



Introduction to Sociological Theory – SOCI 225

University Studies Program

Course Outline

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2021
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2021
COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: April 2026

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to sociological thought. Students explore the ideas of the founding figures (especially Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Georg Simmel), their philosophical predecessors, the primary theoretical perspectives used in the discipline (functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, feminism, poststructuralism and postmodernism), and contemporary theoretical directions (including theories of race and colonialism, globalization theory, and theories of science, technology and nature). By analyzing each approach, students will increasingly appreciate the role theory plays in understanding social life and contemporary social problems.

Program Information: Most sociology degree programs require a sociology theory course like SOCI 225 be taken in second year. It can also be used as a second-year arts course for an Associate of Arts Degree. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery: This course is delivered in face-to-face and/or online.

COTR Credits: 3

Hours for this course: 45 hours

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	45
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience	
Other Contact Hours	
Total	45

Practicum Hours (if applicable):

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-Job Experience	
Formal Work Experience	
Other	
Total	

Course Outline Author or Contact:

Vance Mattson, M.A. (McGill)

Signature

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Department Head
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Darrell Bethune
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Department Head Signature

Dean Signature

EDCO

Valid from: September 2021 – April 2026

Education Council Approval Date

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT:

Prerequisites: SOCI 101 or 102

Corequisites: None

Flexible Assessment (FA):

Credit can be awarded for this course through FA Yes No

Learners may request formal recognition for flexible assessment at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

Transfer Credit: For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>.

Student should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

Textbooks and Required Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date, the following textbooks were in use:

Ritzer, George and Jeffrey Stepnisky (2022). *Modern Sociological Theory*. 11th edition. United States. Sage

Course Reading Package

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator

<http://go.cotr.bc.ca/tuition/tCalc.asp> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- recognize the social and historical context that produced sociological thinking, with an emphasis on the Industrial Revolution and the Enlightenment;
 - compare the theories of the founding figures, especially Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, George Herbert Mead and Erving Goffman;
 - discuss and evaluate the primary theoretical perspectives used in sociology, especially functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, feminism, poststructuralism and postmodernism;
 - identify the contemporary directions of sociological theory, including theories of race and colonialism, globalization theory, and theories of science, technology and nature;
 - recognize the development of sociological theory, from inception to the contemporary period, appreciating significant points of continuity and departure;
 - discuss the necessity of theory in comprehending the social world and social problems;
 - read and comprehend original writings from 19th and 20th century sociological thinkers;
 - discuss and write papers on topics in sociological theory, developing the ability to apply conceptual frameworks to varied social phenomena; and
 - develop a sociological worldview that facilitates comprehension of the major issues of 21st century global citizenship.
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COURSE TOPICS:

- The Early History of Sociological Theory
- Classical Sociological Theory
 - Karl Marx
 - Emile Durkheim
 - Max Weber
 - Georg Simmel
- The Major Schools of Sociological Theory
 - Structural Functionalism
 - Conflict Theory and Neo-Marxian Theory
 - Symbolic Interactionism
 - Feminism

- Cotemporary Theoretical Directions
 - Poststructuralism and Postmodernism
 - Theories of Race and Colonialism
 - Globalization Theory
 - Theories of Science, Technology and Nature

OPTIONAL COURSE TOPICS:

- Overview of Other Major Schools
 - Ethnomethodology
 - Metatheoretical Approaches
 - Exchange, Network, and Rational Choice Theories

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT (Face-to-Face and Online):

Assignments	% of Total Grade
Essays (2: 1 short: 10%; 1 long: 20%)	30%
Midterms	30%
Final Exam	30%
Short Assignments	<u>10%</u>
Total:	100%

Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments and use of electronic aids.

EXAM POLICY:

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

COURSE GRADE:

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	< 50

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

See www.cotr.bc.ca/policies for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

COURSE CHANGES:

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor endeavours to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.