SOC 2220 – SOCIOLOGICAL THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS
TERM 2, SECTION A01, 3 CREDIT HOURS

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Powell
Time: 10:00-11:30 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays
Location: 214 Tier
Website: http://www.umanitoba.ca/webct
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Office: 311 Isbister Building
Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 pm, Thursdays, or by appointment.

Course Summary

Social theory is like an ongoing conversation among a group of very old friends (and enemies). Or, it’s like Season 5 of LOST. Either way, people who come in half-way through, find it hard to tell what’s going on. Teaching classical theory is our way of filling in the back-story.

The so-called ‘classic’ period in sociological theory stretches from the early days of the Industrial Revolution to the end of the First World War. For Europeans, it was a time of coal and steam and steel, of stunning wealth and desperate poverty, of the two-steps-forward-one-step-back growth of democracy. It was, above all, a time of profound and irreversible changes: the birth of a whole new world, the world of industrial capitalism. The ideas and debates of the prominent social theorists of that time are echoed even now in differing opinions, inside and outside of universities, about what society is, how it works, and how to live in it. This course goes beyond the usual ‘founding fathers’ to examine how personal identity is social, using gender, race, and class to explore how each individual is inseparably connected to, and yet irreducibly distinct from, the society around them.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to be challenging and stimulating for students who have completed their first year of full-time university study. In this course you will:

- discover the key ideas and debates from sociology’s founding period that continue to be relevant today;
- learn how to read and comprehend challenging theoretical texts;
- work collaboratively with other students;
- build on your writing skills, learning to write a short theoretical review essay; and
- make connections between theoretical ideas, empirical facts, and personal lived experience.
REQUIRED TEXTS

Weekly readings for this course are on reserve in the Elizabeth Dafoe Library, under the keyword “SOC 2220”. Five copies of each week’s readings have been put on reserve. You are best advised to copy all readings for the course as early as possible, so that you are sure to have each week’s readings when you need them.

In addition, the following reading is for sale at the University of Manitoba Bookstore:


All readings, including *The Elements of Style*, are required for this course.

COURSE FORMAT

A. LECTURES

There are two 80-minute classroom sessions each regular week of classes. As a rule, one of those sessions will involve lectures and one will include a mix of lectures and student group work. You are encouraged to make the lectures interactive by asking questions and offering your own insights or interpretations regarding the course material.

B. GROUP WORK

Part of one classroom session each week will be devoted to group work by students. For the first part of the session, you will form into small groups and work on discussion questions, assigned by me, that address specific aspects of the readings. Part-way through the session the class will re-form as a whole, and review the findings of the group discussions, so as to work through key concepts from the texts in some detail.

You may miss one group work session without penalty; additional absences will require a doctor’s note, or equivalent documentation at the discretion of the instructor.

C. WEBCT

A website for this course has been created through the University of Manitoba’s WebCT system. Registered students can access this site through the address: http://www.umanitoba.ca/webct

I will use this site to post special announcements via the bulletin board, and to post your grades as soon as they are available. You can securely review your grades, which are private and cannot be accessed by other students.

No previous experience is required to use the website; you do not need a pre-existing internet account to visit the site. The University provides free e-mail accounts to all students and students can access nearly one hundred computers in various labs located around the campus.
A. CLASS PARTICIPATION  
8% OF FINAL GRADE

Class participation is evaluated based on a range of factors, including: attendance, participation in group work, participation in general class discussions, regular attendance, and achievement on written assignments. Please be aware that perfect attendance does not guarantee a perfect score in class participation.

B. WRITING TECHNIQUE ASSIGNMENT  
2% OF FINAL GRADE

You will complete a short (2-page) written assignment testing your use of appropriate writing technique as specified in class, using *The Elements of Style* as a resource. This assignment, which does not test students’ knowledge of course material, will be **distributed on Tuesday, January 13\(^{th}\)**, and is **due on Tuesday, January 20\(^{th}\)**.

The assignment is not difficult, but does require attention to detail. Be sure to obtain your copy of *The Elements of Style* before January 12\(^{th}\), or you will not be able to complete the assignment properly.

C. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS  
90% OF FINAL GRADE

The largest part of the evaluation for this course consists of three written take-home assignments that ask the students to apply the course material in some way. Each assignment will take the form of a small research essay, 1800-2400 words in length (approx. 6-8 pages), plus an attached title page and bibliography. Essays must be cited appropriately. You may collaborate on the preparation of these assignments, but each student must write their own papers.

The assignments are scheduled as follows:

- **Assignment #1 – The Self**
  Due: In class Tuesday, February 10\(^{th}\)
  Value: 25% of final grade

- **Assignment #2 – Society**
  Due: In class Tuesday, March 10\(^{th}\)
  Value: 30% of final grade

- **Assignment #3 – Capitalism**
  Due: Thursday, April 9\(^{th}\)
  Value: 35% of final grade
**D. LATE PENALTY**

Please be advised that a late penalty of 2% per day, including days on weekends, will be applied to all papers that are handed in after the specified deadlines. Medical documentation, or other documentation of comparable seriousness, will normally be required to waive this penalty.

However, if you know before the due date that a paper will be late *for any reason*, you should *contact me immediately*. In some cases, entirely at my discretion, it *may* be possible to arrange an extension.

It is your responsibility to approach me as early as possible to make arrangements for an extension. I will not grant extensions that are requested after the due date of the assignment, unless you have a binding and documented reason, such as medically documented illness. No extension will be given under any conditions more than two weeks after the due date.

**E. GRADING**

Generally speaking, the following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>75-79%</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-74%</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69%</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64%</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Adequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59%</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All assignments will be graded within two weeks of their submission. Grades will be posted to the WebCT page as soon as they are available.

*Getting your assignments back:* Assignments #1 and #2 will be returned in class.

To have Assignment #3 returned to you, you must provide me with a self-addressed stamped envelope when you hand in the assignment. Make sure that the envelope is large enough and the postage is sufficient for the size and weight of the paper you are handing in. Assignments not picked up in class or returned by SASE will be kept in the instructor’s office until Thursday, April 30th, after which time they will be shredded.
**SPECIAL NEEDS**

**DISABILITY**

If you have a special learning need and might require special accommodation with respect to the course assessment, please meet with me at the beginning of the term so that we can arrange suitable accommodation.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith which fall within the academic year. If you will have to miss any classes or will require an extension for an assignment due to a religious holiday, please notify me at the beginning of the term or at least three weeks in advance of the relevant date.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

**UNIVERSITY POLICY**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, with grave consequences. You should acquaint yourself with the University of Manitoba’s policy on ‘Plagiarism and Cheating’ (Section 7.1) in the General Academic Regulations and Requirements in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Penalties for plagiarism and academic dishonesty are severe. The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test or examination is “F” on the paper and “F” for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in the Faculty. The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

**AVOIDING PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism can be defined as passing off someone else’s work as your own. Plagiarism involves taking another person’s words (written or spoken), ideas, theories, facts (that are not considered general knowledge), statistics, art work, etc. and presenting them as your own. Simply changing the wording of the information you are using still constitutes plagiarism if you do not acknowledge your source.

It is acceptable, and usually necessary, to present other people’s ideas in your work. However, to avoid plagiarizing, you must cite your sources diligently. You should provide an in-text citation in each of the following cases:

- any direct quotation of someone other than yourself
- any close paraphrases of statements by someone other than yourself
- any important ideas or points taken from another author’s work
AVOIDING PLAGIARISM (CONTINUED)

If you copy the exact words of another author you must place these words in quotation marks and provide their source. But note that you do not have to quote someone directly in order to cite them! Your papers should be littered with citations even if they do not contain a single direct quotation.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN WORK

1. All written work is to be typed in 12-point print and in Times New Roman or equivalent font. Please do not use sans serif fonts such as Helvetica or Arial; these fonts are for titles and headings only.

2. Your work should have one inch margins and be double-spaced.

3. Each assignment should have a title page that includes your name, your student number, my name, and the number of the course. No binders or assignment covers please.

4. Please use in-text citations, e.g. (Weber 1978: 83) or (SOC 2220: 26 Sept 2007), to cite your work. Each assignment must include a bibliography that lists your references alphabetically by author. Your bibliography should follow the Chicago Style, APA, or American Sociological Association guidelines for in-text citations with a Works Cited list. Here are some examples of acceptable bibliographic formats:


5. The maximum lengths recommended for each assignment do not include the title page or the bibliography.

6. Please use gender-inclusive language in your written assignments, even if your sources do not. Tips for gender-inclusive writing can be found on the course website. However, please note that when quoting directly from other authors, you should not ‘correct’ their language to make it gender-inclusive.
Although I hope that no one will want to drop out of this course, please be advised that the last day for voluntary withdrawal from second term courses is Thursday, 19 March 2009. You will have received the grades for at least 27% of the course evaluation by that date.

The University of Manitoba provides a number of support services to students that can help you to write your term papers, develop your study skills, or get through a stressful situation. Many of these services are described online at:

http://www.umanitoba.ca/student

If you’re not already familiar with these services, I encourage you to spend some time getting to know about them; they can help you to improve your academic performance and to get the most out of your time at university. Some key resources include:

- **Aboriginal Student Centre**  
  45 Curry Place  
  (204) 474-8850  
  Email: asc@umanitoba.ca  
  http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/asc

- **Disability Services**  
  155 University Centre  
  (204) 474-6213  
  TTY: (204) 474-9790  
  Fax: (204) 261-7732  
  Email: disability_services@umanitoba.ca  
  http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/disability_services

- **Learning Assistance Centre**  
  201 Tier Building  
  (204) 480-1481  
  http://umanitoba.ca/u1/lac

- **Student Counseling and Career Centre**  
  474 University Centre  
  (204) 474-8592  
  http://umanitoba.ca/student/counseling

- **U1 Student Help Centre**  
  205 Tier Building  
  (204) 474-6209  
  Email: university_1@umanitoba.ca  
  http://umanitoba.ca/u1
LIST OF READINGS

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTORY WEEK


MODULE 1: FRAMING SOCIETY

UNIT 1 – THE OBJECTIVITY OF SOCIETY


UNIT 2 – THE SUBJECTIVITY OF SOCIETY


UNIT 3 – THE RELATIONALITY OF SOCIETY


MODULE 2: CAPITALIST SOCIETY

UNIT 4 – FUNCTIONALISM


UNIT 5 – LIBERAL CONFLICT THEORY


READING WEEK (NO CLASSES)

UNIT 6 – RADICAL THEORY

UNIT 7 – SOCIAL SELVES


UNIT 8 – GENDERED SELVES


UNIT 9 – RACIALIZED SELVES


(Unit 9 readings continue on the next page)
(Unit 9 readings continued from previous page)


UNIT 10 – CLASSED SELVES

MARCH 24-26


REVIEW

MARCH 31-APRIL 2

REVIEW

APRIL 7-9

SPECIAL NOTE: The dates given for each unit of readings will vary as the term unfolds, to give more time to specific topics, when and if this is necessary. Therefore, it is unlikely that all of the final two weeks will be devoted to review.