THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY 2270a (001)
Foundations of Sociological Theory
Course Outline 2019

COURSE MEETINGS: Thursdays, 2:30pm–5:30pm; SSC 2050

INSTRUCTOR: DR. ROBERT NONOMURA
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OFFICE: SSC 5209
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, 8:00am–9:00am (by appt.); Thursdays, after class

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: TBD

Official Course Description: A comprehensive survey of the founding theories and theorists (among others, Marx, Weber and Durkheim) of sociology, and of the social and historical contexts out of which their theories grew. Students will be introduced to the principal philosophical and epistemological questions concerning the nature of sociological knowledge.

Format: 3 lecture hours.

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, Sociology 1021E, Sociology 1025A/B, Sociology 1026F/G, Sociology 1027A/B

Antirequisites: Sociology 2240E

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.
DETAILED 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” 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.

With this focus in mind, a student who successfully engages with course programming (including readings, lectures, assignments, and active participation) will able to:

• Understand the core principles, processes, and philosophy of social scientific inquiry.

• Apply a foundational knowledge of influential social theories of the 18th and 19th century (e.g. Durkheim, Marx, Weber), to their broader sociological studies.

• Analyze the primary texts of classical social theorists and discuss the sociological significance of these texts in written form.

• Reflect upon how key historical events, social movements, and philosophical ideas have shaped both sociologists’ and their own views about society, truth, ethics, and individuality.

COURSE TEXTS
This course will use a Custom Course Pack available for purchase at the Book Store.

GRADE BREAKDOWNS
Midterm Examinations 25%
Final Exam 35%
Critical Response Assignment 20%
Attendance/Exit Ticket 10%
Quiz 10%

Midterm Examinations: 25% of course mark
The Midterm Examination will be completed in-class and will cover all materials we’ve dealt with up to that point in the course. It may consist of multiple-choice questions, concept identification questions, and short answer questions.

Final Exam: 35% of course mark
The final exam will be administered during the Final Exam Period. It will test students’ understanding of important concepts, ideas, arguments, and facts covered throughout the course. Information on the exam format, as well as advice on study and test-taking strategies for the exam will be provided as we near the end of the course. All electronic devices must be turned off and stored away during the examination.

Students with unexcused absences for >50% of class lectures must request special permission to write the Final Exam.

**Critical Response Assignment:** 20% of course mark
This assignment provides students an opportunity to develop their skills in social-theoretical reading, conceptualization, analysis, and writing. Students will draw upon their understanding of the course materials (readings and lectures) to write a concise (1,000–1,300 word) response to discussion questions about one of the theorists addressed in the course.

Further information on the guidelines and expectations for this assignment, as well as discussion questions and submission schedule, will be provided in class.

**Attendance/Exit Ticket:** 10% of course mark
Students are expected to attend all weekly lectures. The course materials (readings, lectures, course themes) have been organized to develop progressively throughout the term, and so the cumulative benefits of class attendance are significant.

In addition to this benefit, 10% of the overall course grade will be allocated to students completing a brief (and easy) Exit Ticket activity. These will vary from week to week. They may consist of a short-answer question, a multiple-choice question, a feedback comment, etc.

Although the class size will limit our ability for robust class discussion and feedback, this component of the course will function as one way to keep lines of communication open between us, provide opportunities to “participate” for those who are uncomfortable speaking in large groups, and rewarding you for your attendance and engagement in class.

**Quiz:** 10% of course mark
There will be a short in-class quiz (date TBD) addressing some of the key philosophical and conceptual ideas in the course.

**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 [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/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 Documents” folder on OWL.

COURSE MEETINGS
Below is the preliminary schedule of readings for the course. Generally speaking, we will endeavour to hold to this schedule, so you should plan your time accordingly. In the case that a change is made to our reading schedule, I will post an announcement of the changes, as well as links or PDF’s of any new readings, to OWL.

SECTION I: FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS AND IDEAS
Week 1: Sept. 5
Welcome & Introduction to the Course
Sears, “Preface,” A Good Book, in Theory (pp. 15–40)
Nonomura, “Course FAQ’s” (See Resources>Course Documents)

Week 2: Sept. 12
Sociological Thinking and the Philosophy of Social Science, pt. I
Edles & Appelrouth, “Introduction” Sociological Theory in the Classical Era (pp. 1–13)
Adams & Sydie, Classical Sociological Theory (Ch. 1) (pp. 3–8)

Week 3: Sept. 19
Sociological Thinking and the Philosophy of Social Science, pt. II
C. Wright Mills
Mills, “The Promise” The Sociological Imagination (pp. 3–24)
Beamish, “The Sociological Imagination: Beyond ‘Everyday Stocks of Knowledge’” The Promise of Sociology (pp. 30–56)

Week 4: Sept. 26
From Private Troubles to Public Issues: Enlightenment and the Public Sphere
Immanuel Kant
Hamilton, “The Enlightenment and the Birth of Social Science,” Ch. 1 in Modernity edited by Stuart Hall (pp. 20–52)
Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” (pp. 54–60)

SECTION II: THE PUZZLE OF SOCIAL ORDER
Week 5: Oct. 3
Early Foundations of Sociological Thought, pt. I

Auguste Comte
History Channel, “The French Revolution History Channel HD”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pXxoyk5wOo> (90 mins.)

Week 6: Oct. 10
Early Foundations of Sociological Thought, pt. II

Harriet Martineau
Adams & Sydie, *Classical Sociological Theory* (pp. 46–56)
Martineau, selections from *How to Observe Morals and Manners* (pp. 45–60)

Week 7: Oct. 17
*MIDTERM TEST*

Week 8: Oct. 24
Durkheim’s Science of Society

Émile Durkheim
Edles & Appelrouth, “Émile Durkheim” *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory: Text and Readings, 3rd edition.* (pp. 83–90)
Durkheim, selections from *The Division of Labour in Society* (pp. 91–98)
Durkheim, selections from *The Rules of Sociological Method* (pp. 99–107)

Week 9: Oct. 31
Durkheim: Morality and Social Order

Émile Durkheim
Durkheim, selections from *Suicide: A Study in Sociology* (pp. 108–120)
Durkheim, selections from *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (pp. 124–138)

No Class: Nov. 7
*Fall Reading Week*

SECTION III: CONFLICT, CONTRADICTION, AND (IR)RATIONALITY IN THE MODERN WORLD

Week 10: Nov. 14
Marx the Radical Humanist

Karl Marx
Edles & Appelrouth, “Karl Marx: A Biographical Sketch” *Sociological Theory in the Classical Era.* (pp. 20–31)
Marx, selections from *The German Ideology* (pp. 39–47)
Marx, selections from *Economic and Philosphic Manuscripts* (pp. 47–56)
Marx, “Alienation and Social Classes,” *The Marx-Engels Reader* (pp. 133–135)

Week 11: Nov. 21
The Revolutionary Critique of Capitalism
Karl Marx, Freidrich Engels
Fromm, Marx’s Concept of Man (pp. 8–24)
Marx & Engels, selections from The Manifesto of the Communist Party (pp. 57–71)
Edles & Appelrouth, “Introduction to Capital” (pp. 71-75)
Marx, selections from Capital—read either the selections by Edles & Appelrouth (pp. 76–87) or
selections from Losco & Williams (pp. 363367

Week 12: Nov. 28
Weber’s Interpretive Social Science
Max Weber
Edles & Appelrouth, “Max Weber” Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory: Text and
Readings, 3rd edition. (pp. 139–151)
Craib “Max Weber: The Primacy of Social Action” Classical Social Theory (p., 43–52)
Weber, selections from Economy & Society “The Types of Legitimate Domination” (pp. 183–
191)

Week 13: Dec. 5
Rationality and its Limits
Max Weber
Longhofer and Winchester, “Your Smart Phone Might Be an Evil Genius” (pp. 201–204)
Weber, selections from The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (pp. 152–165)
Weber, “Class, Status, Party” (175–183)
Weber, “Bureaucracy” (pp. 191–199)

[FINAL EXAM: DATE TO BE DETERMINED]
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 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 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 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 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

Attendance: Your attendance in class sessions is expected throughout the course. 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:
http://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.
Copyright: Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

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, SOC 2270.

Late Assignments: University policy states that “as a guideline for departments .... The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course.” All Sociology courses have been advised to adhere to this policy.

Make-up Exams: There will be one makeup date set by the Department for students needing to write a make-up exam (with approved accommodation from your academic counseling office). This makeup exam may or may not be in the same format as the original exam.

If a student misses a make-up exam due to sickness or another documented reason, then the weight of the mid-term will be added to the weight of the final exam. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

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.

Missed Exams: Make-up exams and extensions for assignment deadlines 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 Counseling office as soon as possible, but no later than 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 (this includes make-up exams) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me within 24 hours of the missed exam. No documentation is required when you notify me, but I need to know that you missed the exam within 24 hours. You then must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor 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 an assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are
legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor’s documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam (or hand in your assignment at a later date).

**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:  
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf