

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
Department of Sociology  
Sociology 731.01  
Doctoral Seminar in Sociological Theory  
Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. A.W. Frank  
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Office hours: Monday, by appointment, before or after class  
Course hours: Monday, 1-3:50  
Sociology Department web page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

Course objectives:

The seminar begins (weeks 2-4) with an intense overview of contemporary sociological theory. We then read three contemporary classics: Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*, Bourdieu's *Pascalian Meditations*, and Latour's *Reassembling the Social*. We're interested in specific concepts and ideas, but these are also vehicles to ask more general questions about what such notions as "sociological imagination" and "critical thinking" actually mean. We will be using the books as ways of learning to read theory. The seminar cannot possibly be comprehensive, but my intent is to be intensive.

The other major course objective is to refine students' writing. Students are expected to be writing at a professional level by the end of the seminar.

Required Texts:

- Hans Joas and Wolfgang Knöbel, *Social Theory: 20 Introductory Lectures*. (Cambridge)
- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (Vintage)
- Pierre Bourdieu, *Pascalian Meditations* (Stanford)
- Bruno Latour, *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory* (Oxford)

Course Requirements:

Final grades will be based on three components:

- An essay on Joas & Knöbel, due October 21.
- An essay comparing Bourdieu and Foucault, due November 18.
- An essay comparing Latour with Bourdieu and Foucault, due Monday, Dec. 9.

Each essay should be 2,000 to 2,500 words in length. Any standard citation style. References should be primarily to the assigned reading. No extra research/reading is required, but references to other writing are welcome. The focus should be a close reading of the assigned texts.

All essays should be typed or printed, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with pages numbered and stapled together. The student's name and ID# should appear in the upper corner of the first page. Please do not put papers in covers.

Seminar participation will not receive a specific grade, but participation will be the basis of deciding grades that fall between two marks, and excellence in participation can be rewarded.

Rewrites: Students can resubmit a revised version of written work that receives "B" or lower. Rewrites must be submitted within two weeks of the original submission. Grades will not be raised above a B+.

Keep a copy: As in every course, my friendly advice is to keep a printed copy of all work you submit. At some point you should have printed at least one draft to edit on paper; keep that too. Students who might want a letter of recommendation should keep copies of their written term work (again, good advice in all courses).

Lecture schedule and readings:

September 9 – Seminar introduction: What is *theory*?

September 16 – J&K, chapters 1-7, Parsons to ethnomethodology

September 23 – J&K, chapters 8-13, Symbolic interactionism, Habermas, and neo-Parsonian theories

September 30 – J&K, chapters 14-20, structuralism to pragmatism

October 7 – Foucault, Parts I & II

October 14 – Thanksgiving, no seminar

October 21 – Foucault, Parts III & IV

October 28 -- Bourdieu, chapters 1-3

November 4 – Bourdieu, chapters 4-6

November 11 – Reading Day, no seminar

November 18 – Latour, pp. 1-86

November 25 – Latour, pp. 87-156

December 2 – Latour, pp. 159-262

**Mandatory University Addenda:***Course Notes:*

1. 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 reconsidered mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.
2. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
3. 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-2-1.html>
4. 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."
5. Ethical Research: 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 Departmental 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.
6. Deferrals: If possible, please provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student. If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a "make up" test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology. 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 about deadlines, and where paperwork should be

taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp\\_Su\\_DFE\\_App.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf)

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

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.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).

7. Student Representation: The 2013-14 Students' Union VP Academic is [name]; email: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@ucalgary.ca). You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>
8. Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at {\*location\*}. Please check these assembly point locations for your other classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
9. 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.
10. Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, must register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 293, phone 403-220-8237). Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.