



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2022

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

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

COURSE TITLE: Contemporary Sociological Theory			
Course Number	Soci 333		
Pre/Co-Requisites	Soci 331		
Instructor Name	Wasif Ali	Email	wasif.ali1@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line and include your full name and student ID. Keep the email simple and straight for a quick response.		
Office Location		Office Hours	TBA
Telephone No.			
TA Name	J Overholser	TA Email	j.overholser@ucalgary.ca
TA Office Location		TA Office Hours	
Dates	January 10 to April 29, 2022		
Class Times	2:00 - 3:15 pm (Tuesdays and Thursdays)		
Class Location	KNB 126		

Course Description

Upon the completion of this course, students will gain a better understanding of what is theory and why theories are important for understanding social issues and problems in society.

In the first part of this course, students will gain an overview of major theories in Sociology and will develop an understanding of contemporary theoretical debates within a variety of sociological frameworks. Theoretical perspectives also inform and frame sociological research; students will also be able to learn how to develop a theoretical framework in academic research.

Students will learn more about structuralism, interactionism, and critical sociological perspectives in the initial lectures and readings. There are different waves and movements in society, students reading and thinking about those concepts in their daily life discussions; hence, globalization, race, racism, Marxism, Feminism, and Post-modernism theories are included in this course. Sociological theories have long been emphasizing the human-environment connection. Students taking this subject will be able to explain climate change, disasters, and environmental degradation through the lens of sociological

theories. They will gain a deeper understanding of the social and human aspects of sustainability debates. Additionally, students will get an understanding of how sociology is influencing social justice perspectives worldwide.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Enhance understanding of basic sociological frameworks and how they shape social structures and relations
- Connect classical theoretical discussions with contemporary social issues and debates
- Articulate an understanding of contemporary social issues with the lens of different theoretical perspectives
- Critically evaluate and synthesize existing sociological theory in order to develop theoretical frameworks for research
- Understanding the climate change, disasters and environmental issues with the various theoretical perspectives

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

Each week, some book resources will be used as well as research papers to gain a better understanding of the topic. Books and other resources are listed below.

Books:

1. Sociological Theory (Eighth edition)
Author: George Ritzer
https://ccsuniversity.ac.in/bridge-library/pdf/Sociological_Theory%20Ritzer.pdf
2. Contemporary Social Theory
Author: Roger Salerno
<https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/10.4324/9781003058830>

D2L site will be set up for this course, that contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials. PDF versions of recommended book will be available in the D2L, students will be able to download the reading material.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

- Add/Drop/Swap and Withdraw deadlines: Check the Student Centre
- Block Week: Monday – Friday, January 3 – 7, 2022
- Start of Classes: Monday, January 10, 2022
- Term Break, no classes: Sunday – Saturday, February 20 – 26, 2022
- End of Classes: Tuesday, April 12, 2022
- End of Term: Friday, April 29, 2022
- Alberta Family Day, no classes: Monday, February 21, 2022
- Good Friday, no classes: Friday, April 15, 2022
- Easter Monday, no classes, Monday, April 18, 2022

Week & Date	Class Topic	Required Readings
Week 01: Tuesday (Jan 11, 2022) Thursday (Jan 13, 2022)	Course Introduction Antecedents of Contemporary Social Theory	Complete a profile of yourself on D2L (add photo, short bio, experiences, and research interests) Contemporary Social Theory: Chapter 01 Pages 01 -13
Week 02: Tuesday (Jan 18, 2022) Thursday (Jan 20, 2022)	Structuralism and beyond	Contemporary Social Theory: Chapter 02 Page 14-29 Pages (30- 42)
Week 03: Tuesday (Jan 25, 2022) Thursday (Jan 27, 2022)	Structuralism and beyond	Contemporary Social Theory: Chapter 02 Page 14-29 Pages (30- 42)
Week 04: Tuesday (Feb 01, 2022) Thursday (Feb 03, 2022)	Symbolic Interactionism	Sociological Theory: Chapter 10 Pages (351 – 388)
Week 05: Tuesday (Feb 08, 2022) Thursday (Feb 10, 2022)	Ethnomethodology	Sociological Theory: Chapter 11 Pages (391-414)
Week 06: Tuesday (Feb 15, 2022) Thursday (Feb 19, 2022)	Neo- Marxian Theory	Sociological Theory: Chapter 08 Pages (297 -328)
Week 07:	Term Break/	No classes, lectures or readings
Week 08: Tuesday (Mar 01, 2022) Thursday (Mar 03, 2022)	Critical theories of Race and Racism	Sociological Theory: Chapter 18 Pages (652-661)
Week 09: Tuesday (Mar 08, 2022)		Sociological Theory: Chapter 17

Thursday (Mar 10, 2022)	Postmodernism and Foucault	Pages (605 - 640)
Week 10: Tuesday (Mar 15, 2022) Thursday (Mar 17, 2022)	Postmodernism and Foucault	Sociological Theory: Chapter 17 Pages (605 - 640)
Week 11: Tuesday (Mar 22, 2022) Thursday (Mar 24, 2022)	Contemporary Feminist Theories	Sociological Theory: Chapter 13 Pages (454 -495)
Week 12: Tuesday (Mar 29, 2022) Thursday (Mar 31, 2022)	Social Sustainability	https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/9/1/68
Week 13: Tuesday (April 05, 2022) Thursday (April 07, 2022)	Ecological Modernisation theory	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003061069-10/ecological-modernization-social-theory-butte
Week 14: Tuesday (April 12, 2022) Thursday (April 14, 2022)	Discussion Course Wrap-up	This week, students will focus on their last assignment, but they will also have the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns with the instructor.

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Assignments	Due (11:59 pm MT)	Weight
1. Course Engagement	On-going	10%
2. Review paper (Individual)	February 16, 2022	25%
3. Digital Story (Group)	March 23, 2022	25%
4. Take home exam	April 14, 2022	40%

Assignment 1: Course Engagement (10%) – Due date: Ongoing

Students are expected to engage in class activities and discussions throughout the course. Completion of all class activities is required for the student to receive full marks for course engagement. Learning activities will include weekly group discussions, formulating questions, and creating posters/infographics.

Assessment Criteria:

Course engagement marks will be a combination of your self-assessment (5%) and the instructor's assessment (5%).

Self-assessment will be based on participation and engagement, including consistent class attendance, group poster/infographic presentation, participation in class activities, professionalism and respectful engagement in class, contributions to class discussions and learnings, evidence of having completed assigned readings, and the ability to pose questions and provide constructive feedback to peers.

Instructor's assessment criteria includes evidence of students having completed assigned readings and submission of poster/infographic.

A grading rubric will be posted on D2L.

Assignment 2 (Individual assignment): Review paper submission (25%)

Due Date: February 16, 2022

Students will explore a contemporary social issue/problem of their own interest. It requires them to review existing literature and write a paper based on their search. This review will introduce and establish the significance of the topic, its theoretical foundation and related questions. Students are expected to explore different theoretical perspectives around the topic and to report their findings in the form of a literature review. It is also expected that students will report their critical reflection and arguments in the paper.

- Select a topic
- Explore different theoretical perspectives from the existing literature
- Take advantage of using the latest scholarly resources
- Review paper will consist of 4 to 5 pages (1000-1250 words)
- Sections include introduction, research question, review of literature and conclusion
- APA style will be used for referencing

Assessment criteria:

Assessment will be based on the clarity of topic, demonstration of research questions, quality of literature review and presentation of theoretical perspectives.

A grading rubric will be posted on D2L.

Assignment 3 (Group Assignment): Digital Story (25%)

Due Date: March 23, 2022

This is a group assignment; after the review paper submission, students will have a few topics and literature reviews in groups. Students will choose a topic and create a digital story that explores a current social issue within a given theoretical framework.

Digital story will include images, photos, drawings, symbols, spoken words and/or music to explore your selected topic. Digital stories should demonstrate creativity, evidence of critical thinking, and deep reflection on the issue or topic. The digital story should be approximately three to five minutes in length. A variety of formats may be used (Zoom recording, PowerPoint, iMovie, Podcast, digital narrative, etc.)

Groups will have the opportunity to share their digital story with their peers during the class. More details about this assignment, expectations and grading criteria will be provided and discussed in class.

Assessment Criteria:

In evaluating the digital story, the following components will be considered:

- Social issue
- Explore and learn
- Content – script
- Theoretical perspectives
- Image - audio - video – use of technology and demonstration
- Concluding thoughts and reflections

A grading rubric will be posted on D2L.

All group members will receive the same grade for the assignment.

Assignment 4 (Individual Assignment): Take home exam (40%)

Due Date: April 14, 2022

The final assignment will be a take-home exam. Students need to answer the questions in accordance with the spirit of the course.

- It will cover all course materials, both readings and lectures.
- Instructor will provide the questions by March 31, 2021
- Questions will be placed on D2L
- Students will submit their file via D2L
- Students are responsible for uploading the right file.
- Use APA referencing style
- Final submission will be due by the April 14, 2021

A grading rubric will be posted on D2L.

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+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

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 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.

Students May be Audio or Video Recorded

Class activities will not be recorded (Audio – Video). If needed, prior permission will be taken from students.

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/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> 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.

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>

Absences and Deferrals

To ensure that assignments are graded and returned to students in a timely fashion, late assignments will not be accepted. Any late submission resulting from exceptional or unavoidable circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the instructor. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor as soon as possible in these cases.

For more details please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-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://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.

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:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/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.

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 Representation

The Graduate Student Association VP Academic can be contacted at vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the GSA, please visit this link:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/graduate-students-association-gsa-grad.html>

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>

Safe walk

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.

Revised November 2021