



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2021

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY			
Course Number	SOCI333		
Pre/Co-Requisites	SOCI331		
Instructor Name	Matt Patterson	Email	matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Please include "SOC333" in the subject of your e-mails. I aim to respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the working week. To ensure a quick response, it is best to keep e-mails simple and straight to the point.		
Office Location	Zoom	Office Hours	TBA
Telephone No.	403-220-5037		
TA Name	Erin Knox	TA Email	erin.knox@ucalgary.ca
TA Office Location	N/A	TA Office Hours	TBD
Class Dates	January 11 to April 15, 2021		
Class Times	Pre-recorded lectures available via D2L		
Class Location	Online		

Course Description

This course is designed to give you an overview of some of the major concepts and theories that act as basic building blocks for sociological analysis and that tend to cut across different substantive areas of research. The course begins by addressing some preliminary questions that include "what is theory" (Week 1) and "how do you theorize" (Week 2).

After discussing these questions, the course moves to focus on core themes within contemporary sociological theory. We begin with micro-level topics that relate to individuals, their behavior, and their interactions in small group settings. In these discussions we will focus on theories related to social action (Week 3), the self (Week 4), and interactionism (Week 5).

In the second half of the course, we shift to more macro-level perspectives related to larger social groups and whole societies. In this part of the course we will consider how societies develop stable structures made of up distinct institutions and social roles (Weeks 6 and 7). We will also examine how

societies are divided by conflict, inequalities, and power differences (Weeks 8, 9, and 10). Finally, we will focus on the role of culture and how collective meanings shape both social structures and human behavior (Weeks 11 and 12).

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to provide students with:

- An in-depth understanding of several important theoretical concepts such as social action, social structure, culture, and power.
- The ability to theorize in sociology, including an understanding of how theory fits into empirical research.
- The ability to critically evaluate and synthesize existing sociological theory.
- The ability to write theoretically-informed analytic papers with original sociological theses.
- The ability to grasp and critically evaluate challenging readings.

Course Format

This course will be run entirely asynchronously. Pre-recorded lectures will be posted at the beginning of each week (corresponding to the schedule below). Office hour Q and A sessions will be held at regular times via zoom to go over the weekly material (see D2L for times). Attendance is encouraged, but not mandatory. One-on-one office hours can be arranged by appointment.

Course Materials

Readings

One to two essays or articles will be assigned each week. In some cases, these readings will be highly influential works that have shaped how sociologists understand a certain issue. In other cases, they may be less well known or more recent articles that nonetheless provide a good illustration of how sociologists incorporate certain theories or concepts in empirical research.

All these readings can be accessed online. See D2L for the weekly list of readings with links.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca).

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;

- Broadband internet connection.

To participate in office hours, students also require:

- A current and updated web browser;
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Webcam, built-in or external (optional);

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Assignment	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Test #1	February 12 th	20%
Test #2	March 19 th	20%
Test #3	April 16 th	15%
Paper #1	March 1 st	20%
Paper #2	April 5 th	20%
D2L Discussion	Multiple	5%

Tests

Three tests will evaluate your knowledge of the lecture and reading material at various points during the term. **The tests will not be cumulative.** All three tests will be in multiple choice format. Each test is weighted slightly differently depending on how much material it covers.

During test weeks, tests will appear on D2L on Thursday mornings and will be due by 11:59PM on the following Friday. Once you begin a test, you will have 75 minutes to complete it. Tests cannot be put on hold or completed over multiple sessions. To access the tests, select “Quizzes” under the “Assessments” menu on D2L.

Course material can be consulted during the test (e.g. readings and notes). However, non-course material and contact with other people, including other students in the course, are considered academic misconduct. See the section below entitled “Academic Misconduct” for more information.

Paper Assignments

There are two paper assignments. For each assignment a list of questions will be posted on D2L. The assignment involves choosing one of these questions and writing a response in the form of an argumentative essay with a clear thesis statement. Position papers should be a maximum of 1,500 words (or approximately 5 pages double-spaced at size 12 font). The paper should be submitted via a dropbox on D2L (found in the “Assessments” menu) and are due by the end of Monday March 1st and Monday April 9th, respectively. Additional information will be presented in class and posted on D2L.

Grade Reappraisal

Within one week of the date that the paper is returned, students seeking reappraisal of a paper assignment must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of the grade. 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. The re-assessed grade will be final and cannot be changed again.

Late Papers

Papers that are handed in after the due date without a valid reason (see below under Deferrals) will still be accepted, but a late penalty of -5% per day (including weekends) will be imposed.

D2L Discussion

Every week, discussion questions will be posted on D2L that relate to the lectures and readings. While only a small portion of your final grade (5%) the discussion questions are designed to help you better understand the material.

To access these questions, go to the “Communication” menu and select “Discussion”. You can respond to the initial questions, to other students’ responses, or start new threads to pose their own questions or raise new issues. All of these activities will count toward your discussion grade.

You do not need to participate every week, but the more frequent and significant your participation, the higher your participation grade. Participation grades are based on the following scheme:

- No participation 0/5
- Minimal participation 1 to 2/5
 - A single response, no significant contribution to discussion
- Satisfactory participation 3 to 4 /5
 - A few significant responses or regular responses of more limited significance
- Exceptional participation 5/5
 - Frequent participation that involves insightful questions and comments, pushes the discussion in new directions.

While students can also use the discussion boards to ask questions related to course format (e.g. about due dates, test format, etc.), participation grades are only given for posts that relate to course material.

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%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84%	3.3	
B	75 – 79%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69%	2.3	
C	63 – 66%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58%	1.3	
D	50 – 54%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Notes
1	Jan. 11-15	What is Theory?	
2	Jan. 18-22	Theorizing in Sociology	
3	Jan. 25-29	Agency, Practice, and Social Action	
4	Feb. 1-5	The Self and Identity	
5	Feb. 8-12	Social Interactions	Test #1 due by Friday, 11:59PM
	Feb. 14-20	Mid-Term Break	No lectures or readings
6	Feb. 22-26	Introducing Social Structure	
7	Mar. 1-5	Institutions and Networks	Paper #1 due by Monday, 11:59PM
8	Mar. 8-12	Capitalism and Class	
9	Mar. 15-19	Gender, Race, Intersectionality	Test #2 due by Friday, 11:59PM
10	Mar. 22-26	Power and the State	
11	Mar. 29-Apr. 1	Culture and Structure	
12	Apr. 5-9	Culture in Action	Paper #2 due by Monday, 11:59PM
13	Apr. 12-15	Conclusion	Test #3 due by Friday, 11:59PM

Other Important Information

Absences and Deferrals

Students who miss class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructor as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, the instructor 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.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at:

<https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferral-of-term-work-2020.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

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 can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
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 Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. 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.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Recording of Lectures

The audio or video recording of lectures and taking screenshots of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are not permitted without explicit authorization. The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the

Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure. For more information click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Publicly sharing lectures notes and exam questions on 3rd party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, Course Hero, etc. is not permitted. If you wish to use these helpful studying tools, make sure you adjust your privacy settings accordingly. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy. For more information, click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>.

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.html>

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

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

Libraries & Cultural Resources

To contact your librarian or find out about the resources and services available to sociology students go to the Sociology Library guide: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/sociology>

To access the main Library website go to: <https://library.ucalgary.ca>

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.