

## **SOCI 370.001: Sociological Theories**

5 Sep. 2019

2019W Terms 1 and 2 (6 credits)

### **The Work of Theory in the Age of Global Capitalism**

Professor Thomas Kemple (Tom; he, his)

Department of Sociology

University of British Columbia, Unceded Musqueam Territory

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-2:00pm, HENN 201 (T1), ESB 1012 (T2)

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AnSo 108

#### **A. Course Description**

Are sociological concepts limited by the historical contexts in which they were first formulated, or can they also be extended to help us articulate global worldviews, civic engagement, and everyday experiences in today's world? This year's course will consider the work of critical intellectuals in the age of global capitalism. We will study a diverse selection of core texts from the three foundational traditions in social and cultural theory – Marxian, Weberian, Durkheimian – along with a variety of non-canonical and lesser known thinkers whose writings continue to inspire social scientists today. This course is reading-and writing-intensive, and its primary aim ('learning objective') is to foster critical reflection and independent thought on the perennial problems of class and status, race and gender, and ethnicity and sexuality in everyday and institutional life.

#### **B. Course Evaluation**

- 1) 60%: Three essays, 1800-2400 words, or 6-8 double-spaced pages, on a topic of your choice. Each paper must refer to at least one 'classical' and two 'contemporary' required texts from the three parts of the course. Details on requirements, recommendations, and options will be provided in class. *Due before class* on October 31, January 30, April 7.
- 2) 30%: Three in-class tests emphasizing 'classical' readings discussed in weeks 2-5, 10-13, and 18-21. Tests will be held *during class* on October 8, November 28, and March 10.
- 3) 10%: 'Participation' is understood very broadly, and may include: submitting précis, reflection papers, essay outlines, or essay ideas for advice and feedback *on Canvas* at least one week in advance of the due dates for the essays; and asking questions and offering comments during class, in office hours, and/or over e-mail. Contributions to class discussions are especially encouraged. Quality is valued more highly than quantity.

#### **C. Required Course Text** (available in the UBC Bookstore)

Appelrouth, Scott A., and Laura Desfor Edles (2016) *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Pine Forge Press.

Other required or recommended texts will be made available on Canvas.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Although this is mainly a reading and writing, listening and lecture course, you are encouraged to speak and ask questions both inside and outside class. You are expected to read assigned materials *in advance*, attend every class, and be prepared to discuss issues in a thoughtful and respectful way. You are expected to arrive on time and required to **refrain from using laptops, cellphones, and other electronic devices unless special permission has been granted by the instructor**. Please ask before using these devices.

**All essays are due before the beginning of class** on the dates specified in the syllabus. *One extension of 48 hours* will be automatically granted if we are notified beforehand in writing. After that, in-term concessions must be requested via Arts Advising, or unexcused late essays will be marked down a minimum of ½ letter grade per day. Students are expected to retain copies of all submitted assignments.

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access, including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on [the UBC Senate website](#).

### Statement of Academic Integrity

The Sociology Department, UBC, and the scholarly community at large share an understanding of the ethical ways of producing knowledge. A core practice of our shared value of academic integrity consists of acknowledging the contributions others make to our own work and to the scholarly conversation. We do not buy or copy papers or exams or have someone else write or extensively edit them. We also do not falsify data or sources, or hand in the same work for more than one course. Everyone is expected to follow a standard citation format in a consistent way.

*Any* instance of cheating, academic misconduct, or taking credit for someone else's work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, can and often will result in a grade of zero for the assignment (at minimum) and these cases will be reported to the Department Head and the Faculty of Arts Associate Dean, Academic. See the UBC Calendar entries on "[Academic Honesty](#)," "[Academic Misconduct](#)," and "[Disciplinary Measures](#)," and check out the [Student Declaration and Responsibility](#), and "[Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism](#)". **You are expected to know UBC's policies on plagiarism and academic misconduct.**

Students are encouraged to consult with us about any matters concerning this course via email, in person during office hours, or by appointment.

### Faculty of Arts Grading Table:

A+	90-100	B+	76-79	C+	64-67	D	50-54
A	85-89	B	72-75	C	60-63	F	0-49
A-	80-84	B-	68-71	C-	55-59		

### C. Course Outline -- SOCI 370: Sociological Theories TERM ONE (2019)

N.B. For each thinker in the textbook, please read the 'Biographical Sketch,' 'Intellectual Influences,' and 'Introductions'. Texts marked \* are photocopies available on Canvas.

Week 1 (Sep. 5): Introduction – The Work of Theory in the Age of Global Capitalism

#### Part I. Marxian Traditions: Colonial Capitalism

- Week 2 (Sep. 10 & 12): \* Kant, 'What is Enlightenment?'  
\* Tocqueville, 'Why Revolutions Will Become Rare'  
Recommended: \* Gramsci, 'Intellectuals and Hegemony'
- Week 3 (Sep. 17 & 19): Marx, From *The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*  
Marx, From *The German Ideology*
- Week 4 (Sep. 24 & 26): Marx, From *The Communist Manifesto*  
\* Engels, From *Origins of Private Property, Family & State*
- Week 5 (Oct. 1 & 3): Marx, From *Capital*  
Review and test-preparation workshop
- Week 6 (Oct. 8 & 10): In-class test #1, Tuesday, October 8  
Marcuse, From *One-Dimensional Man*  
Baudrillard, From *Simulacra and Simulations*
- Week 7 (Oct. 15 & 17): Hochschild, From *The Managed Heart*  
Butler, 'Subjects of Sex / Gender / Desire'
- Week 8 (Oct. 22 & 24): Ritzer, From 'Rethinking Globalization'  
Wallerstein, From 'The Modern World-System'
- Week 9 (Oct. 29 & Oct. 31): Recommended: \* Mao, 'Identity, Struggle, Contradiction' +  
\* Fanon, 'Decolonizing, National Culture, and the Negro Intellectual'  
Essay #1 due before class, Thursday, Oct. 31

#### Part II. Weberian Traditions: Surveillance Capitalism

- Week 10 (Nov. 5 & 7): Simmel, 'The Stranger', 'The Metropolis and Mental Life'  
Du Bois, From *The Souls of Black Folk*  
Recommended: \* Du Bois, 'Black Reconstruction and the Racial Wage'
- Week 11 (Nov. 12 & 14): Weber, From *The Protestant Ethic & Spirit of Capitalism*  
Weber, From 'The Social Psychology of World Religions'
- Week 12 (Nov. 19 & 21): Weber, From 'Class, Status, Party'  
Weber, From 'The Types of Legitimate Domination'
- Week 13 (Nov. 26 & 28): Weber, 'Bureaucracy'  
In-class test #2, Thursday, Nov. 28 ... BREAK (to Jan. 7)

**SOCI 370: Sociological Theories****TERM TWO (2020)**

- Week 14 (Jan. 7 & 9): Foucault, From *Discipline and Punish*  
Said, From *Orientalism*  
Recommended: \* Said, 'Intellectual Exile'
- Week 15 (Jan. 14 & 16): Bourdieu, From 'Social Space and the Genesis of Groups'  
Adorno, 'The Culture Industry Reconsidered'
- Week 16 (Jan. 21 & 23): Habermas, 'Civil Society, Public Opinion, Communicative  
Power'  
Hill Collins, From *Black Feminist Thought*
- Week 17 (Jan. 28 & 30): Recommended: \* Lorde, 'Age, Race, Class, and Sex' +  
\* Tuck and Yang, 'Decolonization Is Not a Metaphor'  
Essay #2 due before class, Thursday, January 30

**Part III. Durkheimian Traditions: Civic Capitalism**

- Week 18 (Feb. 4 & 6): Mead, From 'Self'  
\* Gilman, 'The Yellow Wallpaper'  
Recommended: \* Cooley, 'The Looking-Glass Self'
- Week 19 (Feb. 11 & 13): Gilman, From *Women and Economics*  
Durkheim, From *The Division of Labor in Society*  
BREAK (Feb. 17-21)
- Week 20 (Feb. 25 & 27): Durkheim, From *The Rules of Sociological Method*  
Durkheim, From *Suicide*
- Week 21 (Mar. 3 & 5): Durkheim, From *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*
- Week 22 (Mar. 10 & 12): In-class test #3, Tuesday, March 10  
Parsons, 'Sex Roles in the American Kinship System'  
Merton, From 'Social Structure and Anomie'  
Recommended: \* Coulthard, 'Resentment and Indigenous Politics'
- Week 23 (Mar. 17 & 19): Schutz, From *The Phenomenology of the Social World*  
Berger/Luckmann, From *The Social Construction of Reality*
- Week 24 (Mar. 24 & 26): Goffman, From *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*  
\* Fanon, 'The Lived Experience of the Black Man'
- Week 24 (Mar. 31 & Apr. 2): Smith, From *Institutional Ethnography*  
Smith, From *The Everyday World as Problematic*  
Recommended: \* Gordon, 'Ghostly Matters'
- Final Essay #3 due before class, Tuesday, April 7