



CURRICULUM GUIDE: OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code	SOCI 250	Course Title	Introduction to Sociological Theory			
Credit Value	3	Department	Social Sciences			
No. of weeks	14	Hrs. per week	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Tutorial</i>	<i>Laboratory</i>	<i>Total</i>
			3	0	0	3
Course Description	A study of the seminal ideas of five of the pre-eminent social theorists of the 19th and early 20th centuries (August Comte, Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Georg Simmel) and their impact on the formation of the discipline of Sociology. This focus will be supplemented by discussion of some of the latter-day variants of these classical theories that uphold the relevance of fundamental questions regarding social change, power relations, human nature, inequality and social collectivity.					
Prerequisite(s)	ENGL 100, SOCI 100 or SOCI 103					
Initial Articulation Targets	<i>UBC</i>	<i>SFU</i>	<i>UVic</i>	<i>UNBC</i>	<i>TRU</i>	
	SOCI 2nd (3)	SA 250 (3)	SOCI 210 (1.5)	SOSC 2XX (3)	SOCI 2XXX (3)	
	For updated information on the transferability of this course, please consult the BC Transfer Guide, www.bctransferguide.ca					
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate the key methods and concepts of major theorists in the foundational era of the discipline of Sociology. • Trace the chief trajectory or main lines of theoretical development in the classical period of Sociology that portray societal-wide dynamics and crystallize the relationship between the individual and society. • Compare and contrast key features of the leading theoretical approaches that emerged in the foundational era of Sociology. • Embed these theoretical approaches in the formative growth and developmental contradictions of capitalist society. • Identify the merits and shortcomings of classical theories in conjunction with present day social issues and societal transformations. • Denote contemporary theoretical approaches that affirm and/or refute cardinal elements of classical theory formulations. • Write an acceptable term paper that contrasts the main theoretical differences between two or more of the classical sociologists examined in the course. 					
Content	<p>Core topics – all of the following will be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aims of Sociology and the role of theory • The ideas of Social Darwinism and the emergence of the discipline of Sociology 					



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social integration model: Emile Durkheim – social facts, the division of labour, sociology of religion, anomie, and suicide • The conflict model: Karl Marx – dialectical and historical materialism, analysis of social class • The cultural model: Max Weber – The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism – concepts of charisma, power and bureaucracy, value-free sociology • The symbolic interactionist model: Georg Simmel – the sociology of everyday life • The relevance of classical theories to current societal issues and social change <p>Additional topics may also be covered, at the discretion of the instructor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary variants of classical theories (e.g., George Herbert Mead, Erving Goffman, Dorothy Smith, W.E.B. DuBois, Talcott Parsons, Herbert Marcuse, Michel Foucault, Pierre Bourdieu), Indigenous perspectives on social theory, and other non-Western social theorists • Applied theory: ex. Wenger’s Communities of Practice, theories of multiculturalism, UN Sustainable Development Goals, McDonaldization etc. 		
Methods of Instruction	Lectures, classroom discussions, audiovisual materials, guest speakers and/or field trips		
Required Textbook(s)	<p>The following textbook(s) is/are required, or approved equivalent(s).</p> <p>Appelrouth, Scott and Laura Desfor Edles. Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory: Text and Readings, 4th Ed. Sage Publications. 2020</p> <p>Ritzer, George and Jeffrey Stepnisky. Sociological Theory, Tenth Ed. Sage Publications. 2018 https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/sociological-theory/book247879</p>		
Required Equipment and Technology	<p>Students are required to have a computer with internet access.</p> <p>The following resources are provided by the College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office 365 • Student email 		
Homework Hours	At minimum, students can expect one hour of homework for every hour of instructional time.		
Evaluation	<i>Component</i>	<i>% Value</i>	
	Participation	10-15%	
	Midterm examination	20-30%	
	Term paper	20-30%	
	Final examination	20-30%	
Completion Requirements	The minimum grade to pass this course is D (50%). Unless otherwise stated, a minimum grade of C- (55%) is required for this course to fulfil a prerequisite.		
Course Designer(s)	Bob Ratner, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia	Consultant(s), if applicable	
Dean’s Approval	Barbara Moon, Ph.D., Dean of Arts and Sciences, Alexander College	Dean’s Approval Date	October 15, 2014



Curriculum Committee Approval Date	October 15, 2014	First Term Offered	Winter 2014
Last Review Date	September 28, 2022	Next Review Date	September 28, 2027
Revision History	May 2, 2006. Minor edits June 14, 2006. Minor edits August 1, 2014. Revised by Bob Ratner April 2015. Library resources updated by Librarian September 25, 2022 – Updates to course description, learning outcomes, content as core or additional topics, assessment percentage ranges, required text and resources, method of instruction by Bob Ratner and Samantha May. January 2, 2025 – English prerequisite increased to ENGL 100, effective Winter 2025		

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