

Sociology, University Of Manitoba
FEMINISM AND SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY
SOC.3350(3) A01

Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30 – 3:45, 313 Tier Building

Fall, 2006

Professor	Dr. Susan Prentice
Office	329 Isbister Building
Office phone	474 – 6726 (voice mail)
Email	Through course website, at http://www.umanitoba.ca/webct
Office Hours	Listed on webct and announced in-class
Class times	Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30 – 3:45, 313 Tier Building

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the course is to engage in a critical examination of how sex and gender have been addressed in classical and contemporary sociological theories, with consideration of how sociological inquiry is being transformed through feminist theorizing.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The course is divided into two main parts. The first part reviews the works of selected classical and contemporary sociological theorists (eg. Durkheim, Weber, Marx, Parsons, Foucault) with a view to determining, first, what each theorist had to say about sex and gender and, second, the implications of the theory for understanding the position of women in society. The second part of the course explores selected theoretical issues addressed by contemporary feminist theorists in their efforts to transform sociological theorizing.

COURSE FORMAT

This is a reading-intensive course. It will consist of a combination of lectures and class and group discussions. Students are expected to keep up with their assigned readings, attend class regularly and participate in discussions. This is also a writing-intensive course. One of my teaching objectives is to improve your writing skills, and so this course includes a multi-stage essay-writing project and two short writing assignments.

REQUIRED READINGS

The following required text is available at the university bookstore:

Gordon Bailey and Noga Gayle (eds.) *Social Theory : Essential Readings* (second edition)
Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2003.

In addition, readings have been placed on reserve in the Dafoe Library. A complete list of readings can be found in the Course Outline and Reading List (distributed on first day of class).

A Note on Cost: You will encounter some costs associated with small group work on the essay (see below). Please take this into account. You will also need to purchase a large folder or small three-ring binder in which to keep drafts of your essay and the commentaries provided by your small group members.

GRADING SCHEME

Evaluation of students will be based upon the following:

Major Essay	50%
Writing Assignment	15%
Two Writing Assignment	15%
Class Participation	20%

THE MAJOR ESSAY (worth 50%)

The Major Essay is written in several steps:

- Proposal:** due in-class **October 5**; must be satisfactory or rewritten
- Draft #1:** due in-class **October 26**; must be satisfactory or rewritten
- Draft #2:** due in-class **November 16**; must be satisfactory or rewritten
- Final paper:** due in-class **December 5**.

The major essay is designed around an issue – an issue that you find interesting and compelling as a theoretical concern. Your task is to explore how the issue has been (or would have been) addressed by a malestream sociologist, and how it is (or would be) addressed by feminist sociologists. You are likely to find both complementarities and differences, as well as varying explanatory power, between the two traditions.

Unlike most writing assignments, this project is to be written as a proposal and drafts, with a final paper of approximately 10-15 pages (around 3,500 words). This multi-step writing process will help you improve both your argument and writing skills.

The essay is written in four steps: a proposal, draft one, draft two and a final submission. Each phase will be discussed in class by your small group as well as reviewed by the professor. Members of your small group will provide you with written feedback on each phase. On due dates, you will submit a single copy of your work to the instructor as well as a copy to each member of your writing group. It is your responsibility to ensure everyone in your group receives a copy of your assignment on time (see ‘Note on cost,’ above).

You should plan very carefully to meet the due dates (indicated above), since penalties for being late are severe. See “policy on late assignments,” below. ***Any draft which is graded “Unsatisfactory” will need to be rewritten within seven days in order for you to proceed to the next version.*** Moreover, if you miss the due dates for your small group, you can expect that your peers will judge you poorly for participation. You will lose participation marks if you submit materials late to your writing group.

You must carefully organize the materials developed at each stage of the essay. Drafts and class commentaries should be securely kept in a folder or three-hole binder (see ‘A Note on Cost’ above). You will need to hand in the proposal and drafts one and two when you submit your final essay. You will also need to submit the written comments you receive from students in your small group. ***Any final paper which is not accompanied by the preceding drafts will automatically earn a grade of “F.”***

Proposal:

Copies to professor and group members due on **Oct 5**; to be discussed in class on **Oct 10**.

The proposal should include:

- A clarification of the issue on which you wish to focus;
- a short statement of why you are interested in this issue, how it relates to sociological theorizing, and how you intend to analyze it;
- an *annotated* bibliography of at least **four** reference sources (no web pages please). Each entry will include at least a paragraph of narrative that explains how the source is useful to your project.

Once your proposal is returned, you cannot change topics without written approval from the instructor.

Each member of your small group will provide you with written feedback on your proposal. You will need to save these comments, as well as those from members of your writing group, and submit them with your final essay.

Draft One:

Copies to instructor and group members due **October 26**; to be discussed in class on **Nov 2**.

Draft One will ordinarily make up the first part of your research essay. In this part, you will provide a review of how malestream sociologists addresses (or would have addressed) the issue you identified in your proposal. This expose should be correctly referenced and well-developed (please consult an academicstyle guide – I recommend Fernwood Publishing). This draft may include a critique of malestream/classical treatment of your topic or issue, but this is not a requirement. Draft One must include a bibliography consisting of at least **six** annotated citations (excluding web pages).

Each member of your small group, as well as the instructor, will provide you with written feedback on Draft One. You will need to save these comments and submit them with your final essay

Draft Two:

Copies to professor and group members due **November 16**; To be discussed in class **Nov 23**.

Draft Two should include:

- the revised material from Draft One;
- a new section on how contemporary feminists address the issue or topic. This section may include your critique of the feminist approach/tradition, but this is not a requirement for Draft Two;
- a bibliography which now consists of a minimum of **ten** annotated citations (excluding web pages).

Each member of your small group will provide you with written feedback on your second Draft. You will need to save all comments and submit them with your final essay.

Final Paper:

Due during class on **December 5**.

This final version should:

- be about 3,500 words (plus or minus ten percent);
- include an Introduction (which states the main purpose of the paper and indicates, in general terms, the nature of the discussion to follow) and a Conclusion (which draws out

- the conclusions from the discussion);
- include the revised materials from Drafts One and Two, and as well as your own critique and commentary on and evaluation of how sociological thinkers (malestream and feminist) have addressed the issue;
- conform to standard academic format and be correctly cited and referenced;
- contain a Bibliography or Reference List of at least **ten** items (excluding web pages). The bibliography will not be annotated.

Remember, all previous versions and associated commentary must be handed-in with this final submission.

This final paper is the only version your classmates will not review or provide commentary on. However, you are encouraged to work together outside of class to help each other produce strong final submissions.

II. WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (worth 15% each for a total of 30%)

Students are required to submit two writing assignments of approximately five pages each. Each assignment will be based on the readings assigned for one of the classes (Week Two to Week Thirteen), as selected by you. These assignments are designed to give you an opportunity to hone your writing skills and to gain a better grasp of two of the topics covered during the course. Each assignment will include:

- a brief Introduction which speaks to the topic which the readings address;
- a concise summary of the points or arguments which are put forward in the readings;
- your evaluation and reflection on the materials;
- a Conclusion which sums up the paper.

These assignments can be submitted at any point up to **November 23**, which is the final date. If you submit a Writing Assignment before **November 2**, you will receive a formal grade for coursework prior to the Voluntary Withdrawal date (November 15, 2006).

III. CLASS PARTICIPATION (worth 20%)

Part of your grade is determined by class participation. Ten percent will be based on the professors' assessment and 10% will relate to your involvement in the small group writing process. Your peers will assess your participation in the writing process, therefore your obligations are to each other, as well as to me.

Students will fill-in written comment sheets for each member of their small group at each stage of the writing process. At the end of the course, each student will also fill in a confidential assessment of each group member, including him/herself.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence, with grave consequences. Students should acquaint themselves with the University of Manitoba's academic regulations and policies, especially its policies on plagiarism, cheating, and exam impersonation found in the *Undergraduate Calendar*.

POLICY ON GRADES

The following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	86 - 100%	4.5	Exceptional
A	80 - 85%	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	Less than 50%	0	Failure

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

On the major essay:

The final essay must be handed in on the due-date (**December 7**). No extensions will be given. I will accept one late submission of one early stages of the essay (the Proposal, Draft One or Draft Two), if it is no more than **two** working days past the due date. The late submission must be handed in personally or date-stamped by the Sociology office – without this, it will not be accepted. A student can only use this option once. Subsequent late assignments will not be accepted, and a grade of '0' will be assigned. Failing any stage of the writing process disqualifies the final essay. Failure to meet the rewrite deadline will also result in a grade of 0 for the essay.

On the Writing Assignments:

The last date for submitting the Writing Assignments is **November 23**. Any assignment between 1 and 5 days late will lose one mark (out of 15) for each day it is late. After November 28, late writing assignments will not be accepted, and will be graded 0.

POLICY ON CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes, and to participate in class discussions and small group work. Missing class will put you well behind other students, and will be difficult to make-up.

The University acknowledges the right of all students to observe recognized Holy Days of their faith that fall within the academic year. Please notify me in writing of your intended absence in advance.

STUDENT AND PROFESSOR RESPONSIBILITY

As your instructor, I have selected readings and organized classroom time to meet the objectives of this course. Lectures, small group work, and discussions are designed to help you understand and extend the concepts and ideas discussed in the readings.

My responsibility as professors begins with the University's ROASS Policy (see the *2006-2007 Undergraduate Calendar*), and extends to creating a safe, cooperative, and stimulating learning environment for students. I encourage a participatory and dialogic classroom environment.

Students have responsibilities, too. First, students are responsible for their own learning. You are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance of class, and are required to come prepared to discuss the material. If you are unclear about material or have academic concerns or

questions, it is your responsibility to ask for help. I will be pleased to schedule extra time with you outside of class to help you succeed in this course. Finally, you are responsible for meeting all deadlines and complying with policies on grades and academic honesty.

WEBSITE

This course has a website. Registered students can visit the website and do a variety of things: for example, send mail to other classmates, contribute to a bulletin board discussion of issues, communicate with the instructor via e-mail, etc. Importantly, it will also allow you to securely review your grades and progress. Lecture materials will not be posted to the website nor placed in a library on reserve. Webct email is the only form e-communication permitted for this course.

TERM SCHEDULE

A schedule of topics, lectures, and readings will be handed out the first day of each term. The schedule is subject to change. Changes announced in-class will take precedence over the written schedule.