

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE/SECTION: SOCIOLOGY 333: L01 Contemporary Sociological Theory  
SESSION: Winter 2013  
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Amal Madibbo  
OFFICE: SS 948  
CONTACT: Phone: 220-6512: Email: [amadibbo@ucalgary.ca](mailto:amadibbo@ucalgary.ca)  
OFFICE HOURS: MW: 13:00 - 13:45 or by appointment  
LECTURES: WF: 14:00-14:50  
LOCATION: EDC 287

SOCIOLOGY WEBSITE: <http://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

BLACKBOARD: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> or my.ucalgary.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will focus on contemporary social theorizing, with an emphasis on how social researchers theorize about such issues as power, agency, social structure, social in/equalities, and revolution. The work of such theorists as Bourdieu, Gramsci, Dubois, El Saadawi, Giddens and Freire will be examined. The discussions and the theoretical perspectives –both from the North and the Global South- provide diverse ways in which to analyze the working of the structures of in/equalities that characterize post-colonial societies. We will also discuss the merits of a more integrated sociological theorizing. By the end of the course students will be able to effectively integrate sociological theory and concepts within the contexts of concrete empirical issues and substantiate arguments by locating them within a school/s of sociological theory.

**The class format** is primarily organized around lectures and discussions of the assigned readings. As well there will, on occasions, be DVD/video documentaries and guest speakers.

**The instructor may make some changes to the content, format and/or time of the course.**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION:**

The final grade for this course will be based two (2) mid-term exams, a final exam, a term paper outline, a major term paper, and invited lectures.

**Examinations**

Two (2) **mid-term examinations**: the first will be held in class on **Monday February 4<sup>th</sup>** and the second on **Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>**.

**The final exam** will be held during the Official Exams Period.

These exams questions are based on the required readings, lecture note, documentaries we watch in class, and invited lectures. These exams **are not cumulative** and will consist of short answer questions, multiple choice questions and short-essay questions.

### **Term Paper Outline**

A term paper outline of one (1) double-spaced page (12 font, Times New Roman), not including the bibliography, **is due on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>**. The term paper outline identifies the research topic you select for the major term paper, your main argument, your research questions, and how you plan to conduct your research. It also includes a bibliography (a list of 4-6 sources you plan to use). The sources may include journal articles, book chapters, one (1) internet source or one (1) film/documentary. The bibliography incorporates two (2) assigned readings. More than one chapter from the same book count as one chapter.

### **Major Term Paper**

The paper will be between six and eight pages (12 font, Times New Roman), not including the bibliography and the title page, and is due on **Friday April 12<sup>th</sup>**. This paper will analyze/critique a topic that you find interesting, provoking or problematical. You may, for example, choose to focus on how one or several theorists discussed in the course approach a central concept such as power, agency, structure, revolution, or compare how two theorists approach questions of conflict, equity, democracy, or freedom. Another possible topic might be viewing the utility of contemporary sociological thought for social order or social change by examining the relevance of the work of one or several authors for a current international event or for other issues such as work or education.

Your paper needs to include:

- 1. A Title Page:** Consists of your name and student number, the topic's title, the course's title and number, and the instructor's name.
- 2. An Introduction:** Outlines the overview/summary of the main themes, issues and objectives discussed in the paper.
- 3. Analysis:** Analyzes the main concepts, themes and issues. Incorporates the relevant literature review. You need to be analytical (not only describing concepts and themes, but explaining why and how they occur).
- 4. A Conclusion:** Summarizes the topic discussed and the findings of your research.
- 5. A Bibliography:** A list of the sources used in the paper (7-9 sources). The sources may include journal articles, book chapters, two (2) internet sources or one (1) film/documentary. The bibliography incorporates three to four (3-4) sources from the course's materials (at least 2 articles). More than one chapter from the same book count as one chapter.

**Referencing:** Paper should consist of proper referencing in the body of the paper, as well as in the bibliography section at the end of the paper. You may choose to use the style of the American Psychological Association (APA) below:

An example of a style you may wish to use in the body of your paper is the following:

**Example:** Amin (1976) found that social structures are shaped by capitalism and unequal development.

Examples of a style you may wish to use in the bibliography section at the end of the paper:

**Examples:**

1. Kivisto, P. (2008). *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
2. Durkheim, E. (1972). The Field of Sociology. In A. Giddens (Ed.), *Emile Durkheim: Selected writings* (pp. 51-68). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

More discussion and details on the paper will occur in class.

If an extension has not been granted the late penalty for all assignments is a deduction of 10%, from the mark you earn on your assignment, per day if it is late.

**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.

Hand in hard copies of your papers. The instructor will not accept e-copies of your papers.

**Breakdown, Weight, and Due Date of Student Evaluation**

<i>Assignment / Exams</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>% Grade</i>
Mid-term Exam 1	Monday, February 4	20 %
Mid-term Exam 2	Monday, March 4	20%
Term Paper Outline	Friday March 15	05 %
Final Exam	During OEP	25 %
Final Term Paper	Friday April 12	30 %

## Letter Grade Assignment

95 - 100 = A+	67 - 71 = C +
90 - 94 = A	63 - 66 = C
85 - 89 = A -	59 - 62 = C -
80 - 84 = B +	54 - 58 = D +
76 - 79 = B	50 - 53 = D
72 - 75 = B -	00 - 49 = F

**Emergency evacuations:** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by [*check link to find assembly point for your building*] -- <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/75>

**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.

**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).

**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 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.

**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.

**COURSE READINGS**

**REQUESTED TEXTBOOK:**

Mann, Douglas. 2011. Understanding Society: A Survey of Modern Social Theory (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Course Readings that are not included in the requested textbook are posted on blackboard (<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> or my.ucalgary.ca)

## **CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Week 1: Understanding Society**

January 9 & 11:

Maan, D. 2011. "An Introduction to Social Theory" (Chapter 1, pp. 1-5 & "paradigms of Social Theory" (pp. 20-22). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

### **Week 2: The Sociology of Bourdieu**

January 14, 16 & 18

Maan, D. 2011. "Pierre Bourdieu and the Varieties of Capital" (Chapter 3), (pp. 85-89). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

&

Jenkins, R. 2002. "Practice, Habitus and Field". In Pierre Bourdieu (pp. 66-102). London: Routledge.

### **Week 3: Structure and Agency: Anthony Giddens**

January 21, 23 & 25

Maan, D. 2011. "Human Agency vs Social Structure" (pp. 144-145) & "Anthony Giddens on Agency and Structure" (pp. 177-181). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

&

Munch, R. 1994. "Power and Agency: Anthony Giddens's Theory of Structuration". In R. Munch. Sociological Theory (pp. 175-199). Chicago: Nelson-Hall

### **Week 4: A New Marxist Theorist: Antonio Gramsci**

January 28 & 30 & February 1

Simon, R. 1991. "Gramsci's Political Thought: An Introduction". In Gramsci's Political Thought (pp. 11-42). London: Lawrence & Wishart.

### **Week 5: A Sociology for a Revolution 1**

February 4: **Midterm Exam 1**

February 6 & 8

McLaren, P. 2000. "A pedagogy for the Revolution of our Time". Che Guevara, Paulo Freire and the Pedagogy of Revolution (pp. 183-207).

### **Week 6: A Sociology for a Revolution 2**

February 11 & 13:

**Documentary:** Berry, M. (Director). 2007. The True Story of Che Guevara (91 mins). Hermosa Beach, CA: Wild Eyes Productions.

February 15

McMillan, S. (Interview by). 1999. A conversation with Nawal el Saadawi. Retrieved August 20, 2012 from: <http://www.minimumsecurity.net/aboutme/writing/nes.htm>

**February 17-24: Reading Week. No lectures**

**Week 7: Postmodernism**

February 25 & 27 & March 1

Maan, D. 2011. "Postmodernism: Political Economy and Communications" (Chapter 8). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

&

Maan, D. 2011. "Postmodernism: Time, Space and Culture" (Chapter 9). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

&

**Documentary** –Leonard, A. (Narrated by). 2007. The Story of Stuff. Washington, DC. & Berkeley, CA: Free Range Studios: <http://www.storyofstuff.org/movies-all/story-of-stuff/>

**Week 8: Globalization 1**

March 4: **Midterm Exam 2**

March 6 & 8

Maan, D. 2011. "Globalization, Macdonalization and Corporatism" (Chapter 12). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

**Week 9: Globalization 2**

March 11, 13 & 15

Man, G. 2007. "Racialization of Gender, Work, and Transnational Migration: The Experience of Chinese Immigrant Women in Canada". In S. Hier and S. Bolaria (Eds.). Race and Racism in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Canada (pp. 235-252). Peterborough: Broadview Press.

&

DuBois, W.E.B. 1996. The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study (pp. 229-256). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press

&

**Documentary** – Bhavnani, K-K. 2006. The Shape of Water. USA: Kum-Kum Bhavnani Productions

**Term Paper Outline due on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 10: Globalization 3**

March 18, 20 & 22

Maan, D. 2011. "The Global Village" (Chapter 11). A Survey of Modern Social Theory. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

**Week 11: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 1**

March 25 & 27

**Documentary:** Achbar, M. & Abbott, J. 2003. *The Corporation*. Vancouver: Big Picture Media Corporation.

March 29: Good Friday – no lecture

**Week 12: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 2**

April 1, 3 & 5

Fuchs, S. and Plass, P. 1999. "Sociology and Social Movements". Contemporary Sociology, 28(3): 271 – 277.

**Week 13: Contemporary Theory in Practice Session 3**

April 8, 10 & 12

Lecture notes – no readings assigned

**Final Term Paper due Friday April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**April 15:** Lecture notes – no readings assigned