

SOCI 370.01: Sociological Theories

2021W Terms 1 and 2 (6 credits)

Updated 23 August 2021

(subject to changes)

Earthbound Theory

Department of Sociology
University of British Columbia
Unceded Musqueam Territory

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-2:00pm: LAW 105 (T1), WESB 201 (T2)

Instructors: Simon Lafontaine (Simon; he, his), Term 1 Thomas Kemple (Tom; he, his), Term 2
E-mail: simon.lafontaine@ubc.ca E-mail: kemple@mail.ubc.ca
Office: AnSo 125 Office: AnSo 2211
Zoom office link: TBA Zoom office link: TBA
Office hours: Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm (in-person, Zoom, and/or by appointment)

Teaching Assistants: Tristan Nkoghe Ethan Shapiro
Email: trist.nko@gmail.com Email: ethandshapiro@gmail.com
Office: TBA Office: TBA
Zoom office link: TBA Zoom office link: TBA
Office hours: TBA Office hours: TBA

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 and everyday experiences in today's world? This year's course considers the work of critical intellectuals in understanding the past, present, and future of 'earthbound theory' in a post-pandemic age of neoliberal capitalism. We will study a diverse selection of core texts from the four foundational traditions in social and cultural theory – Durkheimian, Schutzian, Weberian, Marxian – along with a variety of lesser-known thinkers whose writings may inspire students and social scientists today to confront the planetary challenges of ecological and economic crisis. This course is reading- and writing-intensive. Our '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 institutional and everyday life.

B. Course Evaluation

1) 60%: *Four essays*, 1500-2000 words each (5-7 double-spaced pages), on a topic of your choice. Each paper must quote from at least *four theorists*: one 'classical' theorist, two 'contemporary' theorists, and one 'recommended' text (classical or contemporary). Details on requirements and options will be posted on Canvas. Essays must be submitted on Canvas by 12:30pm PST on the due dates: October 22 (Part I), December 9 (Part II), February 25 (Part III), April 12 (Part IV).

2) 40%: *Four short assignments*, in the form of 1-2 page précis, blogposts, posters, infographics, annotated texts, dialogues, video commentaries, etc. Each must apply *five key concepts* from 'classical' readings. Details on requirements, suggestions, options, questions, and prompts will be posted on Canvas in advance. Due on Canvas by 12:30pm PST on the due dates: October 1, November 19, January 28, March 18.

C. Required Course Texts:

All required texts and recommended readings are on Canvas. Note that *you must cite these editions in all written work* (no substitutions without prior permission).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Although this is mainly a reading and writing, listening and lecture course, you are encouraged to speak and ask questions in and outside of class. You are expected to read assigned materials *before* attending to the lectures and to contribute your own ideas in a thoughtful and respectful way. You are expected to arrive to in-person classes on time and you must refrain from using cellphones and other distracting electronic devices during class time.

All essays are due on the dates and times specified in the syllabus. *One* extension of *24 hours* and *two* extensions of *48 hours* will be automatically granted; simply indicate ‘24h extension’ or ‘48h extension’ in the comment box on Canvas. Otherwise concessions must be requested via Arts Advising. Unexcused late essays and assignments will be marked down a maximum of ½ letter grade per day. All assignments and essays must be uploaded onto Canvas (not sent by personal email).

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise which may require additional resources, 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 Canvas or email, or by making an appointment to meet with us.

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 (2021)

N.B.: For each thinker, you are encouraged to read the biographical sketches on their personal background and intellectual influences on Wikipedia or other online sources.

Introductory Lecture (Sept. 7) – **Being-earth-bound: Confining Spaces, Entangled Times**

Part I. Durkheimian Traditions: Senses of Self and the Common

- Week 1 (Sept. 9) Kant, 'What is Enlightenment?'
 Recommended: Nietzsche, 'From *The Dawn*'
- Week 2 (Sept. 14 & 16): Mead, 'From "The Self"'
 Gilman, 'The Yellow Wallpaper'
 Recommended: Winnicott, 'The Capacity to be Alone'
- Week 3 (Sept. 21 & 23): Durkheim, 'From *Suicide*'
 Recommended: Mauss, 'Body Techniques'
- Week 4 (September 28 & 30): Durkheim, 'From *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*'
 Recommended: Luckmann, 'From *The Invisible Religion*'

[Short assignment #1 due 12:30 pm, October 1]

- Week 5 (Oct. 5 & 7): Goffman, 'On Face-Work' and 'The Territories of the Self'
 Recommended: Katz, 'Pissed off in LA'
- Week 6 (Oct. 12 & 14): Berger/Luckmann, 'From *The Social Construction of Reality*'
 Recommended: Schutz/Luckmann, 'From "The Boundaries of Experience"'
- Week 7 (Oct. 19 & 21): Garfinkel, 'From "The Routine Grounds of Daily Activities"'
 Recommended: Psathas, 'Mobility, Orientation, and Navigation'

[Essay #1 due 12:30 pm, Oct. 22]

Part II. Schutzian Traditions: (Dis)orientations in Human Experience

- Week 8 (Oct. 26 & 28): Schutz, 'The Stranger'
 Recommended: Straus, 'Shame as an Historiological Problem'
- Week 9 (Nov. 2 & 4 & 9): Simmel, 'The Stranger' and 'The Metropolis and Mental Life'
 Recommended: Fanon, 'The Lived Experience of the Black Man'
 Fanon, 'Decolonizing, National Culture, and the Negro Intellectual'

<BREAK (Nov. 10-12)>

- Week 10 (Nov. 16 & 18): Schutz, 'The Homecomer'
 Recommended: Knorr Cetina, 'Sociality with Objects'

[Short Assignment #2 due 12:30pm, Nov. 19]

- Week 11 (Nov. 23 & 25): Schutz, 'Tiresias, or our Knowledge of Future Events'
 Recommended: Kerouac, 'From *On the Road*'
- Week 12 (Nov. 30 & Dec. 2): Ahmed, 'Disorientation and Queer Objects'
 Recommended: Freeman, 'Queer and Not Now'
- Week 13 (Dec. 7): Gordon, 'Ghostly Demarcations'
 Recommended: Csepregi, 'Logic of Exception'

[Essay #2 due 12:30 pm, Dec. 9]

C. Course Outline -- SOCI 370: Sociological Theories TERM TWO (2022)

Part III. Weberian Traditions – Living Amidst the Crisis of Reason

- Week 14 (Jan. 11 & 13): Du Bois, 'From *The Souls of Black Folk*'
Recommended: Du Bois, 'Black Reconstruction and Racial Wage'
Collins, 'From *Black Feminist Thought*'
- Week 15 (Jan. 18 & 20): Weber, 'Religious Origins of the Vocational Calling'
Recommended: Elias, 'From *The Civilizing Process*'
- Week 16 (Jan. 25 & 27): Weber, 'From *Economy and Society*' (selections)
Recommended: Habermas, 'The Public Sphere'

[Short Assignment #3 due 12:30 pm, Jan. 28]

- Week 17 (Feb. 1 & 3): Foucault, 'From *Discipline and Punish: Torture and Panopticism*'
Recommended: Foucault, 'From *The History of Sexuality: The Perverse Implantation*'
Freud, 'Civilized Sexual Morality and Modern Nervous Illness'
- Week 18 (Feb. 8 & 10): Saïd, 'Introduction to *Orientalism*'
Recommended: Saïd, 'Intellectual Exile'
Tuck and Yang, 'Decolonization Not a Metaphor'

<BREAK (Feb. 21-25)>

- Week 19 (Feb 22 & 24): Smith, 'From *The Everyday World as Problematic and Institutional Ethnography*'
Recommended: Lorde, 'Age, Race, Class, and Sex'

[Essay #3 due 12:30 pm, Feb. 25]

Part IV. Marxian Traditions – Living Capitalism's Promises

- Week 20 (Mar. 1 & 3): Tocqueville, 'Why Revolutions Will Become Rare'
Martineau, 'From *Society in America: Women*'
Recommended: Gramsci, 'Intellectuals and Hegemony'
- Week 21 (Mar. 8 & 10): Marx and Engels, '*The Communist Manifesto: Part I*'
Marx, 'Estranged Labour' and 'The Power of Money'
Recommended: Attoh et al, "'We're Building Their Data'"
- Week 22 (Mar. 15 & 17): Marx, 'From *Capital: Commodity, General Formula, Accumulation*'
Recommended: Fraser, 'Reframing Justice in a Globalizing World'

[Short Assignment #4 due 12:30 pm, Mar. 18]

- Week 23 (Mar. 22 & 24): Hochschild, 'Exploring the Managed Heart'
Mitchell, 'Women: The Longest Revolution'
Recommended: Gilman, 'The Man-Made World'
- Week 24 (Mar. 29 & 31): Bourdieu, 'Social Space and Symbolic Space'
Recommended: Adorno, 'The Culture Industry Reconsidered'
- Week 25 (Apr. 5 & 7): Fraser, 'Behind Marx's Hidden Abode'
Recommended: Coulthard, 'Seeing Red: Reconciliation and Resentment'

[Essay #4 due 12:30 pm, Apr. 12]