



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2021

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

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

COURSE TITLE: Sociology of the Body			
Course Number	SOC 407		
Pre/Co-Requisites	SOC 313, SOC 321		
Instructor Name	Liza McCoy	Email	mccoy@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	I answer emails within one business day, often sooner.		
Office Location	N/A	Office Hours	Thursday 11-12; and by appointment
Telephone No.	N/A		
Class Dates	January 12 – April 15, 2021		
Class Times	Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30 – 4:45 pm		
Class Location	Online		

Course Description

Bodies are always there, in our lives and in society, although they have often been oddly absent in sociology. In recent years there has been an increased interest in bringing bodies (back) into sociology, extending our ability to recognize, theorize and empirically investigate the embodied and sensory character of human social practice and experience. This includes attention to ordinary practices of everyday life, as well as to the ways bodies are known and governed through contemporary discourses and modes of rule; it also involves examination of the ways that social inequalities are generated – and can be resisted or transformed – at the level of the body.

In this course we will explore a range of sociological theories and analytic approaches, and we will read empirical articles examining various social practices and experiences related to embodiment, in areas such as gender, racialization, health and illness, adornment, appearance, sport, body modification, and employment. We will work collaboratively with these resources to analyze embodied practices and discuss contemporary social issues, and each student will carry out an individual project of empirical research, using in-depth interviewing techniques.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Summarize, explain and critically discuss different sociological theories and analytic approaches relevant to the sociology of the body.
- Use these different sociological theories and analytic approaches to examine and analyze social practice and experience.
- Read and understand professional-level articles and be able to pick out, summarize and discuss the main information.
- Plan and conduct an in-depth, ethnographic interview focused on embodied practice and experience.
- Develop original, theoretically informed analysis based on interview data.
- Work collaboratively with others to develop analyses of contemporary social phenomena.

Course Format

This course will meet synchronously during scheduled class time on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It will involve lectures and class discussions/small group work. As this is an advanced seminar, regular attendance and active participation are key ingredients for both individual success and a stimulating collective experience. Assignment guidelines and some lecture slides will be posted in D2L, but this material will not fully replicate the lectures, practice sessions and class discussions taking place during synchronous sessions.

Learning Resources

1) Chris Shilling, *The Body and Social Theory*, 3rd edition (Los Angeles: Sage, 2012). You can order Kindle editions of this book online for under \$20.00. You can also get the book from the University of Calgary bookstore.

2) Required articles and book chapters available in D2L.

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 taking online, remote and blended courses 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;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

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

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The course schedule will be posted in the D2L course site.

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

First writing assignment	10%
Midterm writing assignment	25%
Research paper	35%
Final writing assignment	10%
Article summaries	10%
Seminar participation	10%

First assignment: This is a short (3-4 page) description of your own embodied practice or body technique of everyday life. Guidelines will be discussed in class and posted in D2L. *Due January 26.*

Midterm writing assignment: This is a set of 2-4 essay questions which will give you the opportunity to synthesize, work with, and critically discuss course materials. You will have two weeks to work on the assignment. *Due February 29.*

Research project and paper: You will conduct one in-depth, qualitative interview with someone who has firsthand knowledge of a particular embodied practice or experience, leading to a paper (12-15 pp.) presenting and discussing what you have learned. Detailed instructions for planning, conducting, analyzing and writing up your research will be given in class and posted in D2L. A short, written proposal for your research (identifying the topic of your planned interview) is *due on February 11* and must be approved by me before you can conduct your interview. You will be asked to speak informally in small group sessions about your research experience and your findings. *Research paper due March 29.*

Final writing assignment: This is a set of 1-2 essay questions which will give you the opportunity to synthesize, work with, and critically discuss course materials. *Due April 15.*

Article notes/summaries: You may submit summaries of up to 5 assigned articles throughout the semester. Each article summary should be about 1 page (single space) and is worth 2%. To receive credit, the summary must be submitted online by 12 pm on the day the article is to be discussed in class. Guidelines for what to include will be discussed in class and provided in D2L.

Seminar participation: Most weeks, there will be one small-group learning activity for which participation is recorded. You will receive credit (1%) each time you participate in one of these activities, up to a possible total of 10. (Break-out discussions will be a regular feature of the course, but only one session per week will count for participation credit. For-credit group activities will not always be announced in advance.)

Final Exam Information

There is no final exam.

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.

Late Submissions and Deferrals

If you are unable to complete and submit an assignment by the due date for reasons of illness, personal emergency, or family affliction, please contact me **prior** to the due date. Late submissions which have not been approved by me may receive a late penalty up to 5% per day.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by you and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to me. 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 us, I will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date an assignment is returned, you may request reappraisal of your work and the grade assigned. Please make this request in writing (by email), explaining what you feel I missed or failed to appreciate about your work. I will reassess your paper and then book a time with you to discuss your work and my decision. I may raise your grade or decline to raise your grade, but I will never lower a grade as a result of a reassessment requested by a student.

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.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

As this is a seminar, with class discussion and small group activities, you will be asked to turn your camera on during those portions of the class; during lectures, it is fine for you to turn your camera off.

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students:

https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

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 lecture 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.