

Sociology 2111 WA: Perspectives in Social Thought

Pre-requisites: Soc 1100
Class Location: RB 1022
Class Time: Tue-Thurs, 1:00-2:30 pm
3-0; or 3-0

Sociology web-page address: <http://sociology.lakeheadu.ca>

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Goals of the Course

The goals of the course can be broken into three major emphases: (1) to learn the importance of theory and its role in sociological analysis and work; (2) to gain a broad introduction to different types of sociological theory, such that you will learn to identify and distinguish between key theorists and their most central ideas; and (3) to learn how to analyze, compare, critically evaluate, and apply sociological ideas to concrete issues, working actively with others.

With these goals in mind, you will be evaluated on the following:

(1) Mid-term Examination	(30%)
(2) Final Examination	(40%)
(2) Tutorial Group Assignments (3)	<u>(30%)</u>
	Final = (100%)

Required readings:

Ruth A. Wallace and Alison Wolf. 2006. *Contemporary Sociological Theory: Expanding the Classical Tradition, 6th Edition*. New Jersey: Pearson.

** Other readings will be available through “sociological abstracts” database (see outline)

Explanation of Evaluations:

1. **Mid-term Examination:** The mid-term examination will assess your knowledge of the course material (readings, lectures) up until the date of the exam. It will consist of a mixture of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions, meant to assess your understanding of the theorists and their major ideas as we have discussed them throughout the course.
2. **Final Examination:** This examination will be cumulative (based on the entire course), but with more emphasis on the second half of the term’s lectures and assigned readings. This exam will also be made up of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions.
3. **Tutorial Group Assignments:** Since sociological theory can often be rather abstract, it is important that you actively work with these ideas by applying, comparing, analyzing, and contrasting theories we have learned toward answering a specific question posed. Thus, we will be running three tutorials on specific days (check course schedule, below) in which you will work in a small group to answer a series of analytical questions, or apply some of the theory we have learned to a concrete social issue. These are worth a large percentage of your grade, so please come to these tutorials prepared, with the readings done, and some notes to draw on, so as not let your group down.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

January 10 – Introduction to Course

January 12 – Chapter 1 “The Understanding of Society” (pp 1-14)

January 17 – Chapter 2 “Functionalism” (pp 15-24)

January 19 – Chapter 2 “Functionalism” (pp 25-44)

January 24 – Chapter 2 “Functionalism” (pp 45-66)

January 26 – Chapter 3 “Conflict Theory” (pp 68-93)

January 31 – Chapter 3 “Conflict Theory” (pp 93-120)

February 2 – Film: Pierre Bourdieu: Sociology as a Contact Sport

February 7 – *Tutorial Group Assignment #1*

February 9 – Chapter 3 “Conflict Theory” (pp 120-138)

February 14 – Chapter 3 “Conflict Theory” (pp 138-157)

February 16 – *** **Midterm Examination** ***

February 20-24 (reading week)

February 28 – Chapter 4 “Evolution and Modernity” pp 158-174

March 1 – Chapter 4 “Evolution and Modernity” pp 174-196

March 6 – Beck, U. 2006. “Living in the World Risk Society,” *Economy and Society*, 35(3): 329-345. [Available through sociological abstracts database]

March 8 – *Tutorial Group Assignment #2*

March 13 – Chapter 5 “Symbolic Interactionism” pp 197-213

March 15 – Chapter 5 “Symbolic Interactionism” pp 213-235

March 20 – Puddephatt, A. (2008). “Incorporating Ritual into Greedy Institution Theory: The Case of Organized Chess,” in *The Sociological Quarterly*, 49(1): 155-180. [available through soc abstracts]

March 22 – Chapter 7 “Rational Choice Theory” pp 313-338

March 27 – Chapter 7 “Rational Choice Theory” pp 338-362

March 29 – Chapter 7 “Rational Choice Theory” pp 363-380

April 3 – *Tutorial Group Assignment #3*

April 5 – review class

*** **FINAL EXAM: Date TBA** ***

Lakehead University Regulations:

IX Academic Dishonesty

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.

A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

- (a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- (b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.