

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**SOCIAL THEORY**

**2240E-001 Friday 1:30-4:30 SSC3018**

**COURSE OUTLINE 2016-17**

**INSTRUCTOR: PROFESSOR C. LEVINE**

**OFFICE: 5407 SSC**

**PHONE: 85131**

**OFFICE HOURS: THURSDAYS 1 TO 4 OR BY APPOINTMENT**

The purpose of this course is to analyze the ideas of several 18th, 19th, and 20th century social thinkers. The writings of each theorist will be placed in the context of their socio-historical milieu and the goal of the course is to provide you with the ability to critically assess their works.

**Prerequisite(s):**

**Sociology 1020 or Sociology 1021E or 1.0 courses from 1025a/b; 1026F/G; 1027a/b**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Anti-requisites:**

**Sociology 2270a/b; 2271a/b.**

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

You **MUST** purchase the following custom text:

**SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY** (This custom text is available only at the UWO Bookstore)

**IMPORTANT!!**

**In addition** to purchasing and being responsible for readings in the above text, you must also purchase (or download, or take out from the library) **ONE** of the following four "essay texts". I will confirm with you within the first three weeks of class which one of these four books you have been assigned. **You only need to obtain one of these**

**books; NOT all four.** Your major essay for the course will be based on the book you have been assigned to read.

***Essay Texts:***

Durkheim: The Division of Labor in Society  
[Readings: Book One and Book Three]

Weber: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Marx: Karl Marx: Early and Selected Writings (Bookstore Reprint # M9779)

Mead: Mead: On Social Psychology  
[Readings: Introduction; Chapters 2, 4, 6, 7, 8]

**First Term Reading Assignments**

**(You may read through these readings at your own pace, but do them carefully and in the order presented below)**

***MONTH OF:***

**September**

The Origins of Sociological Theory pp. 3-29 (available on OWL)  
Theorizing after the Revolution pp. 32-56 (available on OWL)  
Chapter 1: A Historical Sketch: The Early Years

**October**

Chapter 2: A Historical Sketch: The Later Years  
Chapter 3: Comte  
Chapter 4: Marx

**November**

Chapter 5: Early Women Sociologists  
Chapter 6: Durkheim

**TERM TEST: Friday, November 25: 1:30 –3:30 PM**

**December**

Read essay book (essay instructions distributed in class and discussed)

## Second Term Reading Assignments

### January

Chapter 7: Weber  
Chapter 8: Mead

### February

Chapter 9: Symbolic Interactionism  
Chapter 10: Varieties of Neo-Marxian Theory  
Essay Preparation

### March

**Essay Due no later than class during the week of March 6**

Chapter 11: Contemporary Feminist Theories  
Chapter 12: Contemporary Theories of Modernity  
Chapter 13: Structuralism, Poststructuralism, and Postmodern  
Social Theory

### ***Note: Plagiarism***

"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 Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar)."

### **Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for 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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

## **COURSE OUTCOMES**

If you attend to your responsibilities in this course, you can expect by the end of it that you will be able to do the following:

- Understand some of the key theoretical texts in sociology and how they influence the sociological work we do;
- Develop clear, well-thought, and increasingly sophisticated responses to questions posed about contemporary society
- Display facility in and fluency with core sociological concepts and utilize them in the development of oral and written arguments;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which theory is constructed and the role it plays in the research process;
- Understand the important distinction to be made between statements of fact (“is” statements) and statements of value (“ought” statements) when comprehending and evaluating the relationship between individuals and the social worlds in which they live.

### ***Missed Exams and Late Assignments***

**Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only.**

**If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counselling office at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.**

**If you miss an exam date or the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counsellor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counsellor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor’s documentation, you will be allowed to write a makeup exam or hand in your assignment at a later date.**

### **Compassionate Grounds**

**Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.**

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

### **Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness**

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

[http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

### **MAJOR ESSAY REQUIREMENT**

Your critical essay will be based on the book assigned to you at the end of September. I make this assignment early in the year for several reasons. First, more than a "simple reading" of your book will be required. These readings are difficult and I expect that you will have to reread your book or parts of it more than once and see me during office hours to discuss the material with me. In addition, this early assignment is required because the essay you write will not simply be a review essay. Instead, I will structure your essay in a manner that requires you to address critical issues dealing with the author's primary argument(s). Finally, I assign the book to you early in the year because some of the lecture material throughout the course may help you write your essay. I will hand out to you instructions for preparing your essay during the last class before the Christmas break.

### **NOTE**

- 1. The essay must be 11-12 pages in length, typed and double-spaced.**
- 2. It must be handed in before or at your class during the week of March 6.**

**NB: Late papers will be penalised at the rate of 3% per day for the first five days, including weekends. (Of course, medical and other emergencies will be respected provided that proper documentation is provided). After the fifth day, late papers will not be accepted.**

### **TUTORIAL REQUIREMENT**

In addition to the above course requirements, students will be **required** to attend two tutorial meetings during the year and present in one of them a review of some of the required course readings. (The class will be divided into 10 groups of 6 students each and each group will meet twice during the year). You **are required** to hand out a typed copy of your presentation to the other members of your tutorial group as well as to myself, so you need to make 7 copies of it. **It must be at least 5-7 pages (double**

**spaced) in length. Specific details regarding the tutorial presentation will be discussed in class in September.** Tutorials will be held during the last hour of our regular classes, beginning the week of October 3rd and ending the last week of classes in April.

## **GRADES**

There will be **two** exams during the year:  
a mid-term test to be written in class on Friday November 25 and a final exam.

### **GRADES WILL BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:**

Mid-term test .....	30% of final grade (based on first term reading and lectures)
Tutorial .....	10% of final grade
Essay (Due during week of March 9th) .....	30% of final grade
Final exam (April exam period) .....	30% of final grade (based on second term reading, as well as lectures from the entire year)

Department of Sociology guidelines require a particular course grade distribution, which may require curving or otherwise adjusting your course grade in order to meet this requirement. As much as possible, your earned course grade will be the grade you receive.

**For 2200-level courses, the course mean is to be between a 66-70%, and there are to be more Bs than As.**

## **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different forms of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. In using another writer's words, you **MUST** both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer. In acknowledging a source from which a quote has been taken, you are to use the Style Guide recommended by your professor.

Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B: In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the

method of acknowledgement given in “A” above. Since the words are your own they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own: where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in “A” above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgement and, when necessary, quotation marks if necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offense which may result in a student receiving an “F” in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

### **Accessibility Options:**

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### **Scholastic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Mental Health**

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western ([http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.