



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2021

SO 2120 (A3) – The Sociological Imagination 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael Holland **PHONE:** 780-539-2973
OFFICE: B-404 **E-MAIL:** mholland@gprc.ab.ca (best way to contact)
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment, Zoom

WINTER 2021 DELIVERY: Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and a reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: What is society? How do we study it? An introduction to sociological theorizing. Focuses on the development of society and the study of society as a systematic enterprise.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: SO1000 or equivalent

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: Ashley, D., & Orenstein, D. M. (2005). *Sociological theory: Classical statements*. Pearson College Division.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To understand sociological theories, arguments, and paradigms from classical sociologists, and to apply such understandings to the modern world. Students will be asked whether such classical sociological theories and frameworks are valuable and relevant to today's society.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Knowledge of the variety of paradigms or schools of sociological theory; familiarity with classical sociological theory; and to apply sociological theory and the sociological imagination to modern-day social phenomena.

TRANSFERABILITY:

This course is considered a University Transferable Course; however, the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability and transferable grades.**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Total Point Value	Weight
Participation/Class Attendance	100 pts	5 %
Midterm	60 pts	15 %
2 Critical Reflections and Discussions (20 pts each)	40 pts	10 %
Project Presentation (Zoom)	15 pts	15 %
Essay Assignment Outline (20 pts; 10 %) Final paper (50 pts; 15%)	75 pts	25 %
Final Exam	80 pts	30 %
Total	370 pts	100 %

Participation/Attendance

To earn full participation credit (worth 5% of course grade), I expect regular attendance and contribution to the class. However, the contribution must include thoughtful discussion and engagement. Merely speaking often is not enough; you need to show that you have done the readings and can reflect on the material or class discussion.

Midterm Test and Final Exam

The Midterm Test (15%) and Final Examination (30%) will consist of any combination of multiple-choice, true/false, and full essay questions. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. The final exam is cumulative (emphasis on 'big picture' themes and concepts). Tests and final exam will be based on all course material (textbook chapters, journal articles, classroom discussions, video clips, and additional readings).

2 Critical Reflections and Discussions

You will be asked to choose 2 classes in which you will lead a discussion on the topic and present this over Zoom. This requires providing a summary of the assigned readings, critical reflection, and asking discussion-based questions to engage the class and instructor. Please note: the purpose of the summary is not just to repeat the main points of the reading but to also offer your own opinions and critical reflection on the material. In addition, it is recommended that you draw on relevant real-world examples (e.g., from credible news sources, other media) that could either support or challenge the readings or provide further insight into the topic discussed for that day. Feel free to be creative. However, your grade is based on your preparation for the discussion (read and understood the readings) and the level of engagement generated by your discussion (e.g., quality of questions asked, critical reflection, etc.). Students will choose which topics they wish to cover before the second week of classes. You must commit to the day that you choose to lead discussions for full credit.

Presentation (Zoom)

Towards the end of the semester, you will be present your research project (see below) to the class. This will be done via Zoom. The purpose of the presentation is to not only engage the class with your topic and to demonstrate your knowledge of the topic, but also a chance for feedback from your classmates and the instructor. Such feedback will be beneficial for your final paper (see below). More details about the presentation will be made available within the first 2 weeks of the semester.

Sociological Theory Argument Outline and Final Essay

There will be an essay assignment assigned during the first weeks of the course. This is essentially an argumentative essay in which students will discuss the merits of a classical sociological perspective and whether it has relevancy in the modern world. Students will first write a logical essay outline (10%) and then final draft (15%). Students are strongly encouraged to choose their own broad topic to pursue as an interesting topic. A late penalty will be enforced should you miss the class on the date which it is due. Note: topics and research questions must be approved by me before completing the outline.

GRADING CRITERIA: (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69

A	4.0	85-89	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Jan 5, 7	Introduction to the course; what is a sociological imagination? What is a sociological theory?	Syllabus	Discuss presentations; assign critical reflection presentations
Jan 12, 14	Background of sociological theory	Chapter 1 of textbook	
Jan 19, 21	Types of Sociological Theory	Chapter 2 of textbook	
Jan 26, 28	Auguste Comte	Chapter 3 of textbook	
Feb 2, 4	Emile Durkheim	Chapter 4 of textbook	
Feb 9, 11	Herbert Spencer	Chapter 5 of textbook	
Feb 23, 25	Hegel	Chapter 6 of textbook	Midterm (Feb 26)
Mar 2, 4	Karl Marx	Chapter 7 of textbook	
Mar 9, 11	Max Weber	Chapter 8 of textbook	
Mar 16, 18	Georg Simmel	Chapter 9 of textbook	
Mar 23, 25	Vilfredo Pareto	Chapter 11 of textbook	Research outline due (Mar 26)
Mar 30	Thorstein Veblen	Chapter 12 of textbook	Begin research presentations

Apr 1,6	George Herbert Mead	Chapter 13 of Textbook	Research presentations (continued)
Apr 8	Limitations of Classical Theory?	Chapter 15 of Textbook	Research presentations (continued)
			Complete paper (due before exam, TBA on specific time/date) Final Exam (cumulative) University Scheduled

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

January 5 — First Day of Classes

February 5 — Family Day No classes

February 16-19 — Winter Break-No classes on GP campus

March 13 — Last day to withdraw from courses in most programs with a grade of “W”

April 02 — Good Friday- No classes.

April 12 — Last day of classes

April 14 — Finals start

April 22 — Finals end

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Attendance and Exam Policies:

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as are your participation in class discussions and group discussions.

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). *Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.*

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes by asking fellow students for the material covered, and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and/or notes that may be due.

PLEASE NOTE:

To be fair to everyone in this course, **I will not alter the evaluation**, so any missed testing or assignments will not be accommodated.

If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Come and see me during my office hours, and I will assist you or point you towards other suitable sources of support. If you are scheduled to attend lectures or have other commitments during my office hours, please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

D2L

This course will make extensive use of our website on D2L to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

Academic Misconduct:

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own.
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating).
- Collusion or unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work.
- Substitution in an examination by another person.
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment.
- Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the GPRC credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS:

Counselling and Disability Services:

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counseling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career, and academic counseling.

Students with Disabilities:

It is the College's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please let your instructor know immediately so options can be discussed. You are also welcome to contact Accessibility Services to establish reasonable accommodations. <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/services/accessibility/>

Learning Support Centre:

The Learning Support Centre is accessible through the Library at the Main campus of GPRC, where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects, and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The Learning Support Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, assists in skill development to GPRC students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff, and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.

Professional Conduct:

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is precious and valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.
- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "how do I get an 'A'?" Instead, ask yourself, "how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

Additional Information:

- Please only use your **GPRC e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include “SO 2120” in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails *formally*, as you will need to do regularly upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!