

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 4401F.001 ('THE SOCIOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE')**

TERM:	Fall Term 2016
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Michael E. Gardiner
OFFICE:	SSC 5424 (661-2111, ex. 85139; e-mail: megardin@uwo.ca)
CLASS TIME & LOCATION	Wed 9:30 am - 12:30 pm (SSC 5406)
OFFICE HOURS:	Thurs. 2:00 – 3:30 pm (or by appointment)

Course Description

There are two main parts to the course. The first part will survey the main theorists and schools of a 'counter-tradition' of everyday life thinking in twentieth-century social and cultural thought that has been largely ignored or marginalised by mainstream approaches within the human sciences. Unlike the latter, this counter-tradition has sought not merely to describe lived experience, but to transform it - to elevate an understanding of the everyday to the status of a critical knowledge. Central figures and schools here include Marx, Freud, Surrealism, Benjamin, Lefebvre, Debord, Maffesoli, de Certeau, postmodernism, and Smith. The second part of this course will focus on more substantive issues having to do with the study of everyday life, including national cultures, ethnography, material culture, consumption and popular culture, and so on.

Prerequisite(s):

Enrolment in fourth year of one of the Honors Specializations or Honors Double Majors in Sociology.

Antirequisite(s): N/A

Required Texts

Michael E. Gardiner, *Critiques of Everyday Life*. London and New York: Routledge, 2000.
Ben Highmore, *The Everyday Life Reader*, London and New York: Routledge, 2002.
Custom Course Package (CPP), available from UWO bookstore.

Methods of Evaluation and Assignments

Each student will be expected to give one oral presentations based on class readings and submit this in written form one week after the presentation is given (1500 words, 5-6 pages, double-spaced). This is a critical synopsis of the reading designed to raise specific questions for debate and analysis, using primary texts where possible. The seminar report will be worth 20% of the final grade. Students must also submit an outline of the proposed term paper, of minimum two pages (should be in point-form and must include a bibliography listing at least six publications), worth 10% of the final grade, and due Oct. 26 (in class). The major term paper (3000-5000 words, 12 pages), worth 43% of the final grade, will be due Dec. 12 (by 12 noon). (*Comments on major term papers will only be provided if requested in advance of submission*, and late assignments will receive no written feedback.) Students are also asked to submit a summary (minimum one page) of the assigned readings for each class (*excluding* the specific reading one is presenting on), each worth 1%, for a total of 12%, to be submitted at the start of each class. The final 15% will be awarded for general class participation. All written submissions must be typed and in 12 scale font, except for the notes of assigned readings, which may be hand-written. (The only acceptable excuses for missed deadlines will be for documented medical reasons or family bereavement/illness; late papers will otherwise be penalized 3% per day.) All required papers may 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 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 licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com). The instructor reserves the right to require individual students to submit electronic versions to Turnitin.com.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a deep and broad understanding of contemporary social theory as it relates to everyday life
- Understand how social theory informs other branches of sociology
- Significantly develop their critical and creative thinking & writing skills
- Develop presentation skills (clearly express ideas and arguments orally & lead discussions)

Grade Breakdown

Oral presentation:	20%
Term paper proposal:	10%
Notes:	12%
Participation:	15%
Final paper:	43%
Total:	100%

Laptop Policy

Use of laptop, tablet computers, or smart phones is not permitted during class time.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea 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 scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed 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).

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. 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

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 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

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

Mental Health

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

Course Schedule and Readings:

Readings (CCP = Custom Course Package; PDF = OwlCT)

Week One - Sept. 14

Orientation

Pt. One - Theories

Week Two - Sept. 21

Situating everyday life - Gardiner (1-23); Highmore (1-34; 76-79)

Week Three - Sept. 28

Marx, Freud and the everyday - Sigmund Freud, selections from *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life* (CCP), Michael Billig, 'Commodity Fetishism and Repression: Reflections on Marx, Freud and the Psychology of Consumer Capitalism' (PDF)

Week Four - Oct. 5

Heller and Smith - Gardiner (127-156; 180-206); Highmore (271-81)

Week Five - Oct. 12

Surrealism and Benjamin - Gardiner (24-42); Highmore, (44-46); Highmore, 'Benjamin's Trash Aesthetics' (CCP); Joe Moran, 'Benjamin and Boredom' (PDF)

Week Six - Oct. 19

Lefebvre and the Situationists - Gardiner (71-101; 102- 26); Highmore (223-45)

Week Seven - Oct. 26

De Certeau and Maffesoli - Gardiner (157-179); Highmore (63-75); Michael Evans, 'Michel Maffesoli's Sociology of Modernity and Postmodernity' (PDF); Michel Maffesoli, 'Postmodern Sociality' (CCP)

Week Eight - Nov. 2

Postmodernism and current debates in everyday life theory - Mike Featherstone, 'Postmodernism and the Aestheticization of Everyday Life' (CCP); Stephen Crook, 'Minotaurs and Other Monsters: "Everyday Life" in Recent Social Theory' (PDF); Rita Felski, 'The Invention of Everyday Life' (CCP)

Part 2: substantive issues

Week Nine - Nov. 9

Everyday life and national cultures - Highmore (83-135)

Week Ten - Nov. 16

Ethnographies of the everyday - Highmore (139-219)

Week Eleven - Nov. 23

Everyday things - Highmore (295-351); Michael Bull, 'No Dead Air! The iPod and the Culture of Mobile Listening' (PDF)

Week Twelve - Nov. 30

Everyday practices - John Fiske, 'Popular Forces and the Culture of Everyday Life'; Simon Frith, 'Music and Everyday Life'; Margaret Morse, 'An Ontology of Everyday Distraction: The Freeway, The Mall, and Television' (all *CCP*)

Week Thirteen - Dec. 7

The future of everyday life – Gardiner (207-208); Ben Highmore, 'Postscript: Everyday Life and the Future of Cultural Studies' (*CCP*)

Custom Course Pack Reading List:

1. Sigmund Freud, selections from 'The Psychopathology of Everyday Life', *The Structuralists: From Marx to Levi-Strauss*, ed. By Richard T. De George and Fernande M. De George, Anchor Books, Garden City (NY), 1972, 25-57.
2. Ben Highmore, 'Benjamin's Trash Aesthetics', from *Everyday Life and Cultural Theory: An Introduction*, Ben Highmore, London and New York: Routledge, 2002, 60-74.
3. Michel Maffesoli, 'Postmodern Sociality', *Telos*, 85, Fall, 1990, 89-92.
4. Mike Featherstone, 'Postmodernism and the Aestheticization of Everyday Life', from *Modernity and Identity*, ed. by Scott Lash & Jonathan Friedman, Oxford: Blackwell, 1992, 265-90.
5. Rita Felski, 'The Invention of Everyday Life', from *Doing Time: Feminist Theory and Postmodern Culture*, Rita Felski, New York: NYU University Press, 2000, 77-98.
6. John Fiske, 'Popular Forces and the Culture of Everyday Life', *Southern Review*, 21, Nov., 1988, 288-306.
7. Simon Frith, 'Music and Everyday Life', from *The Cultural Study of Music: A Critical Introduction*, ed. by Martin Clayton, Trevor Herbert and Richard Middleton, New York and London: Routledge, 2003, 92-101.
8. Margaret Morse, 'An Ontology of Everyday Distraction: The Freeway, The Mall, and Television', from *Virtualities: Television, Media Art, and Cyberculture*, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1998, 99-124.
9. Ben Highmore, 'Postscript: Everyday Life and the Future of Cultural Studies', from Ben Highmore, *Everyday Life and Cultural Theory: An Introduction*, Routledge, London and New York, 2002, 174-78.

PDF LIST (POSTED ON WEBCT OWL)

1. Michael Billig, 'Commodity Fetishism and Repression: Reflections on Marx, Freud and the Psychology of Consumer Capitalism', *Theory and Psychology*, 9, 3, 1999, 313-329.
2. Joe Moran, 'Benjamin and boredom', *Critical Quarterly*, 45 (1-2), July, 2003: 168-181.
3. David Evans, 'Michel Maffesoli's Sociology of Modernity and Postmodernity', *The Sociological Review*, vol. 45, no. 2, 1997, 220-43.
4. Stephen Crook, 'Minotaurs and Other Monsters: "Everyday Life" in Recent Social Theory', *Sociology*, 32, 2, Aug., 1998, 523-40.
5. Michael Bull, 'No Dead Air! The iPod and the Culture of Mobile Listening', *Leisure Studies*, 24, 4, 2005, 343-355.