



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts

Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

Soci 333 Contemporary Sociological Theory

• Winter 2019

• T/Th 9:30-10:45

• SA 121

Instructor: Dr. Ariel Ducey

Office Hours: Wednesdays, usually 12-2, but check availability and make appointments at calendly.com/aducey

Office: Social Sciences Bldg, Room 938

Contact info: aducey@ucalgary.ca, 220-5054

Course 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.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- 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

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

There is one book for this course which students must purchase:

Roberta Garner and Black Hawk Hancock. *Social Theory, Volume II: From Modern to Contemporary Theory*, University of Toronto Press, 2014. Third edition.

Some additional readings will be provided on D2L.

You are required to bring the day's reading/text with you to class. The course averages about 30 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 and on D2L 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.

Note on the textbook by Hancock & Garner

- 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 Garner & Hancock 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 Hancock & Garner or the particular social theorist.
 - Note that there are introductions by Garner & Hancock at the beginning of each chapter, each theorist, and prior to each reading excerpt. Do not confuse these introductions with the excerpts themselves.

Methods of Evaluation

Informal assignments and quizzes

I will occasionally give informal assignments during the term, especially to prepare for and carry out group work in class. Any preparatory or written work will be graded out of 10 points, with possible scores of 0, 5, 8, and 10 only. Participation in group work may be graded separately, with 10 points given to everyone who participates.

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. If you have been keeping up with reading and attending class and you find the quizzes difficult, you should see me to discuss the course and general strategies for approaching the course materials. You will be given your "score" (answers that are right/wrong) on the quizzes for your information, but in terms of the course grade, quizzes will be scored out of 10 points, with possible scores of 0, 5, 8, and 10 only – reflecting correctness but also effort.

Exams

There will be three exams in this course: two in-class midterms and a take-home final. Exams will include a variety of question types, for instance including true or false questions, 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.

Final Exam Information

The final exam is a take-home final and will be cumulative. It may include a variety of question types, for instance true or false questions, short answer, and essay questions. It will be due April 23rd, on D2L.

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

1. Midterm one 25%
2. Midterm two 30%
3. Take-home final exam 35%
4. Informal assignments and quizzes 10%

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	95-100	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 94.99%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	65 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	60 – 64.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	55 – 59.99%	1.7	
D+	50 – 54.99%	1.3	
D	45 – 49.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<45%	0	unsatisfactory performance

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for

reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Contacting the Instructor

I am available by appointment (calendly.com/aducey). My office is Room 938, Social Sciences Building. My office phone number is 220-5054, and my email address is aducey@ucalgary.ca.

In general, I prefer that you contact me by email for administrative purposes only. For instance, you may email me to schedule an appointment outside of office hours. Students with substantive questions should schedule an appointment.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Social Sciences Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Research Ethics

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 Faculty 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

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another

assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.

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 can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.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).

Student Representation

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)

Course Schedule (subject to revision)

All readings are from the Garner & Hancock reader except those with an *, which will be posted on D2L

Date	Readings
Jan 9 Th	Introduction to the course
Jan 15 T	<p>Structural Functionalism</p> <p>Excerpts from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> *Talcott Parsons, "An Outline of the Social System" (1961) and "Illness and the Role of the Physician" (1951) *Robert Merton, "Manifest and Latent Functions" (1949)
Jan 17 Th	Structural functionalism continued & begin structural marxism
Jan 22 T	<p>Structural Marxism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> *Herbert Marcuse, <i>One-Dimensional Man</i> (1964) [Chapter 1]
Jan 24 Th	<p>Structural Marxism continued</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> *Louis Althusser, excerpt from "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (1971)
Jan 29 T	<p>Michel Foucault</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Garner & Hancock pp. 365-377 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpts from <i>Discipline and Punish</i> (1975)
Jan 31 Th	<p>Foucault continued</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> *"17 March 1976" Lecture
Feb 5 T	<p>Foucault continued</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Garner & Hancock pp. 378-386 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from "The Subject and Power" (1982)
Feb 7 Th	Midterm 1
Feb 12 T	<p>Erving Goffman</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Garner & Hancock pp. 339-350 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from <i>The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life</i> (1959)
Feb 14 Th	<p>Goffman continued</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Garner & Hancock pp. 350-362 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpts from <i>Frame Analysis</i> (1974) and "The Interaction Order" (1982)
Feb 26 T	<p>Frantz Fanon</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Garner & Hancock pp. 458-462 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> (1961) *Fanon, chs. 1, 5, 8 from <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> (1967)
Feb 28 Th	<p>Fanon continued</p> <p>Eward Saïd</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Garner & Hancock pp. 462-468 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from <i>Orientalism</i> (1978)
Mar 5 T	<p>Pierre Bourdieu</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Garner & Hancock pp. 389-406 Includes excerpts from <i>Sociology in Question</i> (1993) and <i>The Logic of Practice</i> (1990)

Mar 7 Th	Pierre Bourdieu 1. Garner & Hancock pp. 406-416 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpts from <i>Distinction</i> (1979)
Mar 12 T	Pierre Bourdieu 1. *Reading TBA
March 14 Th	Midterm 2
Mar 19 T	Dorothy Smith 1. Garner & Hancock pp. 485-494 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from <i>The Conceptual Practices of Power</i> (1990)
Mar 21 Th	Judith Butler 1. Garner & Hancock pp. 494-502 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from <i>Bodies that Matter</i> (1993) Angela Davis 2. Garner & Hancock pp. 502-510 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from Lisa Lowe's interview of Angela Davis (1995)
Mar 26 T	Walter Benjamin 1. *Excerpt from "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (1936)
Mar 28 Th	Stuart Hall 1. Garner & Hancock pp. 419-431 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpts from "Encoding/Decoding" (1980) and "Old and New Identities, Old and New Ethnicities" (1991)
Apr 2 T	Stuart hall continued Raymond Williams 1. Garner & Hancock pp. 531-539 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes Excerpts from <i>Marxism and Literature</i> (1977)
Apr 4 Th	Arjun Appadurai 1. Garner & Hancock pp. 616-624 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy" (1990) Néstor Garcia Canclini 2. Garner & Hancock pp. 635-641 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from <i>Hybrid Cultures</i> (1995)
Apr 7 T	Frederic Jameson 1. Garner & Hancock pp. 531-539 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Excerpt from "Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism" (1984)
Apr 9 Th	Guy Debord 1. Garner & Hancock pp. 573-580 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpt from <i>The Society of the Spectacle</i> (1967) Jean Baudrillard 2. Garner & Hancock pp. 580-592 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpts from <i>Simulacra and Simulations</i> (1981) and "The Masses: The Implosion of the Social in the Media" (1985) Paul Willis 3. Garner & Hancock pp. 592-601 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes excerpts from <i>The Ethnographic Imagination</i> (2000)
April 23	Final exam due

