Course Description:

This course is designed to provide you with a foundational understanding of the ideas, issues, problems, and people that have shaped, and continue to shape, the discipline of sociology. This involves not only surveying the “theories” of influential classical and contemporary social researchers but also considering how their ideas developed in the context of particular political, scientific, and philosophical movements. It is these theorists’ intellectual responsiveness to these various social phenomena—that is, the sociologically imaginative quality of their mode of inquiry—that makes their work especially relevant to present-day social research, and that will constitute the focus of our course. In addition to reading the works of some key “classical” and “contemporary” social theorists, our task will be to investigate what these works can teach us about today’s society and how they might be used to gain deeper scientific and moral insight into our own beliefs, ideas, relationships, and interests.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 from Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025a/b, 1026f/g, 1027a/b.

Antirequisites: Sociology 2270a/b and Sociology 2271a/b, or the former Sociology 230.

Note: Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This 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.
COURSE TEXTS

The following course texts (one textbook and a course pack) will serve us throughout the full year. Both are available at the UWO Bookstore.


Custom Course Pack, available for purchase at the Book Store (Marked with an * below).

*Note: Be sure to buy the Nonomura 2240E-001 course pack, as other sections of 2240 may use different readings*

All other articles, links, and sources will be posted to OWL under Resources>Readings.

ESSAY TEXTS

In addition to purchasing and being responsible for readings in the above two texts, each student in the course must also purchase one of the following “essay texts” for the course essay requirement (i.e., you do not have to purchase more than one of these books). The major essay requirement for the course will be based on the book you are assigned. I recommend that you hold off on purchasing the book until the assignment has been explained in class.

Durkheim, Emile. 1893. *The Division of Labour in Society*
Mills, Charles W. 1959. *The Sociological Imagination*
Smith, Dorothy, 1990. *The Sociological Imagination*
Weber, Max. 1930. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

GRADE BREAK Downs

Midterm Examinations 35%
Final Exam 20%
Essay 30%
Participation 15%

Midterm Examinations: 2x17.5% of course mark
There are two midterm examinations for this course—one in the Fall and one in the Winter term: The first exam will be completed in-class, on October 27, and cover all materials we’ve dealt with up to that point in the course. It will consist of multiple choice questions, concept identification questions, and short answer questions.
The second exam will be a take-home assignment, consisting of short-answer and essay questions. The questions for these examinations will be provided to you two weeks in advance (January 26) of the due date (February 10) in order to give you time to prepare for them and to consult with me and your teaching assistant. Your responses should be typed and submitted through Turnitin.

Final Exam: 20% of course mark
The final exam will follow a similar format to the midterm examinations, but will be administered during the Final Exam Period. A “prep-sheet” will be distributed prior to the exam
in order to give you time to prepare, and to consult with me and your teaching assistant. All electronic devices must be turned off and stored away during the examination.

Course Paper: 30% of course mark
Your course paper (due in class, March 9th) will be based on one of the seminal sociological works listed above. You will be asked to write a 10-12 page essay that critically engages the book you have chosen. That is to say, the essay will require you not simply to review the content of the book but also to address critical issues in the author’s primary argument. You are encouraged to begin reading early and to consult with me often to discuss the material. You are also encouraged to use the course lectures and readings to augment your understanding of the theorist’s work, and vice versa.
During first term, I will hand out the questions I would like you to address in your paper.

Participation: 1.5% of course mark
Students will be required to attend and participate in bi-weekly tutorials, which will take place during the last hour of class. They will provide an opportunity for you to discuss the week’s materials in greater depth, as well as deepen your understanding of how the course content relates to society and sociology.
5% (i.e., 1/3) of this grade will be based on your attendance in tutorials, and the other 10% will be earned through your active participation in class and tutorial discussions themselves. You must attend the tutorial dates to which you’ve been assigned. Further details regarding grading standards for this component of the course will be provided in class in September.

GRADING POLICIES

Deadlines and Late Penalties:
Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day. If, due to medical reasons, you cannot submit an assignment by the due date, it is your responsibility to follow the University’s “Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness,” accessible at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. This policy also applies to accommodations sought for compassionate circumstances.

Grade Disputes:
You deserve to have your work evaluated in a competent, fair, and impartial manner. If you have questions or concerns about a grade, please come to see me and hopefully we can resolve any misunderstanding. For issues concerning written work, please submit a 1-page statement explaining why you feel your work was wrongly evaluated no sooner than 24 hours after I have returned the work to you. We can then meet to discuss these points and consider a re-evaluation. Please note that I reserve the right to elevate your mark, maintain the mark as applied, or lower the mark depending on that re-evaluation.
For further details concerning my expectations and grading standards refer to our “Course FAQ’s” on 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 (www.turnitin.com).

Students who submit work found to be substantially plagiarized (i.e., work in which plagiarism can be demonstrated in substance) will be subject to the procedures outlined in the Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students section of the Western Academic Calendar. This referral will be done without exception.

Accessibility:

Please contact me 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 x82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Attendance:

Your attendance in class sessions is expected and constitutes part of your mark. The standard provisions regarding absences excused by the Social Science Counselling Centre on medical or compassionate grounds hold. If you are unable to attend a class session for medical or compassionate reasons, you must inform me as soon as possible. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

If you are unable to attend a class session due to a non-medical or non-compassionate reason, it is your responsibility to catch up on all missed notes and lecture material. I am happy to meet during Office Hours to help get you up to speed in any way I can.

Updates on attendance records will be provided on request.
Communications:

In-person discussion is my preferred method for discussing any substantive course-related material. Feel free to approach me before or after class, during office hours, or if you run into me around campus.
When contacting me via email, please do so using your UWO email address (other email accounts tend to get caught in my Spam filter) and ensure that your message in expressed a respectful, professional (i.e., spell-checked) manner. Also, kindly preface all subject headings with our course code, SOC2240E.

Mental Health:

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

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that you are using these devices for purposes unrelated to the course, or are using them in a distracting manner, you will be asked to turn them off for the remainder of the class. All phones are to be shut off at the start of class. In dire cases where you must leave your phone on please let me know at the start of class.

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