

## Course Outline

Soci 333, Contemporary Theory, Winter 2012

Instructor: Dr. Ariel Ducey

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30, or 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. You are expected to learn something about 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 theorists' own 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 **two required books** from the bookstore. There are also a few assigned **articles** that I will link to **on the blackboard site** (see Appendix for full list and citations). The required books are:

Appelrouth, Scott and Laura Edles. *Sociological Theory in the Contemporary Era: Text and Readings*. Second edition. Pine Forge Press.

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

The course averages about 40 pages of reading per week, but the reading is not evenly distributed. Study the course schedule and plan your reading accordingly. 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 required to bring the day's reading/text with you to class. Please also see the note below about the Appelrouth & Edles text.

Informal assignments and quizzes: I will occasionally give you 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.

On a few occasions, short quizzes will be given in class (they should require no more than 15 minutes of class time). The purpose of these quizzes is to make sure that students are keeping up with the reading and to find out if there are any areas that I need to review in class or emphasize. The quizzes will be graded, but count for a small portion of the final grade. If you are keeping up with the reading and attending class, the quizzes should not be difficult for you. If you have been keeping up with reading and attending class and you find the quizzes *are* difficult, you should see me to discuss the course and general strategies for approaching the course materials.

Exams: There will be three exams in this course: two midterms and a take-home final. The midterms will have two components: an in-class section consisting of a variety of types of questions (e.g., true or false, short answer) and a short take-home essay (of no more than 1,000 words). The take-home final will include short answer and essay questions. No outside research or secondary sources will be necessary for the exams. The midterms are *not cumulative*. The final exam *will be cumulative*.

### 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 (subject to revision)**

BB= blackboard; CP=course packet

Date		Readings	
Jan 9 M		Introduction to the course	
Jan 11 W	Nature of Actors, Question of Order	<b>Robert Merton</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 21, 23, 54-74                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Includes excerpts from Merton, "Manifest and Latent Functions" (1949) and "Social Structure and Anomie" (1967)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Structural Functionalism
Jan 13 F		Merton continued	
Jan 16 M		<b>James Coleman</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 154-172                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Includes excerpt from Coleman, "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital" (1988)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Rational Choice Theory
Jan 18 W		<b>Herbert Blumer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 175-193                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Includes excerpt from Blumer, "The Methodological Position of Symbolic Interactionism" (1969)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Symbolic Interactionism
Jan 20 F		<b>Howard Becker</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becker, "Becoming a Marihuana User" (1953)(BB)</li> </ul>	
Jan 23 M		Symbolic Interactionism continued	
Jan 25 W		<b>Alfred Schutz, Peter Berger &amp; Thomas Luckmann</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 262-270; 277-296                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Includes excerpt from Berger &amp; Luckmann, "The Social Construction of Reality" (1966)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Phenomenology & Ethnomethodology
Jan 27 F		<b>Harold Garfinkel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 296-302</li> </ul>	
Jan 30 M		<b>Frantz Fanon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pg. 624 ("significant others")</li> <li>• Fanon, chs. 1, 5, 8 from <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> (1967) (CP)</li> </ul>	
Feb 1 W		Fanon continued	
Feb 3 F		<b>Herbert Marcuse</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 76-97, 110-119                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Includes excerpt from Marcuse, Ch. 1 of <i>One-Dimensional Man</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Marcuse, Ch. 4 of <i>One-Dimensional Man</i> (1964)(CP)</li> </ul>	Critical Theory
Feb 6 M		Marcuse continued	
Feb 8 W		<b>Zygmunt Bauman</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bauman, "Modernity and the Holocaust" (1989) (CP)</li> </ul>	

Feb 10 F		<b>EXAM ONE</b>		
Feb 13 M	<b>Representation, Identity, Ideology, State</b>	<b>Walter Benjamin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pg. 90 (“significant others”)</li> <li>• Benjamin, excerpt from “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction” (1955)(BB)</li> </ul>	Critical Theory, Marxism, Cultural Studies	
Feb 15 W		Benjamin continued		
Feb 17 F		<b>Louis Althusser</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Althusser, excerpt from “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses” (1971) (BB)</li> </ul>	Structuralism, Marxism	
Feb 27 M		<b>Frederic Jameson</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 381-390</li> <li>• Jameson, excerpt from “Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism” (1984)(BB)</li> </ul>	Marxism, Postmodernism, Cultural Studies	
Feb 29 W		Jameson continued		
Mar 2 F		<b>Stuart Hall</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hall, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora” (1990)(BB)</li> </ul>	Marxism, Postmodernism, Cultural Studies	
Mar 5 M		Hall continued		
Mar 7 W		<b>Pierre Bourdieu</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 445-460, 474-483                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Includes excerpt from “Outline of a Sociological Theory of Art Perception” (1968)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bourdieu, “The Habitus and the Space of Life-Styles,” <i>Distinction</i> (1984)(CP)</li> </ul>	Contemporary Syntheses	
Mar 9 F		Bourdieu continued		
Mar 12 M		Bourdieu continued		
Mar 14 W		Bourdieu continued		
Mar 16 F			<b>EXAM TWO</b>	
Mar 19 M		<b>Knowledge, Power, Subjects</b>	<b>Dorothy Smith</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 318-332                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Includes excerpts from Smith, <i>Institutional Ethnography</i> (2005) and <i>The Everyday World as Problematic</i> (1987)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Smith, “Women’s Experience as a Radical Critique of Sociology,” <i>The Conceptual Practices of Power</i> (1990) (CP)</li> </ul>	Feminism
Mar 21 W			Smith continued	
Mar 23 F	<b>Donna Haraway</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Haraway, “Teddy Bear Patriarchy” (CP)</li> </ul>		Feminism, postmodernism, cultural studies	
Mar 26 M	<b>Edward Said</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 620-642                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Includes excerpt from Said, “Orientalism” (1978)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Postcolonial Studies	
Mar 28 W	Said continued			
Mar 30 F	<b>Michel Foucault</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appelrouth &amp; Edles, pp. 390-413                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Includes excerpt from Foucault, <i>Discipline and Punish</i> (1975)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		Poststructuralism, Discourse Analysis	
Apr 2 M	<b>Michel Foucault</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>History of Sexuality</i>, Part One and Chapter 1 of Part Two</li> </ul>			

		(pp. 1-35)	
Apr 4 W		<b>Michel Foucault</b> • <i>History of Sexuality</i> , Chapter 2 of Part Two, Part Three, Chapters 1 & 2 of Part Four (pp. 36-102)	
Apr 6 F		NO CLASS	
Apr 9 M		<b>Michel Foucault</b> • <i>History of Sexuality</i> , Part Five (133-159)	
Apr 11 W		Foucault continued	
Apr 13 F		Foucault continued	

### Note on the textbook by Appelrouth & Edles

- I have selected this textbook because it provides helpful analysis and context along with excerpts from the writing of theorists being discussed. When reading and taking notes from this book it is crucial to distinguish the description and analysis written by Appelrouth & Edles from the excerpts of social theorists' writing.
  - Much of the writing for this course will require you to pay attention to, and show understanding of, the social theorists' texts above all.
  - In exams and written assignments, you will be expected to properly indicate whose words or ideas you are citing and discussing – that of Appelrouth & Edles or the particular social theorist.
  - Note that prior to each excerpt in the book, there is an “Introduction” to the reading written by Appelrouth & Edles. Do not confuse the introduction with the excerpt itself.
- The book contains short, boxed sections called “Significant Others.” If one of these boxed sections is included in your assigned pages, you *do not* have to read it unless specified.

### **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.
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### **APPENDIX (list of required readings, in addition to Appelrouth & Edles text)**

#### Course packet table of contents

1. Smith, Dorothy. "Women's Experience as a Radical Critique of Sociology," Ch. 1 in *The Conceptual Practices of Power: A Feminist Sociology of Knowledge*. University of Toronto Press, 1990.
2. Bourdieu, Pierre. "The Habitus and the Space of Life-Styles," Ch. 3 in *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*. Harvard University Press, 1984. Pp. 169-225
3. Bauman, Zygmunt. "Modernity and the Holocaust." Pp. 428-447 (ch. 30) in *Contemporary Sociological Theory, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, Calhoun et al. (eds), Blackwell Publishing, 2007. [Orig published in *Modernity and the Holocaust*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1989.]
4. Fanon, Frantz. Chs. 1, 5, and 8 (pp.17-40, 109-140, 223-232) from *Black Skin, White Masks*. Grove Press, 1967.
5. Haraway, Donna. "Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936," in *Primate Visions*. New York: Routledge, 1989. Pp. 26-58
6. Marcuse, Herbert. "The Closing of the Universe of Discourse", Ch. 4 in *The One-Dimensional Man*, Boston: Beacon Press, 1981 [1964]. 84-120.

#### Readings linked to on blackboard:

1. Becker, Howard. "Becoming a Marijuana User," *American Journal of Sociology* 59 (3): 235-242, 1953.
2. Hall, Stuart. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora," pp. 222-237 in *Identity: Community, Culture, Difference*. Jonathan Rutherford, ed. London: Lawrence & Wishart, 1990.
3. Althusser, Louis. Excerpt from "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses." Orig. published in *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*, Monthly Review Press, 1971.
4. Benjamin, Walter. Excerpt from "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," Orig. published in English in *Illuminations*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1968; orig. published in Germany 1955.

5. Jameson, Frederic. Excerpt from "Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism," Orig. published in *New Left Review* I/146, 1984.