

SOCIOLOGY 9002b
Classical Sociological Theory
Winter 2018

Final as of Dec 12/2017

Dr Scott Schaffer

Course Meetings: Mon 130pm to 430pm, SSC 5230

Office Hours: Mon 10am to 12pm and 445pm to 6pm, or by Skype appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

It is important for any graduate student in any discipline to have a solid understanding of the conceptual and historical foundations of that discipline. That is no truer for any discipline than sociology, where the history of our endeavour *is* predicated on the basis of theoretical responses to what appears on its face to be a simple question: namely, *what exactly is the social?* The canonical thinkers of the discipline all worked to develop clear conceptions of what actually counted as the subject matter of sociological study (as opposed to political, economic, cultural, psychological, and biological, among other things), and understanding those theoretical conceptions of what makes what we do different from what is done on other floors in SSC is crucial to learning to do good sociological research.

As well, the things we all come here to study -- inequality, crime, health, education, social change, work, social changes across the life course, and so on -- are not immediate or unmediated things that we can observe in the world, like cells, chemical reactions, or voting behaviour. How we go about identifying, observing, measuring, and understanding the things we study in sociology depends completely upon how it is that we conceptualise them -- or, to put it another way, how we construct the sociological "objects" that we then bring to the social world to study. Good sociology, the kind you will learn how to produce during your graduate career here at UWO, does not simply take someone else's object wholesale; it should examine its components, its construction, its contours, to see if it is put together properly and appropriately, and to rethink its construction if need be, before deploying it in the process of a study. That takes theory.

The goal of this course is to enable you to link these two seemingly disparate elements of the discipline -- the abstract, almost philosophical part with the "dirty fingernails" side of measurement and analysis -- in what is the process of *theorizing*, or what could also be called "writing your theory chapter first". Our task will be to figure out how the classical sociological thinkers conceived of the social, and how we can utilise those conceptions in the pursuit of our own research. And much like "arts and crafts" days back in school, this will involve playing with the ideas and texts, poking them to see where they stretch, recolouring them, and putting them together in new ways. Through the workshops in this course, you will learn the skills you will need in order to build better sociological objects and gain a deeper understanding of the social world you came here to study.

COURSE TEXTS

There are two books that are required for the course. Most, if not all, can be purchased through Amazon.ca, Chapters/Indigo, or other online booksellers, and will be available through the UWO Bookstore.

Richard Swedberg, *The Art of Social Theory*.
Émile Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*.

There is also a required course packet available in the campus bookstore. Finally, additional materials detailing the relationship between theory and analysis will be available on OWL per the reading schedule below. Please be sure to bring *print copies of the readings* with you to class each week.

Finally, every participant in the course should have a good sociological dictionary and a good sociology writer's manual. If you are in need of either of these, or of identifying secondary examinations of the theorists we're reading this term, please ask and I can provide you a list.

ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Reading Memos

Each week, you are required to submit a *maximum* two-page memo engaging with the course readings. These memos are meant to be interrogations of the readings -- think pieces of a sort, showing that and how you have engaged with that week's readings. They can be what you found intriguing, interesting, confusing, or downright bizarre in the readings. But most importantly, they should be *what you want to discuss in that week's class session*. Memos need to be sent to everyone in the class by 6pm on the Saturday before each week's class. Everyone needs to read through the memos before the start of class on Monday.

Memos will not be marked on the basis of "quality" -- they don't have to be polished arguments -- but rather on the basis of the seriousness of your engagement with the readings. Since these are intended to serve as the basis of the discussion, no late memos will be accepted after Saturday at 6pm. If you have to miss a class, you are still expected to prepare a memo for that week on time.

Midterm Examination

There will be a take-home examination due at the end of Reading Week. This examination will ask you to write a number of short essays in response to questions derived from our workshops and discussions in the course. It will be due to Turnitin (via OWL) on Fri Feb 23/2018 at 6pm EST.

Class Discussion and Engagement

This course is a workshop course — a version of a seminar — meaning that the course will rely a great deal on your participation and your contributions to the discussion, as well as your responses to questions and challenges posed to you by me and your colleagues. As well, discussion forums will be created on OWL, enabling you to continue the discussions with your

colleagues even outside of class time, and your contributions to these discussion forums will also factor into your participation mark. You should note that merely being physically present in class for every class session is only worth about 40% of the participation mark (“showing up is half the job”); and talking off the top of your head without being prepared or engaging with the texts is not regarded as “discussion.” You should come prepared with notes, page references, highlights, thoughts, insights, and questions, and be ready to share them with others. Even “I don’t understand...” is a valuable starting point for our discussions.

Final Examination

There will be a take-home final examination for this course, due on M Apr 30/2017 at 6pm EDT.

Grade Breakdown and Grading Guidelines

Evaluation guidelines for written work are listed in the Course FAQ handout, which is available on OWL. You should read them thoroughly, both at the start of the term and prior to submitting assignments as they will provide you with a comprehensive checklist for your work.

I do my best to ensure that the evaluation of your work is as impartial as possible and reflects the quality of what you submit at the due date and time as measured against the evaluation guidelines. Marks are assigned to your written work based on how it stacks up to standard academic expectations of students at your academic level. Thus, it is entirely possible that marks on written work here will be lower than in other courses. I have designed this course to ensure that as a general rule, if a student completes all of the work with the seriousness appropriate to a graduate seminar, they will pass the course with at least a B.

If you have issues with the evaluation of your work, you may submit to me a one-page statement of how it is that you think your work as submitted was wrongly evaluated *no sooner than 24 hours after I return the work to you*. We will then meet to discuss the issue. Please note that I reserve the right to elevate your mark, maintain the mark as applied, or to lower the mark depending on that re-evaluation.

The weighting of the assignments in the course:

Reading Memos	20% of your course mark
Midterm Examination	20% of your course mark
Workshop and Course Engagement	30% of your course mark
Final Examination	30% of your course mark

COURSE SCHEDULE

Below is the preliminary schedule of readings and workshops for the course. Generally speaking, we will endeavour to hold to this schedule, so you should plan your time accordingly.

Important Note: This is a graduate-level course. You are responsible for your own learning, as well as recognising any gaps in your previous education. As you are at UWO to learn to be an independent researcher, if you recognise now or come to see that there are gaps in your preparation for this course, you need to take the initiative to fill those gaps. I am more than happy to provide you with resources so that you can do that. My responsibility is to take your

previous experience and education and extend, further, and develop that knowledge — not to remediate.

As you are reading, be sure that you do not attempt to simply turn pages or skim to get through the texts as quickly as possible. “The answers” are “not there”; they require careful reading, careful thinking, note-taking, idea-jotting, mind-mapping, doodles, and any other number of possible ways for you to sort out your ideas about them. They are here to provoke you, to get inside your head and rattle around until they mesh together with some other thing to create A New Idea. Let that happen.

Please note that the workshop model will result in some flexibility in the readings as they are listed below. Some readings may be moved from optional to required and vice versa. Some may be left on the “cutting room” floor. Depending on current events, other readings may be introduced. What is listed below is the map of the course as it stands at the start of the term, and you should prepare for it as such. I will always let you know at least a week in advance if our readings for a class session will change. Please make sure that you have the readings and your notes on them with you in class. Hard copies are preferred for important pedagogical reasons.

Starred readings are available on OWL.

Principles for Class Discussions and Professional Success

The idea behind the workshop model for the course is a simple one: To turn our examination of classical sociology into a collective and collaborative learning endeavour. However, this simple idea, as past experience has shown, requires that a few basic principles be made explicit.

1. Readings. There is often a tendency in seminars to turn every seminar into a general "bull session" where people talk off the top of their head about what they think the texts are about. This is not acceptable in this course. The focus of our work is the readings and your interrogations of them, as well as bringing these to the point of my pedagogical agenda. This is not to say that general discussions of the readings or other materials or issues cannot be brought to bear on our discussions. It is to say that we will constantly be moving back to the texts, so you need to be prepared for that move.

2. Listen. Good discussions pick up trains of thought in the room; unsatisfying discussions are collections of things people want to say without reference to anything else said in the class. Be less concerned with figuring out what your brilliant comment will be, and focus more on the collaborative aspect of our learning environment.

3. Brevity. Keep your interventions focussed on the issues and texts at hand. Long, meandering, overblown speeches rarely contribute as much as one thinks.

4. Equity and Respect. I acknowledge that some members of our workshop will have different personalities and different degrees of exposure to the material, and that these will lead to different levels of active participation. However, individually and as a group, we should be aware of these factors and work to ensure as equitable participation as possible and to work to create a classroom environment where all members feel enabled to participate. Course participants need to be attentive to this and to curtail speeches by people who have dominated the discussion if need be.

5. Types of interventions. Not every contribution in class needs to be a brilliant insight. No intervention should be regarded as "too simple" as long as it reflects an attempt to seriously engage with the material and a preparation to do so. It is appropriate to ask for clarifications of readings or previous comments, as well as to make substantive points on the topics at hand. *Sometimes, the best contribution is a question.* And it is perfectly acceptable to ask for a brief pause or a slow-down in order to catch up.

6. Discussion tone. The workshop model is one that has its heart a notion of what I would call *cooperative, collaborative conflict*. That is, it is perfectly acceptable to have disagreements about the materials or course issues, as they can often highlight differences in interpretation that can productively lead to theoretical advances and improvements in our understanding. Those differences, as well as the ways in which they are stated, should be oriented to this goal at all times. Participants should be attentive to the ways in which discussions are conducted in order to ensure that the discussion is not marked by aggressiveness, competitiveness, or other tricks in what Erik Olin Wright calls "the repertoire of male verbal domination" or Pierre Bourdieu calls "linguistic violence."

7. Preparation for discussions. Good seminars depend on serious preparation by students. This means the following:

- a. Doing the readings carefully -- not reading every word necessarily, but studying the readings.
- b. Reading the memos written by other students, as well as writing down any reactions to any you find interesting. This kind of "virtual dialogue" can be very productive for our collective workshop.
- c. Try to discuss the material with at least one other student before each class session, whether in person or online.

8. Professionalism. Graduate school is very often the first step in the development of your professional lives and personas. My expectation is that you will by now be aware of the professional norms of academia and the UWO Department of Sociology and will act accordingly. This includes working to meet the expectations and requirements of the course and the instructor; pursuing your own work following the principles of academic honesty and that your work will reflect your best effort; conducting yourself professionally both in the department and outside of it; and remembering that graduate study involves a significant amount of training in areas that students may not see at the time are important to your professional development. The full UWO Student Code of Conduct can be found at <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>; I would advise everyone to be aware of it.

Week 1: Mon Jan 8. Introduction to Theory, Theorising, and Analysis. (Workshop)

Note: I will proceed on the first day of class as if you have read these works. I would strongly suggest that you endeavour to do so before class begins, as they will set out the basic themes and issues that we will deal with in the course. If you cannot get to them before the term begins, *do not fret* — you can read them after the first class session and get caught up.

Gabriel Abend, "The Meaning of 'Theory'," *Sociological Theory* 26: 2, pp. 173-199.

Richard Swedberg, *The Art of Social Theory*, Introduction, Chapter 1, and Appendix (pp. 1-28, 230-248)

Pierre Bourdieu, Jean-Claude Chamboredon, and Jean-Claude Passeron, *The Craft of Sociology*, Part I (pp. 13-31)

* Aneshenshel, "Introduction to Theory-Based Data Analysis," ch. 1 of *Theory-Based Data Analysis for the Social Sciences*.

Week 2: Mon Jan 15. The Craft of Sociology and Theory. (Workshop)

Reading Memos begin

Swedberg, *The Art of Social Theory*, chapters 2-5 (pp. 29-125)

Bourdieu, *et al.*, *The Craft of Sociology*, Part II (pp. 33-52)

* Aneshenshel, "The Logic of Theory-Based Data Analysis," ch. 2 of *Theory-Based Data Analysis for the Social Sciences*.

Week 3: Mon Jan 22. Theorising, Associations, and Relationships. (Workshop)

Swedberg, *The Art of Social Theory*, chapters 6, 8-10 (pp. 127-145, 169-229)

* Aneshenshel, "Associations and Relationships," ch. 3 of *Theory-Based Data Analysis for the Social Sciences* (pp. 47-52).

Week 4: Mon Jan 29. Marx and the Foundations of Historical Materialism. (Workshop)

Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach," pp. 143-145 in Robert Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Karl Marx, *The German Ideology*, pp. 146-202 in Robert Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Karl Marx, "1859 Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*."

Friedrich Engels, "Letters on Historical Materialism," pp. 760-768 in Robert Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Erich Fromm, "Marx's Historical Materialism," from Fromm, *Marx's Concept of Man*.

Week 5: Mon Feb 5. Marx, Alienation, and the Social. (Workshop)

Karl Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts," pp. 66-125 in Robert Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Karl Marx, "Alienation and Social Classes," pp. 133-135 in Robert Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*.

Karl Marx, *The Poverty of Philosophy*, Chapter Two, Part 1 (pp. 46-56).

Week 6: Mon Feb 12. Deploying a Historical-Materialist Framework. (Discussion)

Paul Goldman and Donald R. Van Houten, "Managerial Strategies and the Worker: A Marxist Analysis of Bureaucracy," *The Sociological Quarterly* 18: 1 (Winter 1977), pp. 108-125.

James Reveley, "The Exploitative Web: Misuses of Marx in Critical Social Media Studies," *Science & Society* 77: 4 (Oct 2013), pp. 512-535.

Thomas Barnes and Damien Cahill, "Marxist Class Analysis: A Living Tradition in Australian Scholarship," *The Journal of Australian Political Economy* 70 (Summer 2012/2013), pp. 47-69.

Loris Caruso, "Between Marx and Polanyi: New labour mobilizations in the Italian crisis," *Capital & Class* 39: 2 (2015), pp. 345-367.

Mon Feb 19: No class -- Reading Week.

Fri Feb 23, 6pm EST: Midterm Examination DUE to Turnitin (via OWL)

Week 7: Mon Feb 26. Durkheim and the Quest for a Scientific Sociology. (Workshop)

Émile Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*, Preface, Introduction, Chapters I-II (pp. 31-84)

Émile Durkheim, "Sociology and the Social Sciences," pp. 175-208 in Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*

Émile Durkheim, "The Method of Sociology," pp. 245-247 in Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*

Émile Durkheim, "Society," p. 248 in Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*

Week 8: Mon Mar 5. Scientific Sociology and the Formation of Explanations. (Workshop)

Émile Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*, Chapters IV-VI and Conclusion (pp. 108-166)

Émile Durkheim, "Marxism and Sociology: The Materialist Conception of History," pp. 167-174 in Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*

Émile Durkheim, "Debate on Explanation in History and Sociology," pp. 211-228 in Durkheim, *Rules of Sociological Method*

Week 9: Mon Mar 12. Deploying a Durkheimian Perspective. (Discussion)

Frank van Tubergen, Manfred te Grotenhuis, and Wout Ultee, "Denomination, Religious Context, and Suicide: Neo-Durkheimian Multilevel Explanations Tested with Individual and Contextual Data," *American Journal of Sociology* 111: 3 (Nov 2005), pp. 797-823.

Helmut Thome, "Violent Crime (and Suicide) in Imperial Germany, 1883-1902: Quantitative Analyses and a Durkheimian Interpretation," *International Criminal Justice Review* 20: 1 (Mar 2010), pp. 5-34.

Jonathan Jackson and Jason Sunshine, "Public Confidence in Policing: A Neo-Durkheimian Perspective," *British Journal of Criminology* 47: 2 (Mar 2007), pp. 214-233.

Week 10: Mon Mar 19. Weber and the Objective Study of Subjective Phenomena. (Workshop)

Max Weber, "Basic Sociological Concepts," pp. 311-358 in Sam Whimster (ed.), *The Essential Weber*.

Max Weber, "The 'objectivity' of knowledge in social science and social policy," pp. 100-138 in Hans Henrik Bruun and Sam Whimster (eds.), *Max Weber: Collected Methodological Writings*.

Week 11: Mon Mar 26. Deploying the Pure Type: Weber's Analyses of Religion. (Workshop)

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, Author's Introduction, Chapters 1-2 (pp. xxviii-xlii, 3-38)
Max Weber, "Confucianism and Puritanism compared," pp. 35-54 in Sam Whimster (ed.), *The Essential Weber*.

Week 12: Mon Apr 2. Deploying a Weberian Theoretical Framework. (Discussion)

No reading memo due

Robert A. Stallings, "Weberian Political Sociology and Sociological Disaster Studies," *Sociological Forum* 17: 2 (Jun 2002), pp. 281-305.
Jeffrey Henderson, David Hulme, Hossein Jalilian, and Richard Phillips, "Bureaucratic Effects: 'Weberian' State Agencies and Poverty Reduction," *Sociology* 41: 3 (2007), pp. 515-532.
Erin Metz McDonnell, "Budgetary Units: A Weberian Approach to Consumption," *American Journal of Sociology* 119: 2 (Sep 2013), pp. 307-350.

Week 13: Mon Apr 9. Wrapping up theory and theorising. (Discussion)

Final Examination Distributed and Discussed

Catch-up day, discussion of the final examination, and wrap-up discussion. Please read Aneshenshel, "A Synthesis and Comment," ch. 9 of *Theory-Based Analysis for the Social Sciences*.

Mon Apr 30, 6pm EDT: Final Examination DUE to Turnitin (via OWL)

COURSE POLICIES

It is crucial that you read, understand, and agree to these policies. Your continued enrolment in the course constitutes acceptance of these policies and expectations of you during the term.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: UWO promotes the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect for other students, and help maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Violations of academic integrity will be treated very seriously.

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a **major** academic offence (see the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar), and I take it very seriously.

All required papers *will* be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to

the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between UWO and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Students who submit work found to be substantially plagiarised (i.e., work in which plagiarism can be demonstrated in substance) will be subject to the procedures outlined in the Scholastic Discipline for Graduate Students section of the Western Academic Calendar. This referral will be done without exception. Further information can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

Accommodations: Only in exceptional circumstances may a student be provided special accommodation in the completion of a course requirement (i.e., exams, papers). To request a one-time accommodation (brief illness, family emergency), the student should inform the professor when they are able so accommodation can be made. To request other accommodation(s), the student must first meet with the Graduate Chair to discuss options. Medical documentation, where required, will be kept on file in the Sociology graduate program office.

Attendance. Your attendance in class sessions is expected and constitutes part of your mark. If you are unable to attend a class session for medical or compassionate reasons, you must inform me as soon as possible. Updates on attendance records will be provided on request.

Communications: Email is my preferred method of contact. Any professor should tell you this: **Write your emails to me as you would want any letter of recommendation I might write on your behalf written for you.** They should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and not written in “text message” format. Please allow 24 hours for responses during the regular work week.

Completion of Course Requirements: Course requirements must be completed by the end of the term in which the course is offered (Fall: December 31; Winter: April 30, Summer: August 31). Only in exceptional circumstances may a student take additional time to complete the course requirements. In such a case, the student must first meet with the Graduate Chair to request permission to carry the incomplete. Medical documentation, where required, will be kept on file in the Sociology graduate program office. More details regarding incompletes are outlined in the Graduate

Handbook: http://www.sociology.uwo.ca/graduate_handbook/course_information.html.

Health and Wellness: As part of a successful graduate experience at UWO, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their graduate chair, or other relevant administrators in their unit. The Wellness Education Centre (lower level UCC) assists students in finding mental health and other related resources best suited to their needs: <http://se.uwo.ca/wec.html>. UWO’s School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies’ Living Well website provides tips for thriving at grad school and other helpful information: http://grad.uwo.ca/current_students/living_well/index.html.

UWO provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in the Campus Recreation Centre: <http://www.westernmustangs.ca/index.aspx?path=ims#>. Numerous cultural

events are offered throughout the year. Also we encourage you to check out the Faculty of Music web page (<http://www.music.uwo.ca>) and our own McIntosh Gallery (<http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca>). Students who are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western (http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health) for a complete list of options for how to obtain help.

Laptop/Tablet Policy: Laptops are generally prohibited in this course. As this is a seminar/workshop course, your goal should not be capturing every word that I say, but rather engaging fully in the workshop process. If you believe that not having use of a laptop in class will be unduly detrimental to your success in the course and can submit a justified argument to support this claim, accommodations may be made at my discretion. Tablets are acceptable if used for handwritten note-taking (i.e., with a stylus). You may record our workshop discussions for your personal note-taking use.

Mobile Phone Policy: All phones are to be shut off at the start of class, except if you have a dire emergency that you are having to attend to (such as an immediate family member's illness or hospitalization, or your spouse's/domestic partner's impending delivery), in which case you need to let me know at the start of class. Phones that go off in class will have messages taken and delivered publicly. Text messaging is absolutely prohibited during class times.

Other Important Issues: My Pedagogical Prime Directive is No BS. This course outline details what I require of my students, and should you meet those requirements, you can expect an intellectually fulfilling class session and course. If you fail to meet those requirements, I reserve the right to excuse you from the class session, either individually or collectively, as I firmly believe that you cannot adequately benefit from what goes on in my classroom without having put in the necessary preparation before class and the necessary engagement in class. I also have nearly twenty years' evidence for this belief, should you need it. I hope that you will not.

I will actively work to respond to issues that come up in class, either during the term or on a daily basis. To that end, I reserve the right to change, adapt, or amend this course outline, the reading schedule, and other policy issues at any time in order to make possible the improvement of the course; *however, I will only do so with the consent of and input from the class as a whole.*

Finally, any issues that you feel are impacting on your ability to do well in the course, whether they are issues inside or outside the classroom, should be brought *directly to me* as soon as possible. If the issue is not adequately resolved through the discussion with me, you need to follow the Sociology department's protocols for addressing a grievance. I take what goes on in this course very seriously and personally; I hope you will as well.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & LEARNING OUTCOMES

As with any senior-level course, you are expected to be fully engaged in this course and able to largely direct your own learning. In order to do that, you should be prepared to meet the following expectations:

- Consistent attendance in class sessions, with you having read the materials prior to class, being prepared to discuss the materials, to pose any questions that you have, and to engage yourself and others in the learning process;
- Attendance in my office hours whenever you have a question or need help in understanding the materials or issues under discussion;
- Thoughtful reflection on the course materials and issues prior to coming to class, thoughtful discussion of these materials and issues during class sessions, and further reflection and engagement with them after class;
- The diligent pursuit of all assignments, with you committed to doing your best work on each one and dedicated to improving the quality of that “best work” throughout the term;
- And, overall, your commitment to giving us your best work in every class session and throughout the term.

If you engage with and meet these expectations, you can expect that by the end of this term, you will be able to do the following (among other things that you’ll be surprised you’ve learned how to do and discovered about yourself):

- Engage in a thoughtful manner with the key concepts, theoretical positions, and arguments of the theorists who developed the discipline of sociology;
- Develop clear, well-thought, and increasingly sophisticated responses to questions, and the capacity to construct refined sociological questions;
- Display facility in and fluency with sociological and theoretical concepts and utilise them in the development of oral and written arguments;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which theory is constructed, operates as a basis for sociological analysis, is refined, and relates to the research process;
- Build the skills associated with sociological thinking and the deployment of the "sociological imagination";
- Develop and demonstrate the skills required to do advanced sociological research, both the “hard skills” of theoretical facility and fluency, a willingness to independently seek out knowledge to answer questions, and a work ethic consistent with your level of expertise, as well as the soft skills associated with professional conduct;
- And understand and discuss the continuing relevance of sociological theory for the future of Canadian sociological research and thereby Canadian society.