:15, MS319

Instructor: Dr. Ariel Ducey

Office Hours: Thursdays 9:30 – 11:00 am, and by appointment

Office Location: Social Sciences Bldg, Room 938

Instructor contact info: aducey@ucalgary.ca, 220-5054

Sociology Department Website: www.soci.ucalgary.ca

DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to some of the major thinkers and concepts in post-war, western social theory. To be successful in this course, you must read the theorists assigned and become proficient at interpreting and explaining their views. In this course, you will be expected to begin to identify a theorist's way of thought, world view, and significance to social theory and sociology through your own reading of some of his or her important texts. There will be lectures in the course, intended to help you understand the theorists' arguments as well as the political and historical conditions that influenced their work, but we will also spend time in class reading together and discussing key sections of the texts.

At the completion of this course, you should:

- Be confident in your own ability to make sense from, and recognize themes within, even the most dense social theory
- Be able to identify some of the major debates within social theory
- Be able to compare and contrast theoretical writings and theorists
- Have a sense of the relationship of social theory to historical changes in society and culture

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading: You are required to obtain the course packet and required book from the bookstore. There are also a few assigned articles that I will post for the class on the blackboard site. The required book is:

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*. Vintage Books, 1990

About 50 pages of reading per week are assigned, though in several weeks the number of pages is more. You are required to complete the readings *before* the class for which it is assigned. I may add, omit, or change a few readings, depending on the progress of the course. I may also change the amount of time spent on each theorist if necessary. I will notify you in class of any changes to the class schedule. If you miss a class, you are expected to contact a classmate to get notes and find out if there have been any changes to the schedule.

You are also required to *bring the day's reading/text with you to class*.

Informal assignments: I will make informal assignments during the term, especially to prepare for group work in class. If you complete the assignments on time and conscientiously, you will receive full credit. I will not give full points for assignments that are completed but done so haphazardly.

Exams: There will be three exams in this course: two in-class midterms and a take-home final. The in-class exams will consist largely of short answer and short essay questions. The take-home final will include short answer and essay questions in which you compare and contrast the views of several theorists. In the final exam, you will be expected to implement what you have learned about interpreting and reading social theory by constructing well-supported arguments based on the texts used in class. No outside research or secondary sources will be necessary.

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Midterms | 60% (30% each) |
| 2. Take-home final exam | 35% |
| 3. Informal assignments | 5% |

I will use the following scale to convert percentage grades to letter grades for this class:

A+ = 95-100	C+ = 65-69
A = 90-94	C = 60-64
A- = 85-89	C- = 55-59
B+ = 80-84	D+ = 50-54
B = 75-79	D = 45-49
B- = 70-75	F = below 45

Instructor Contact Information

I am available, without an appointment, during office hours. I am also available by appointment during other times. I am pleased to meet with students, but request that you:

- 1) **Use email largely for administrative purposes.** I cannot always respond to emails that are substantive. So, for instance, you should email me to schedule an appointment or inform me of an absence.
- 2) Students with substantive questions should come to see me. If you have questions related to grading, readings, or wish to discuss the course in greater depth, see me during office hours or make an appointment.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Themes	Reading (readings with an * are available on the course blackboard site)	Labels
Jan 11 T		Introduction to the course	
Jan 13 Th		Robert Merton , "Manifest & Latent Functions"	Functionalism
Jan 18 T	Interaction, Language, Subjects	Erving Goffman , "On Face Work"	Symbolic Interactionism
Jan 20 Th		* Howard Becker . "Becoming a Marihuana User," <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 59 (3): 235-242, 1953. Herbert Blumer . "Society as Symbolic Interaction," pp. 178-192 in <i>Human Behavior and Social Processes: An Interactionist Approach</i> , Arnold M. Rose, ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1962.	
Jan 25 T		Herbert Marcuse , Ch. 1 "The New Forms of Social Control," from <i>One-Dimensional Man</i>	Critical Theory, Marxism
Jan 27 Th		Herbert Marcuse , Ch. 4, "The Closing of the Universe of Discourse" from <i>One-Dimensional Man</i>	
Feb 1 T		Frantz Fanon , excerpts from <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>	Post-structuralism, Racism, Post-colonial Theory
Feb 3 Th		Michel Foucault , excerpts from <i>Discipline and Punish</i>	Post-structuralism
Feb 8 T		Wrap-up, Exam Prep	
Feb 10 Th			EXAM (in class)
Feb 15 T	Representation, Identity, Ideology, State	Walter Benjamin , excerpt from "Work of Art..."	Critical Theory, Marxism, Cultural Studies
Feb 17 Th		Louis Althusser , excerpt from "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses"	Structuralism, Marxism
Mar 1 T		Zygmunt Bauman , excerpt from <i>Modernity and the Holocaust</i>	
Mar 3 Th		Frederic Jameson , excerpt from "Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism"	Marxism, Postmodernism, Cultural Studies

Mar 8 T		*Stuart Hall. “Cultural Identity and Diaspora,” pp. 222-237 in <i>Identity: Community, Culture, Difference</i> . Jonathan Rutherford, ed. London: Lawrence & Wishart, 1990.	Postmodernism, Cultural Studies, Critical Theory
Mar 10 Th		Pierre Bourdieu , Ch. 3 from <i>Distinction</i>	
Mar 15 T		Pierre Bourdieu , continued	
Mar 17 Th		Pierre Bourdieu , “The Sociologist in Question”	
Mar 22 T		Wrap-up, exam prep	
Mar 24 Th		EXAM (in class)	
Mar 29 T	Knowledge, Power, Subjects	Dorothy Smith – Ch. 1 from <i>The Conceptual Practices of Power</i>	Feminism
Mar 31 Th		Donna Haraway , “Teddy Bear Patriarchy”	Feminism, postmodernism, cultural studies
Apr 5 T		Michel Foucault , <i>History of Sexuality</i> , Part One and Chapter 1 of Part Two (pp. 1-35)	Poststructuralism, Discourse Analysis
Apr 7 Th		Michel Foucault , <i>History of Sexuality</i> , Chapter 2 of Part Two, Part Three, Chapters 1 & 2 of Part Four (pp. 36-102)	
Apr 12 T		Michel Foucault , <i>History of Sexuality</i> , Part Five (133-159)	
Apr 14 Th			Wrap-up, exam prep
Date TBA		Take-home final exam	

Instructor’s Policies

- I will post copies of powerpoint slides on the blackboard course site, but not necessarily before class. I will not post or distribute copies of my lecture notes. For these reasons, and because my slides are not always structured as outlines, if you miss class, you will need to get notes from another student.
- In accordance with University policy, I report all cases of plagiarism. Plagiarized work gets an automatic grade of 0; this includes student work that is only partially plagiarized.

Additional Policies

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.

Since it is important that you read and discuss this work of others in academic papers and research, please take the time to review the following website about plagiarism:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>.

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.