

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology and Criminology

SOC 3390 (CRN 17216), 3 credit hours

# Contemporary Sociological Theory

Fall 2018 ( Sept 5 – Dec 7, 2018)

Tier 215, T Th 13:00-14:15

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Office hours: TBD, or by appt

Course Drop Date: Sept 18

Course Add Date: Sept 19

Holiday/Break: Nov 12-16

Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline: Nov 19

## SYLLABUS

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course investigates the current moment of social scientific network breakdown and paradigm challenge and re-construction to explore the question of what theory means and does in the Enlightenment discipline of Sociology at this historical juncture.

This course also explores Sociological theory's function in the regional context, while it instructs on the technique of locating in Sociological, regional and publishing spaces current, recognized authoritative/meritorious contributions from national Sociological theoreticians, in order to instrumentally craft legitimacy-enhancing, network-articulating and -securing theory sections where research agendas are set centrally and realized in grant writing and in grant-funded publishing.

Collectively, as we build empirical comparison and sociological theory to apprehend and grapple conceptually with our era of social change, we will build our capacity to discern, theorize—to apprehend via provisional, communicable classification, to make informed judgments on ways communities and societies make and know, and to participate knowledgeably in our social world, as members of the community of learners and scholars.

Expected study load in a theory course is about 60 pages of rigorous reading per week, with study notes encompassing the 4 Seminar Questions, contributing to both reporting and analysis. Please commit time accordingly. At the university, “you should expect to spend two hours studying or working (on assigned papers) outside of class for every one hour in lecture or discussion...(A)n average 15-unit” schedule, “(3-4 courses) thus will require about 45 hours per week (only 15 hours of which may be class time--by the way, a full-time job is typically 40 hours per week).”—Stanford University Undergraduate Guide. Per

university scholarly standards, the readings will be challenging in order to propel comprehension development.

As social theorist Mary Wollstonecraft as well as John Dewey and more recently Wirth & Perkins have maintained, people poised for lifelong development and democratic participation and leadership need a more rigorous education, so that they can develop *a methodological approach to knowledge, learn to generalize and analyze causation, compare their own observations with theory, and pursue a branch of learning with the discipline necessary to develop mental faculties and improve judgment*. If we will agree to approach the class in good faith as a collective intellectual adventure, the class will provide your support in this university-based intellectual growth period.

### 1. Required readings

Required books (available at the Bookstore):

- **Bourdieu**, Pierre. 2005. PP. 1-17, Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4 and Conclusion in *The social structure of the economy*. Cambridge: Polity. Please read footnotes.
- **Browne**, Simone. 2015. *Dark matters*. Duke University Press.
- **Choudry**, Aziz & Adrian A. **Smith**. 2016. *Unfree labour? Struggles of migrant and immigrant workers in Canada*. PM Press.
- **Maynard**, Robin. 2017. *Policing Black lives: State violence in Canada from slavery to the present*. Winnipeg: Fernwood.

Required additional readings (syllabus, chapters, articles, excerpts) *will be available and posted for one month in UMLearn for downloading*, see Schedule below for reading due dates.

- **This syllabus**. You are expected to read and consult this syllabus.

Assignments:

- **2 Written Secretariat Reports on 2 different readings, including:**
  - 20 & 30 points. *The S-Report assignment format is designed to help you approach theory correctly, by prioritizing rigorous reading and reporting, as well as analysis, and a collegial, scholarly ethos; the amount of work is equivalent to a paper*. There will be a late penalty of 2 points per day, including days on weekends, applied to all reports that are handed in after the specified deadlines. Failure to turn in a report will result in a grade of 0.
    - You may choose your written S-report readings.
    - **Stapled, final-edited hardcopies are due to the professor in class on the day which the reading is assigned.**

- Specifications and an example for writing a S-Report will be provided. You will be required to methodically map out and provide a logically-related **report on and analysis** of the week's assigned reading argument in the S-Report format, including answering the 4 Arts Seminar reading comprehension questions **What does the text say? What does it mean? What is at stake for the community of scholars? What is at stake for society?** As we go along in the course, synthetic analysis of course material is recommended.
    - Assignment grades will be available to the student in D2L two weeks after the professor receives the completed assignment.
  - **1 Orally-presented Secretariat Report** on a third assigned reading of your choice. A sign-up sheet will be passed around. The oral reports must be on different readings from your written S-reports. 20 points. Oral reports should be at least 20 mn in length. In addition to the oral presentation, the student should submit to the professor a Powerpoint or detailed outline of that presentation. Failure to present will result in a grade of 0.
- **Theoretics Assignment:** Find 10 very recent works by recently- and highly-cited Canadian theoreticians in Sociology, and create a 3-page Soc-Can hierarchy-reinforcing grant theory section for a community-based participatory research project. 20 points.
- **Course Scholarly Engagement & Participation.** 10 points. Seminars dealing in challenging ideas can provide a terrific university experience, but that does require you to take great responsibility, reliably attending to (studying) the course material outside of class and engaging collegially, orally in the course material in class. This theory course will involve lecture. You have a responsibility in lecture to learn from the sociological community of scholars.

### Composition specs

*See S-Report example. Otherwise, generally, for submitted written material: use ASA style guidelines. Generally: 12 pt font, 1 inch margins, 1 or 1.5 spacing, paginated, **with your name on top**, and stapled. Use descriptive **subheadings** to switch topics when you can't compose a smooth transition.*

### **Grading scale**

A+ = 95 - 100%	C+ = 65 - 69%
A = 85 - 94%	C = 60 - 64%
B+ = 80 - 84%	D = 50 - 59 %
B = 70 - 79%	F = 0 - 49

**Schedule** (pp. 4-5)*Subject to change at professor's discretion*

Week Date	Assignment due	Topic
1 9/6	Secretariat Report How-tos	Welcome!
2 9/11 9/13	Callawaert	Contrasting philosophical & social scientific knowledge
3 9/18	Burowoy	Culture in social reproduction: Bourdieu & Gramsci
9/20	Lamont & Aksartova	The comparative Bourdieuan approach
4 9/25 9/27	Bourdieu, Ch 4 & Conclusion	Processes of mystification, humiliation in social reproduction
5 10/2 10/4	Bourdieu, Pp. 1-17, Ch 1 Bourdieu, Ch 2 & 3	Market, state bureaucracy & technocracy in social reproduction disruption & transformation
6 10/9 10/11	Di Muzio & Dow Moore	Capitalization as owner power over social reproduction Exploitation, an island on a sea of appropriation: Environment & social reproduction supporting labour exploitation-based value accumulation
7 10/16 10/18	Moore Losurdo	Capitalist relations & slavery: Liberal-conservative convergence in absolute private property right

Week Date	Assignment	Topic
8		
10/23	Maynard: Devaluing black life	Theoretics (lecture)
10/25	Murakawa	Liberalism & conservatism: Carceral state convergence
9		
10/30	Maynard: Black side & Destroying black families	Race & policing in Canada
11/1	Browne: Intro	The racial surveillance state
10		
11/6	Browne: Ch 3 & 4	The racial surveillance state
11/8	Browne: Epilogue	
11		
11/13	Holiday	
11/15	Holiday	
12		
11/20	Choudry & Smith/Intro, Bakan, & Arat-Koc	Immigrant unfree labour & social reproduction in Canada
11/22	Abraham	Citizenship & immigration theory
13		
11/27		Theoretics Workshop
11/29	Theoretics Assignment due	
14		
12/4	Porpora	The Empirical, The Actual, & the Real: Critical Realism in Sociology
12/6	Meloni & Testa	Post-Cartesian Dualism: Epigenetics & Sociology

## Course and university procedures and regulations:

### **Your Learner Disposition: Requirements and Evaluation**

This course is a third-year text-focused seminar in a university. It is understood and expected that you have and are responsible for maintaining a greater-than-average interest in the material, an enthusiastic and collegial attitude toward both study and participation, and a firm and observable respect for scholarship and scholars. The expectation is that you will attend each meeting, study the reading thoroughly and in advance, do your assignments with dedication and on time (before their due date), and participate actively in class, with collegiality consistently demonstrated for your classmates and respect consistently demonstrated for your professor both in and out of class.

It should go without saying that students should make every effort to arrive on time for class; students who arrive late miss important class material, create a culture of disrespect for learning and the community of learners, and disrupt the class. If you miss the time reserved for class, your option is to ask a classmate to catch you up. Students who have studied and attended classes are warmly welcomed to visit the professor in her office hours.

Students are always expected to be respectful to their colleagues and to the professor during class discussions and in office hours. Disruption will initially result in the student being asked to leave the classroom; any disruption after that warning will result in the student being given the choice to avail himself or herself of the Voluntary Withdrawal date or (s)he may be subject to disciplinary action such as being debarred from the class.

### **Academic dishonesty**

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("**Personation at Examinations**" (**Section 5.2.9**) and "**Plagiarism and cheating**" (**Section 8.1**)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student\\_resources/student\\_responsibilities\\_integrity.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html). Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

### **Late penalty**

No extensions will be given without medical documentation, or other documentation of comparable seriousness, that will normally be required to avoid a late penalty. Please be advised that a late penalty of 2 points per day, including days on weekends, will be applied to all papers that are handed in after the specified deadlines.

If the student has a binding and documented reason to be absent from class on a specified date, the student must notify the professor as early as possible, so that if the reason is accepted by the professor, the student and professor can make substitute arrangements for the student to complete and submit assigned work.

### **Athletic championships & identity-group 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 an athletic championship or identity-group holiday, please notify the professor at the beginning of the term or at least three weeks in advance of the relevant date.

### **Unclaimed term work disposal**

Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.