



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2021

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

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

COURSE TITLE: SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE			
Course Number	SOCI401		
Pre/Co-Requisites	SOCI313		
Instructor Name	Matt Patterson	Email	matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Please include "SOC401" 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	TBA	TA Email	N/A
TA Office Location	N/A	TA Office Hours	N/A
Class Dates	January 11 to April 15, 2021		
Class Times	Pre-recorded lectures available via D2L		
Class Location	Online		

Course Description

The sociologist Raymond Williams once wrote that "culture is one of the two or three most complicated words in the English language." Indeed, culture means many things to many people. It is also a topic on which fields across the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences claim some authority. In this course we will examine some of the ways that sociologists have attempted to define and study culture. In particular, we will focus on two highly interrelated approaches. The first treats culture as a collection of shared meanings (e.g. ideas, values, beliefs) and practices (e.g. behaviours, rituals) that bind a society together. Often called "cultural sociology", this approach uses culture to explain other social phenomena by showing how they are shaped by shared meanings and practices. There are cultural sociologies of finance (Zuckerman 1999), gender (Martin 1998), ethnicity (Brubaker et al. 2004), politics (Alexander 2010), and countless other topics. This approach will be the focus of Unit #1., which will take up the first five weeks of the term.

The second approach, often called “the sociology of culture”, treats culture as a distinct institutional arena that includes the production and consumption of art, entertainment, fashion, cuisine, music, and other “cultural” products. In this approach, culture is taken as the topic of analysis, the phenomena that needs to be explained. The sociology of culture seeks to answer questions such as how certain cultural products come to exist and why people are attracted to some cultural products while being repulsed by others (Bourdieu 1984; Bryson 1996). In many cases, attempts to explain the production and consumption of culture also emphasize shared meanings and practices. Thus, there is a significant overlap between cultural sociology and the sociology of culture. The sociology of culture will be the focus of Units #2 and #3 which will focus on cultural production and cultural consumption respectively.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- Develop an in-depth understanding of major sociological approaches to defining and studying culture.
- Ability to critically evaluate and synthesize existing sociological theory.
- Ability to write a theoretically-informed analytic paper with an original sociological thesis.
- Ability to grasp and critically evaluate challenging readings.
- Oral communication skills through group and class discussion.

Course Format

This course will be run as a hybrid of synchronous and asynchronous learning. Pre-recorded lectures will be posted at the beginning of each week (corresponding to the schedule below). In addition to lectures, students should go on D2L to sign up for one of three group discussion times: Monday, Wednesday, or Friday (all from 11:00 to 11:50 AM).

Course Materials

Readings

One to two essays or articles will be assigned each week. 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	25%
Test #2	March 19 th	20%
Test #3	April 16 th	15%
Research Proposal	April 12 th	30%
Group Discussion	Weekly	10%

Tests

There will be three tests corresponding to each of the lecture units. **The tests will not be cumulative.** All tests will involve multiple choice questions and cover material in both the lectures and the readings. Note that each test is weighted slightly differently based on the amount of material in each unit.

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.

Research Proposal

In the research proposal, you will be asked to describe a potential research project that will examine a particular cultural object or phenomenon. This proposal should include an introduction that includes a central research question (or set of questions), a literature review that provides a brief literature review that sets up the research question, and a methodology section that describes how you propose to answer your research question. The proposal should be a maximum of 1,500 words (or approximately 5 pages double-spaced at size 12 font) and is due on Monday, April 12th by 11:59PM. Additional information will be 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.

Group Discussion

Group discussions are the one synchronous component of this class and will be held via Zoom (see link on D2L). The class will be divided into three groups that meet on either Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 11:00 to 11:50 AM. You can sign up for your preferred day on D2L. While attending these discussion sessions contributes to your course grade, the sessions are also designed to help you better understand course material and interact directly with the professor and other students.

Each week, group discussions will focus on one of the assigned readings. Relevant discussion questions will be posted on D2L at least one week prior to discussion sessions. Students should do the readings and think of responses to the questions prior to each session.

Discussion sessions will be divided into two parts. In the first half of the session, students will form smaller breakout groups of 4 or 5 and brainstorm answers to all of the discussion questions. One group member should record the answers to questions and e-mail them to the professor at the end of the session. These answers will be used to assign group discussion grades. In the second half of the session, the entire discussion group will return and we will take up the answers to all of the questions.

Your group discussion grade is determined by the number of sessions you attend. If for some reason you are unable to attend group discussion one week, you can make up the credit by submitting your own answers to the discussion questions. Please e-mail them directly to the professor.

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
Unit #1: Culture, Meaning, and Practice			
1	Jan. 11-15	What is Culture?	
2	Jan. 18-22	Interpretation and Thick Description	
3	Jan. 25-29	Bodies, Habitus, and Cultural Reproduction	
4	Feb. 1-5	The Culture of Poverty and Toolkits	
5	Feb. 8-12	Boundaries, Categorization, and Valuation	Test #1 due by Friday, 11:59PM
	Feb. 14-20	Mid-Term Break	No lectures, readings, or discussion
Unit #2: The Production of Culture			
6	Feb. 22-26	Cultural Industries	
7	Mar. 1-5	High Culture and the Art World	
8	Mar. 8-12	The Field of Cultural Production	
9	Mar. 15-19	Creativity, Innovation, and Diffusion	Test #2 due by Friday, 11:59PM
Unit #3: Cultural Consumption			
10	Mar. 22-26	Consumer Culture	
11	Mar. 29-Apr. 1	Distinction and Cultural Capital	
12	Apr. 6-9	Omnivores and Authenticity	
13	Apr. 12-15	Conclusion	Research Proposal due by Monday, 11:59PM 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.