

## **SOCI-2111-WAO: Perspectives in Social Thought**

**Class Day and Time:** Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30 AM – 1 PM (Jan. – April 2017)

**Class Location:** OA 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> floor – 500 University Avenue)

**Instructor:** Kevin D. Willison, B.A. (Hon.), M.A., Ph.D.

**E-mail:** [kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca)

**Office area:** third floor (cubical area), 500 University Avenue (Orillia Campus)

**Office hours:** By appointment (see my above e-mail).

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES**

SOCI 2111 is designed to provide an introductory survey of foundational perspectives in social thought as they pertain to the discipline of sociology. Given its introductory nature, the course presumes that students taking it have not had previous exposure to sociological theory beyond what was considered in SOCI 1100. Nevertheless, the basic competency in all major sociological perspectives and their philosophical/theoretical foundations is assumed.

**SOCI 2111 is a required course for Sociology majors. Students registered in this class should have SOCI 1100 successfully completed.**

The overall aim of SOCI 2111 is to offer the sociology of knowledge approach to the foundational perspectives in social thought. Its guiding premise is an assumption that social thought and sociological theorizing do not arise in a vacuum but are intellectual responses to specific historical conditions and societal realities.

The best way to understand why particular forms of social thought are the way they are is to examine them in the context of times and age of their making. An additional guiding premise of the course is a notion that the history of social thought and sociological theorizing is a continuous and ever-evolving dialogue between different streams and forms of thinking and theorizing. Thus, the best way to understand their character is to situate them within this dialogue and examine their contributions to dealing with specific issues, problems and/or themes the dialogue generates and invites. In exploring the foundational perspectives in social thought, SOCI 2111 covers three general themes: (1) from reason to revolution; (2) from social philosophy to social science; (3) from certainty to doubt.

Theme I focuses on the pre-Enlightenment period, a transition to the era of Enlightenment philosophy, and a reaction to the ‘promise of the Enlightenment’. Theme II considers the principal proto-sociological and sociological streams of Enlightenment-based theorizing about the modern Western society. Theme III explores the responses and reactions to Enlightenment-based social theories, and the precursors to post-Enlightenment and post-modern forms of thought.

The primary methods of instruction in SOCI 2111 will be formal lectures and ‘dialogical encounters’ between the instructor and students. The primary purpose of class lectures is to offer a necessary historical, philosophical and conceptual background for situating and

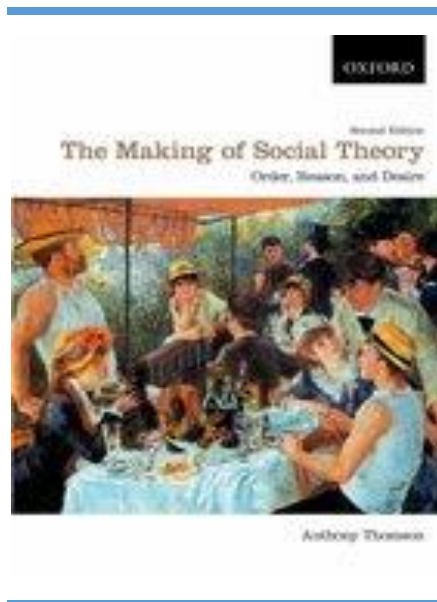
understanding particular streams of social thought, while the main objective of ‘dialogical encounters’ is to explore, through discussion and/or debate the actual theoretical ideas/questions you will be reflecting on in your commentaries. Although a significant portion of our class time will be devoted to formal lectures, your willingness to read, think and talk is indispensable for the overall success of the course and for how much you get out of it.

### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The overall objective of the course is to provide students with a comprehensive survey understanding of the foundational perspectives in social thought as they pertain to the discipline of sociology. By the end of the course, the diligent student will possess a competence in assessing, comparing and evaluating a broad range of pre-sociological, proto-sociological and sociological forms of theorizing, and be fully prepared to take up the more advanced explorations of specific theoretical issues, problems and debates.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

***The Making of Social Theory: Order, Reason, and Desire (2nd Edition),***  
**by Anthony Thompson. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2010.**  
**ISBN: 13-978-0195-430301**



**To get the most out of the course, you should have your weekly readings done *before* classes. Doing so will help you be more prepared for the lectures / class discussions.**

## **METHOD OF EVALUATION**

Your performance in this course will be evaluated on the following basis:

- [\*] **Test One (15%): Wednesday February 1, 2017**
- [\*] **Test Two (20%): Wednesday March 1, 2017**
- [\*] **Term - Class Participation / Attendance (5%)**
- [\*] **Six-Minute “Dragon’s Den” Theory Presentation (10 %): In February**
- [\*] **Test Three (20%): Wednesday March 29, 2017**
- [\*] **Final (April) Exam (30%): Scheduled by the Registrar (stay tuned for day and time).**

### **Winter Academic Term - Important Dates:**

- **Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> (2017) – Winter Term begins.**
- **Monday Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – Family Day. No classes.**
- **Tuesday Feb 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> break 2 - No classes.**
- **Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup> – April 7: Winter Review Week.**
- **Final day of classes – Friday April 7<sup>th</sup>**
- **Winter Exam Period – April 10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>th</sup>**

### **FORMAT of TESTS and EXAM**

The tests and exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the blank plus, point-form answered essay answers.

You will be responsible for course (text) readings, lecture materials, and anything posted on D2L. There will be a pre-exam review session with the purpose of clarifying difficulties and problems encountered during your preparation of the final exam.

### **Six-Minute “Dragon’s Den” Theory Presentation**

- **First, your task here is to choose a timely (up-to-date) topic / issue.**
- **Then, choose one theoretical approach that best captures your topic.**
- **Thirdly, convince the class audience, in six minutes (no less, and no more), that your topic is important and, that your choice of theory aligns well to your topic of interest.**
- **Refer to the posted presentation grading rubric, as posted in D2L.**

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The following grading scale will be applied in evaluating your course work:

### **90-100% (A+)**

*Outstanding Performance:* superb mastery of the principles and materials treated in the course; exceptional fluency in communicating that mastery and a high degree of originality and independence in applying material and principles.

### **80-89% (A)**

*Excellent Performance:* comprehensive in-depth knowledge of the principles and materials treated in the course; fluency in communicating that knowledge and originality and independence in applying material and principles.

**70-79% (B)**

*Good Performance:* thorough understanding of the breadth of materials and principles treated in the course and ability to apply and communicate that understanding effectively.

**60-69% (C)**

*Satisfactory Performance:* basic understanding of the breadth of principles and material treated in the course and an ability to apply and communicate that understanding competently.

**50-59% (D)**

*Marginal Performance:* adequate understanding of most principles and material treated in the course, but significant weakness in some areas and in the ability to apply and communicate that understanding.

**40-49% (E)**

*Failure:* inadequate or fragmentary knowledge of the principles and material treated in the in the course, or failure to complete the work required in the course.

**1-39% (F)**

*Failure:* inadequate or fragmentary knowledge of the principles and material treated in the in the course, or failure to complete the work required in the course.

**0% (F)**

*Academic Dishonesty:* demonstrable violation of the academic rules of conduct as defined by Lakehead University academic standards.

Your grade is a reflection of your performance in the course, which is the only criterion for your final course mark. *There will be no rescaling of grades at the end of the course* and no adjustments except for legitimate clerical errors. Please take note of that. According to Lakehead University defined standards, a grade of 0-49% constitutes unsatisfactory academic performance and means failing the course; 50-59% is a minimally accepted level of performance for passing the course, while 90-100% constitutes outstanding performance. For details on evaluation and grading see your *Lakehead University Academic Calendar*, section University Regulations. If you wish to review your course work you can do so within *one week from the day your marks* have been posted.

- Caution: if you decide to drop any course at Lakehead University you must let the Registrar know (by the drop date) - otherwise the course may be shown as a failure on your final transcript. Contact Student Services for details.

**GENERAL POLICIES**

**Cell phones:** Cell phones are to be turned off during lectures (except under exceptional circumstances in which approval has been granted by the instructor). Avoid texting. Failure to follow this course policy *may* result in a loss of marks.

\* Except for taking class notes, use of portable electronic devices during lectures is **not allowed** (except under exceptional circumstances in which approval has been granted by the instructor).

### **Accommodations / Special Needs:**

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) first. Register as early as possible. For more information, please visit: <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

Your instructor - Dr. Kevin Willison - has received specialized training in AODA (the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Training Act).

### **General E-mail and Classroom Conduct Guidelines:**

[1] Within all e-mail correspondence (not just for this course) it is advisable to follow “the ten commandments of *e-mail netiquette*.”

Please review: <http://www.studygs.net/netiquette.htm>

[2] All e-mail communication sent from students to the instructor for this class must originate from the student’s own Lakehead University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a Lakehead University account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply, at his or her discretion.

[3] Please be sure to identify yourself in your e-mail (not only your name but also what course you are in, as your Instructor likely teaches more than one course, and has many students). This will help speed up a response. Thank you in advance.

[4] The course instructor may best be reached at: [kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:kdwillis@lakeheadu.ca). I will do my best to respond to your e-mail within 8 hours (or less) of receipt (based on e-mails received between 9am – 5 pm, Monday to Friday). Due to teaching, meetings and research related activities please do not expect your instructor to provide an instant / immediate response. \* Note: Dr. Kevin Willison’s course teaching schedule is posted in your course D2L.

[5] Please be advised that you will may *not* get a response e-mailing the Instructor the night before a test or exam. Please plan ahead.

[6] Please do not expect a quick e-mail response if sending an e-mail to an Instructor on a Saturday or Sunday. On weekends your Instructor may have other obligations.

[7] As per LU policy, your specific grades/marks will not be discussed over the internet / e-mail. Please talk to your instructor directly on such matters. Individual course marks (when ready) can be accessed using your unique course D2L account.

[8] Please refrain from sending e-mails / texting / watching movies etc. during class time. Make use of your class time and computer wisely. Not only is it best to focus on the course material during class, texting or viewing inappropriate material on your computer may bother / disturb others around you, particularly those sitting behind you and/or beside you.

[9] Unless in a group work session, please refrain from talking to others when the instructor is talking, as others around you may have difficulty hearing and/or be disturbed. **Have a question? Please raise your hand until I see you and I will try to respond quickly.**

**Missed Tests and/or Exams:**

Make-up examinations will only be given with written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at:  
<http://registrar.lakeheadu.ca/uploads/docs/F.HealthCertificate.pdf> .

**Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance is not mandatory but is highly recommended. As a university-level course it is not necessary to e-mail the Instructor if you will not be attending. If you decide to attend, you are expected to arrive on time and be respectful to other students in class. Disruptive and otherwise inappropriate behaviour in the classroom will not be tolerated. Students engaged in such behaviour will be dealt with accordingly.

**Religious Observance Policy:** If you require religious accommodation(s), you must make your request to the instructor preferably within the first two weeks of class.

**Course Concerns?** Students are encouraged to speak with their Instructor first should there be a problem or concern regarding the course which you feel needs to be raised. Please do not expect your Instructor to know of concerns if you do not tell him or her.

**Emergency? Know the Number to Call**

Lakehead Security reminds everyone to **call 3911** (Orillia) if you require emergency service. Paramedics, firefighters and police officers do not always know where to find certain buildings or locations on our campuses. By calling 3911 (Orillia), Lakehead Security will quickly dispatch a security guard to your location and contact 911 services. Lakehead Security will then meet and escort emergency services to your location to save valuable time.

**Disclaimer:** The information in this Course Outline may be subject to change. Also, the instructor has the right to modify the course content as he/she deems appropriate. Any such changes will be announced in class, in advance.

**COURSE SCHEDULE** (subject to change; any changes will be announced in class)

**Module 1**

*COURSE INTRODUCTION & SYLLABUS WALKTHROUGH*

**READINGS**

- Preface
- Conclusion
- Introduction: The Unmaking of Traditional Society

**Module 2***THEME I: FROM REASON TO REVOLUTION***BACKGROUND READING**

- Chapter 1: Enlightenment and Revolution: Rousseau and Wollstonecraft

**Module 3****READING**

- Chapter 2: The Conservative Reaction and Romanticism

**Module 4****Test One (15%): Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017****Module 5***THEME II: FROM SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY TO SOCIAL SCIENCE***READING** • Chapter 4: French Positivism and German Idealism**Module 6****READING**

- Chapter 5: Karl Marx

**Module 7****Test Two (20%): Wednesday March 1, 2017****Modules 8 and 9****READING**

- Chapter 7: Émile Durkheim

**Module 10****READING**

- Chapter 8: Max Weber
- \* plus posted article: Life Chances (see course D2L)

**Module 11****Test Three (20%): Wednesday March 29, 2017****Module 12** – Partial Term review

- **The Final Exam in April of 2017 is scheduled by the Registrar. The day and time will be announced, and posted in D2L well in advance.**
- **The value of the final exam equals 30 percent of the total course grade.**