

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY 077.222 – "SOCIOLOGICAL THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS"
FALL TERM 2005, SECTION L01, 3 CREDIT HOURS

Instructor: Chris Powell
Time: 2:30-3:20 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
Location: 384 University College
Website: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/webct>

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Office Hours: 1:30-2:20 pm, or by appointment.

Course Summary

This course examines classic questions and problems in sociological thinking through an in-depth examination of three major social theorists: Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim. Although these three thinkers represent only part of the 'classic' sociological tradition, their works have been the most influential in defining the kinds of problems that sociologists investigate, the types of questions we ask, the assumptions we make, the concepts we use, and the explanations that we propose. This course gives you a background in the long-established lines of agreement and disagreement that underlie current debates in sociology. In addition to acquiring a familiarity with these specific theorists, you will enhance your ability to read and to write in the 'genre' of social theory. Theoretical writing often seems difficult and inaccessible, but through this course you will develop skills to read more easily, gain a better understanding of what you read, and express your understanding in their own writing.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to be intellectually stimulating and academically challenging. It aims to provide students with the opportunity:

- a) to engage with key primary texts in classic social theory;
- b) to gain exposure to important analytic concepts, themes and ideas that have informed sociological research;
- c) to cultivate analytical skills for assessing the strengths and limitations of these various concepts; and
- d) to further develop your reading, writing, and verbal skills.

Required Textbooks

- Course pack: *Readings for 77.222 Sociological Theoretical Foundation, Fall 2005*
- Anthony Giddens, ed., *Emile Durkheim: Selected Writings*, Cambridge University Press.
- William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White, 2000. *The Elements of Style*. Fourth Edition. New York: Longman.

All readings are available at the university bookstore.

Format

A. Lectures

There are three 50-minute classroom sessions each regular week of classes. As a rule, two of those sessions will involve lectures and one will focus on student group work. Lectures will cover a range of topics including biographical and historical information that provides a background to the assigned readings, as well as in-depth analysis of important elements of the theoretical perspectives being studied.

Students are encouraged to make the lectures interactive by asking questions and offering their own insights or interpretations regarding the course material.

B. Group Work

One classroom session each week will be devoted to group work by students. For the first part of the session students will form into small groups and work on discussion questions, assigned by the instructor, that address specific aspects of the readings. Halfway 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.

Students 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>

The instructor will use this site to post special announcements to students via the bulletin board, and to post students' grades as soon as they are available. Students can securely review their 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 personal account or e-mail address to visit the site. The University provides free access to nearly one hundred computers in various labs located around the campus.

Assessment

Formal evaluation for this course is organized in the following manner:

A. Class Participation - 10 % of final grade

Class participation is evaluated by the instructor based on a range of factors, including: attendance, participation in group work, participation in general class discussions, regular attendance, and achievement on written assignments.

B. Writing Technique Assignment - 3% of final grade

Students will complete a short (2-page) written assignment testing their use of appropriate writing technique as specified by the instructor. This assignment, which does not test students' knowledge of course material, will be distributed on Wednesday, September 14th and is due on Monday, September 20th.

C. Research Exercise - 2% of final grade

For the first written assignment, students will be required to select a piece of source material (usually a short newspaper article) to which they will apply a theoretical analysis. A copy of this source material must be submitted to the instructor by Friday, September 30th.

D. Written Assignments - 85% 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, 1500-2000 words in length (approx. 5-7 pages), plus an attached title page and bibliography. Essays must be cited appropriately. Students may collaborate on the preparation of these assignments but must write their own papers.

The assignments are scheduled as follows:

- **Assignment #1 (Marx)** Distributed: Monday, September 26
Due: In class Wednesday, October 14
Value: 25% of final grade
- **Assignment #2 (Weber)** Distributed: Monday, October 24
Due: In class Monday, November 7
Value: 30% of final grade
- **Assignment #3 (Durkheim)** Distributed: Wednesday, November 23
Due: In-class, Wednesday, December 7
Value: 30% of final grade

Note: Assignments delivered by e-mail or in other electronic format will not be accepted; nor will they be counted for deadline purposes. *You must submit a paper copy!*

D. Written Assignments (continued)

Note: Please retain a clean hard copy of each assignment that you submit. The instructor will not be responsible for misplaced assignments.

Grading: All assignments will be graded within two weeks of the due date. 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, within two weeks of the dates they are handed in.

To have Assignment #3 returned to you, you must provide the instructor with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) 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 Friday, January 6th, after which time they will be destroyed.

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 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 the instructor's discretion, it may be possible to arrange an extension.

It is the student's responsibility to approach the instructor as early as possible to make arrangements for an extension. No extension will be given for any assignment after its due date, except for documented medical reasons. No extension will be given under any conditions more than two weeks after the due date.

Grading Scheme

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

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

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 (77.222: 27 Sept 2004), to cite your work. Each assignment must include a bibliography that lists your references alphabetically by author. Full bibliographic information must still be provided for sources in the course pack. Your bibliography should follow this format or something similar:

Gleick, James, 1987. *Chaos: Making A New Science*. New York: Penguin Books.

Law, John, 1992. *Notes on the theory of the Actor Network: Ordering, Strategy and heterogeneity*. Website: <http://www.comp.lancs.ac.uk/sociology/soc054jl.html>. Last updated: 16 June 2001. Last accessed: 13 March 2003.

Rip, Arie, 1986. "Mobilising Resources Through Texts." pp. 84-99 in *Mapping the Dynamics of Science and Technology: Sociology of Science in the Real World*, edited by M. Callon, J. Law, and A. Rip. London: MacMillan Press.

Ward, Steven, 1996. "Filling the world with Self-Esteem: A Social History of Truth-Making." *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, v.21(1), pp. 1-23.

77.222, "Sociological Theoretical Foundations." University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology. Chris Powell, Instructor. September-December 2004.

5. The maximum lengths indicated 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

Special Needs

Students with special learning needs who may require special accommodation with respect to the course assessment should meet with the instructor at the beginning of the term so that suitable accommodation may be arranged.

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 the instructor* at the beginning of the term or at least three weeks in advance of the relevant date.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, with grave consequences. Students should acquaint themselves with the University of Manitoba's policy on 'Examinations: Personations' (p.26) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (p.27) found 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

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.

Final Drop Date

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 first term courses is Wednesday, 16 November 2005. You will have received the grades for the first assignment by that date.

Student Support Services

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:

- **Student Counselling and Career Centre**
474 University Centre
(204) 474-8592
<http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/counseling>
- **Disability Services**
155 University Centre
(204) 474-6213/
TTY: (204) 474-9790
Fax: (204) 261-7732
Email: disability_services@umanitoba.ca
http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/disability_services/index.shtml
- **Learning Assistance Centre**
520 University Centre
(204) 474-9251
<http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/learning>

77.222 SOCIOLOGICAL THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS, FALL 2005
READING SCHEDULE

PART I: MARX

- Week One, September 12-16Historical Materialism
- Week Two, September 19-23Production
- Week Three, Sept. 26-30Exploitation
- Week Four, October 3-7Revolution

PART II: DURKHEIM

- Week Five, October 12-14.....Social Facts
- Week Six, October 17-21.....Morality
- Week Seven, October 24-28Solidarity
- Week Eight, Oct 31-Nov 4.....Divinity

Part III: Weber

- Week Nine, November 7-9Social Action
- Week Ten, November 14-18.....Charisma
- Week Eleven, November 21-25.....Bureaucracy
- Week Twelve, Nov. 28-Dec. 2.....Asceticism

Conclusion

- Week Thirteen, December 5-7Review (No Readings.)