Sociology 4402f: The Sociology of Spaces  
Fall 2013  
Dr Scott Schaffer  

Course Meetings: Mon 130pm to 430pm  
Social Science Centre 5427  

Office Hours: M 445pm to 6pm, T 11am to 1215pm or by appt  
Office: Social Science Centre 5411  
Email (preferred contact method): scott.schaffer@uwo.ca  
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Formalities  

Short Course Description: A theoretical examination of the sociological concept of space as referring to both “physical place” and “social realm” or space for social relations and interactions. Examines theories of architecture, theories of urban spaces, spaces of production, consumption, and leisure, social networks and the “network society,” and the space of doing sociology from classical and contemporary theoretical perspectives.  

Prerequisite(s): Sociology 3404 or consent of instructor.  

Note: Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.  

Course Description  

From your earliest exposure to the discipline of sociology, you've learned in some way that the object of our study and reflection – society – has a spatial dimension. Every standard definition of sociology includes this dimension, generally referring to a particular geographically defined space as one of the markers of what constitutes a “society” (as opposed to a polity, economy, or culture, the other objects of study in the social sciences). Until this point, however, it is likely that you've never really thought that much about this spatial dimension. You'll have that chance now.  

This course is dedicated to the theoretical examination of the spatial dimensions of sociology. Treating “space” as referring both to a particular place – a nation-state, a city, even a house – and to a social space – whether in the face-to-face sense of social relations, imagined relations with others in a larger geographic space, or in the virtual space of social networks – we will explore the variety of ways in which social theorists conceptualize and understand the import of spaces for our social lives, as well as the ways in which they believe that sociology has something to contribute to the improvement of what happens within those spaces (or the extent to which it should just butt out of them).  

In addition to this being a course dedicated to understanding the ways in which theorists have understood these issues surrounding space and place, this is also – and primarily – a course that is dedicated to enabling you to theorise about these issues on your own. It is a seminar course, so it
will be primarily driven by your curiosity, your insights, your questions, your critiques of the ideas presented, and your efforts to move beyond what is said in the text and to push out your own ideas. The ultimate goal of the course is to enable you to do theory – not simply to recite what a theorist says, but to be a theorist yourself.

Your continual preparation during the semester will be crucial to your success. Do not rely on the class discussions to substitute for the readings (and vice versa) – they can’t. Do not just “read” (i.e., turn pages and highlight randomly); read carefully, critically, and deeply, and think about why the author is saying what they’re saying. Class sessions and the success of the course as a whole will be driven by the extent to which you dedicate yourself to pursuing these ideas and developing your own ability to come up with your own theoretical contributions. Ultimately, what you have to say about these texts will be up to you, making this your journey to a better understanding of the world in which you exist.

Course Texts

A custom course book is available for purchase at the University Bookstore and should be purchased prior to the start of classes, as there are readings for discussion in the first week. As well, you will need to purchase the following book:


Assignments

There will be a total of four types of assignments that you will be asked to complete this term. In order to pass the course, you must complete all assignments in a timely manner.

In-Class Presentation and Discussant: During one of the class sessions, you and a partner will be responsible for giving a thematic presentation on the readings for that session and for developing an argument about those readings. Your group will also be responsible for managing a discussion and Q&A period. On a separate occasion, you will be asked to be a discussant for another group’s presentation. Details about these assignments will be given in the first week of classes.

Midterm Examination: There will be an essay-based midterm examination on Oct 28/2013. Preparation materials will be distributed to you on Oct 7/2013.

Term Research Project and Proposal: In addition to the regular proceedings of the course, you are expected to pursue a term research project on a theoretical issues relating to the notion of space as developed in this course. This project, which will require significant reading beyond the readings assigned for the course, will result in a term paper of no less than fifteen (15) pages (or 3750 words) in length. Details for this assignment are given below. A research proposal is due to me for my review on Nov 4/2013 at the start of class. The paper is due on Mon Dec 9/2013 at 1159pm EST.

Final Examination: During the final examination period, we will hold a simulation exercise that is designed to give you an opportunity to put into practice the theoretical perspectives and critical skills you have gained through this course. The protocols for this simulation exercise will be distributed on Dec 2/2013 in class. Required readings for this exercise are listed below.

Course Participation and Discussion: Your participation in this course is vital to your success. In general, I take “participation” as anything that indicates your commitment to doing the best work you are capable of doing – ranging from attentively listening to the contributions of your peers, to
thoughtfully contributing to the in-class discussion, to posing questions to me during office hours or via email. This also includes continuing course-related discussions on WebCT, which will be beneficial for your participation grade and for the work you do elsewhere in the course. *Merely showing up for class does not constitute “course participation,” and merely talking off the top of your head does not equal “discussion.”* Also, note the Attendance policy below; you must attend at least 80% of class sessions in order to receive a passing mark in the course.

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**Grade Breakdown**

In order to pass this course, you must submit all assigned work in a timely manner and in accordance with the guidelines listed later in the course outline; failure to submit all assigned work will result in failure in the course.

Department of Sociology guidelines require a particular course grade distribution, which may require curving or otherwise adjusting your course grade in order to meet this requirement. As much as possible, your earned course grade will be the grade you receive. **For 4000-level courses, the course mean should be between 73-78%.**

Evaluation guidelines for the written work are in the “Schaffer Survival Guide” handout, available on WebCT. You should read them thoroughly at the start of the term and before beginning and submitting assignments.

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<th>Assignment Breakdown:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm Examination</td>
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<td>Presentation and Respondent</td>
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**Assignment Breakdown:**

- Participation: 10%
- Final Examination: 40%
- Research Project: 20%
- Midterm Examination: 20%
- Presentation and Respondent: 20%

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**Reading and Class Discussion Schedule**

Please note that you are expected to have completed the readings listed for each week by the first class session of the week. That will ensure that you have ample time to reread the materials in the light of our discussions – and trust me, you will need to reread them. All readings need to be read, thought about, noted, and questioned prior to coming into class; they should be re-read and considered after that session as well.

The average class session will be broken out as follows. I will start by offering a short overview of some of the key theoretical issues at work in that week’s readings. The presenters and respondents will then take over for the remainder of the first half of the class session. The second half of the session will be our collective discussion of the texts and theoretical insights, followed by a wrap-up discussion by me.

My “lectures” will touch on all the readings assigned each week. I would recommend that you commit a fair amount of time to preparing for this course. You cannot simply skim through these works once and expect to have “the answers”; rather, you need to **read carefully, think about, annotate, jot ideas, sketch maps, doodle, and otherwise ponder them.** Keep a separate notebook for your reading notes, listed by page and paragraph, and write your thoughts on interesting passages. Use sticky note flags to identify passages you like, don’t like, or don’t understand. And do your best to read everything that is assigned; the only way to succeed in this course is to engage these thinkers in a rigorous manner. I know there’s a lot of material each week, and some of it is difficult; however,
please try to get through all the readings each week. Presenters are expected to read all the readings assigned for the week.

Required readings are contained within the custom course book or the required text. I will expect that everyone will have completed at least the required readings by the start of each week’s session, and they will be the primary focus of our discussions. Recommended readings are available on WebCT. Presenters and discussants need to have completed at least a fair number of these readings for their week. For the other weeks, I would hope that your interest in the course will spur you on to reading beyond the bare minimum requirements. In each of the class sessions, I expect that our discussions will be both “broad,” covering the range of readings assigned for that week, and “deep,” in that we will dig into the texts and work through the ideas contained therein (rather than talking out of our you-know-whats).

### Weeks 1-7 – Classical and Contemporary Conceptions of Space and Place

#### M Sep 9
**Introduction: Space, Place, and Sociology**

**Readings:**
  *87 pages*
- Thomas F Gieryn, “A Space for Place in Sociology”  
  - Hilary Powell, “Recycling Junkspace: finding space of ‘Playtime’ in the city”


#### M Sep 16
**The Contours of Space and Place**

**Readings:**
- Rob Shields, “Boundary-Thinking in Theories of the Present: The Virtuality of Reflexive Modernization”  
  *64 pages*
- Tim Richardson and Ole B Jensen, “Linking Discourse and Space: Towards a Cultural Sociology of Space in Analysing Spatial Policy Discourses”  
- Arjun Appadurai, “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Economy”

Recommended: Linda Lobao, “A Sociology of the Periphery Versus a Peripheral Sociology: Rural Sociology and the Dimension of Space”

#### M Sep 23
**The Spaces of Sociality: Simmel and the Nature of Social Relations**

**Presentations and Discussant Duties Start This Week**

**Readings:**
- Georg Simmel, “The Sociology of Sociability”  
  *59 pages*
- Georg Simmel, “The Sociology of Space”  
- Georg Simmel, “Bridge and Door”  
- Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life”

#### M Sep 30
**Producing Space I: Lefebvre and the Concept of “Social Space”**

**Readings:**
- Henri Lefebvre, “Social Space”  
  *89 pages*
- Henri Lefebvre, “Space and the Mode of Production”

Recommended: Henri Lefebvre, “From the Contradictions of Space to Differential Space”
M Oct 7  Spatial Production: Bourdieu and the Production of Agents and the Social

Readings:  
Pierre Bourdieu, “Structures and the Habitus”  
79 pages  Pierre Bourdieu, “The Social Space and the Genesis of Groups”  
Pierre Bourdieu, “The Social Space and Its Transformations”

Pierre Bourdieu, “Social space and symbolic power”  
Pierre Bourdieu, “The Habitus and the Space of Lifestyles”

M Oct 14  NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Monday. Don’t slack, though, because...

M Oct 21  Places without Spaces, Spaces without Places: Augé, de Botton, and the Transpositioning of Modernity(ies)

Readings:  
Marc Augé, “From Places to Non-Places” and “Epilogue”  
158 pages  Alain de Botton, A Week at the Airport, entire (or as much as you can)

M Oct 28  MIDTERM EXAMINATION in class

Weeks 8-9 – The Social Space: Contemporary Visions of the Spatialised Social

M Nov 4  Social Spaces, Imperial Relations: Structures of Spatiality

Research Proposal DUE at the start of class

Readings:  
Jody Berland, chapters 1-2 of North of Empire  
95 pages  Walter Mignolo and Madine Tlostanova, “The Logics of Coloniality and the Limits of Postcoloniality”  
Ileana Rodríguez, “Globalization as Neo-Postcolonialism: Politics of Resentment and Governance of the World’s Res Publica”

Recommended: Antonio Hardt and Michael Negri, Empire, chapters 2.3 and 2.6

M Nov 11  Bodies in Networks: Nodes and Flows of Persons in the Global Social Order

Readings:  
Manuel Castells, “Local and Global: Cities in the Network Society”  
110+ pages  Manuel Castells, “Globalisation, Networking, Urbanisation: Reflections on the Spatial Dynamics of the Information Age”  
Mireille Rosello, Introduction and Conclusion of Postcolonial Hospitality: The Immigrant as Guest  
Stanley J. Tambiah, “Transnational Movements, Diaspora, and Multiple Modernities”

Plus two of the following readings:

Arjun Appadurai, “The Production of Locality”  
Zygmunt Bauman, “The Making and Unmaking of Strangers”
Reiko Shindo, “Rethinking Community: Translation Space as a Departure from Political Community”
Rahel Kunz, “The Discovery of the Diaspora”
Francesco Ragazzi, “Diaspora: The Politics of Its Meanings”

Weeks 10-12 – Space as Place: Architecture, the Urban, and the Social

M Nov 18       Machines of the Social I: Architecture and Urban Planning in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Readings:       Edward Relph, “Prospects for Places”
                 Christian Norberg-Schulz, “The Phenomenon of Place”
                 Ray Oldenburg, “The Problem of Place in America”
                 Gordon Cullen, “Introduction to the Concise Townscape”
                 Douglas S Kelbaugh, “Critical Regionalism: An Architecture of Place”
                 Nan Ellin, “Themes of Postmodern Urbanism”
                 Rem Koolhaas, “The Generic City”

M Nov 25       Machines of the Social II: Architectural Theory and “Society Made Concrete”

Readings:       Read at least three of the following groups of readings (WebCT):
                 53-87 pages
                 - The Chicago School and the American West
                 - Soviet Constructivism, De Stijl, and Purism
                 - Bauhaus and German Expressionism
                 - European Modernism
                 - The Death of the American City
                 - Regionalism and Postmodernism
                 - Tectonics, Geometry, the End of Theory (?), and Beyond the Millennium

M Dec 2       Physical Spaces as Sites for Normative Sociology: What Places Ought to Be

Readings:       Jane Jacobs, “Author’s Introduction” and “The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact”
                 Christopher Alexander, “The Timeless Way”
                 Allan B Jacobs and Donald Appleyard, “Toward an Urban Design Manifesto”
                 Kevin Lynch, “Dimensions of Performance”
                 Edward Soja, “Building a Spatial Theory of Justice”
                 James Holston and Arjun Appadurai, “Cities and Citizenship”

Recommended: Edward Soja, “On the Production of Unjust Geographies”
                 Edward Soja, “The city and spatial justice”

M Dec 9       Paper Due to Turnitin.com at 1159pm EST
Final Examination – The Space of Sociology

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<th>FX Period</th>
<th>Final Examination – Simulation Exercise</th>
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<td>Readings:</td>
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<td>70 pages</td>
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<td>Jonathan Turner, “Is Public Sociology Such a Good Idea?”</td>
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<td>David Boyns and Jesse Fletcher, “Reflections on Public Sociology: Public Relations, Disciplinary Identity, and the Strong Program in Professional Sociology”</td>
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<td>Michael Burawoy, “For Public Sociology”</td>
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<td>Randall Collins, “The Sociological Eye and Its Blinders”</td>
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<td>Michael Burawoy, “Third-Wave Sociology and the End of Pure Science”</td>
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Paper Assignment

**Particulars:** This paper is to be a minimum of 3750 words (fifteen pages) in length, and should not be longer than 5000 words (twenty pages) in length. It is to be typed in 10- or 12-point font, double-spaced, with 1in/2.54cm margins all the way round. Pages should be numbered, and other than on the cover page, your name should not appear anywhere in the paper. A works cited page following American Sociological Association (ASA) formatting is required. **Your paper must be submitted to Turnitin.com via WebCT no later than 1159pm EST on Monday December 9/2013. If you would like to receive written feedback, you must inform me before the due date and time; otherwise, you will only receive your mark via WebCT.**

**The Assignment:** Your task in this term project is to develop your own theoretical perspective on some aspect of the issue of space. You can use any of the readings – whether theoretical alone, or theorising about a particular phenomenon – as the starting point for your project, but you must go beyond that to develop your own theoretical position and argument. Your topic can be any of the following:

- The theorising of a particular aspect of sociological conceptions of space – in other words, the elaboration of a theoretical position on a concept;
- The theorising of some element of a particular phenomenon under discussion in the course – the conception of space as place, the conception of social spaces, or the space of sociology;
- The extension of a particular theorist’s position to cover some element of social life and the idea of spaces that the theorist themselves does not cover; or,
- The integration of one or more theorist’s works into a coherent theoretical perspective on the idea of spaces.

Your paper must use a number of scholarly sources that is suitable for a paper of this length (we usually figure about one source per page, so fifteen sources), and you can use secondary discussion of the theorists’ works in addition to course readings and additional works by these theorists.

A three-page (typed, double-spaced) research proposal, detailing what it is you plan on researching, the insights you think your work can provide on the issue of space, how you see your project as extending our discussion of the course issues, and detailing the sources you will use in the paper, is due to me at the start of class on Mon Nov 4/2013.

A rubric for the evaluation of your paper will be distributed approximately one month prior to the due date. You should utilise this rubric as a “final submission” checklist. You should also be
It is crucial that you read, understand, and agree to these policies. Your continued enrolment in the course constitutes acceptance of these policies and expectations of you during the term.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** UWO promotes the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect for other students, and help maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Violations of academic integrity will be treated very seriously.

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar), and I take it very seriously.

All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between UWO and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com). Computer-marked multiple-choice tests will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Students who submit work found to be substantially plagiarized (i.e., work in which plagiarism can be demonstrated in substance) will be subject to the procedures outlined in the Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students section of the Western Academic Calendar. This referral will be done without exception.

**Attendance:** Your attendance in class sessions is expected and constitutes part of your mark. You should note that the Department of Sociology now mandates that students in fourth-year seminars who fail to attend at least 80% of class meetings cannot receive a passing mark in the course. The standard provisions regarding absences excused by the Social Science Counselling Centre on medical or compassionate grounds hold; however, those will be the only absences that will be excused. If you are unable to attend a class session for medical or compassionate reasons, you must inform me as soon as possible. Updates on attendance records will be provided on request.

**Communications:** Email is my preferred method of contact. Any professor should tell you this: Write your emails to me as you would want any letter of recommendation I might write on your behalf written for you. They should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and not written in “text message” format. They should account for the highest degree the person has (hence, I am “Dr Schaffer,” not “Mr Schaffer”), and they should be respectful of the recipient. Be sure to always sign them; if your email address is “HotKitty642@aol.com” and you don’t sign it, I will presume it is spam and treat it accordingly.

**Evaluations:** I do my best to ensure that our evaluation of your work is as impartial as possible and reflects the quality of what you submit at the due date and time. If you have issues with my
evaluation of your work, you may submit to me a one-page statement of how it is you think we misunderstood what you presented in your work (and only what appears in the work submitted) no sooner than 24 hours after I return the work to you. We will then meet to discuss the issue. Please note that I reserve the right to elevate your grade, maintain the grade applied, or to lower the grade depending on that re-evaluation. This policy also pertains to the final examination.

**Laptop Policy:** This course is not a dictation course, and you cannot expect to learn what this course has to offer simply by taking down every word that is said (or checking your Facebook during lectures.) **Laptops are generally prohibited in this course.** However, if you believe that your academic performance will be unduly disadvantaged by not being able to use a laptop and can provide a compelling reason for this, please come discuss the matter with me. All students granted leave to use a laptop in class will be required to sit in the last row so as not to distract others.

**Mobile Phone Policy:** All phones are to be shut off at the start of class, except if you have a dire emergency that you are having to attend to (such as an immediate family member's illness or hospitalization, or your spouse's/domestic partner's impending delivery), in which case you need to let me know at the start of class. Phones that go off in class will have messages taken and delivered publicly. **Text messaging is absolutely prohibited during class times.**

**Timeliness of Work Submissions and Missed Exams:** As you know, the tempo of the term does not allow one to fall behind, and everything in this course is additive and builds to the final assignments. As such, you are requested and required to submit all assignments and take all examinations on the time and date announced. **Except in the case of a severe, catastrophic, and well-documented misfortune that befalls you (such as your departure from this mortal coil), no late papers will be accepted, and no makeup exams will be scheduled except in advance of the exam time and date. For this course, work is never an acceptable excuse for missing class.** All deadlines and due dates are listed in the course outline; ensure that your employer is aware of them and will respect them.

You should understand that academic accommodations will not be granted automatically on request. If, due to medical illness, you cannot write a test or examination or submit an assignment by the due date, it is your responsibility to follow the University's new “Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness.” This policy can be accessed at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf). I also request that you inform me as soon as possible, and preferably in advance of the due date and time, that you are seeking accommodation. In the event of an emergency involving the serious illness or death of an immediate family member, you must inform me as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate, newspaper notice, death certificate, or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty’s Academic Counselling office.

**Other Issues:** My teaching philosophy is such that I see you as being primarily responsible for your success in the course. I do not teach in a “spoon-feeding” manner; my job is to provide you with the tools to enable your own education, and I will do that to the best of my abilities during the term. Should you not wish to take a course like this that requires that you commit yourself to doing your best by your own motivation, it would be best for you to find another course. I also work to respond to issues that come up in class, either during the term or on a daily basis. To that end, I reserve the right to change, adapt, or amend this course outline, the reading schedule, and other policy issues at any time in order to make possible the improvement of the course; however, I will only do so with the consent of and input from the class as a whole. Finally, any issues that you feel are impacting on your ability to do well in the course, whether they are issues inside or outside the classroom, should be brought to me as soon as possible. If the issue is not adequately resolved through the discussion with me, you need to follow the Sociology department's protocols for addressing a grievance. I take what goes on in this course very seriously and personally; I hope you will as well.
Course Evaluation Criteria and Course Objectives

So you know what you are required to do for the course, here is the set of expectations I have of you during this term; please note that they are not listed in order of importance:

- Consistent attendance in class sessions, with you having read the materials, come prepared to discuss the materials, and come prepared to pose any questions that you have;
- Attendance in my office hours whenever you have a question or need help in understanding the materials or issues under discussion;
- Thoughtful reflection on the course materials and issues prior to coming to class, and thoughtful discussion of these materials and issues during class sessions;
- The diligent pursuit of all assignments, with you committed to doing your best work on each one;
- And, overall, your commitment to doing your best work in every class session and on every assignment.

I know that you have other responsibilities or interests you have to attend to, and I am sympathetic to the various pulls on your time. However, you should note that I take this course very seriously, and I expect that your continued presence in this course will mean that you too take that seriously. If you’re not interested in doing your best – or even better than you think your best might be – in the course, withdraw now. Presuming that you do take your work in here seriously, and you do your best to meet the expectations as listed above, you will pass the course. Failure to attend to your responsibilities in this course will result in your failure in this course.

If you do attend to your responsibilities in this course, you can expect that by the end of this term, you will be able to do the following (among other things):

- Engage with some of the crucial concepts and theoretical positions used to understand space and place from a sociological perspective;
- Develop clear, well-thought, and increasingly sophisticated responses to questions posed;
- Display facility in and fluency with sociological and theoretical concepts and utilize them in the development of oral and written arguments;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which theory is constructed, operates as a basis for sociological analysis, is refined, and relates to the research process;
- Prepare your own thoughtful and theoretical engagements with problems regarding space and place;
- And understand and discuss the continuing relevance of sociological theory for sociological research and living in Canadian society today.

With a good attitude, dedication to your success, and a willingness to take responsibility for your learning in this course, you will succeed. Good luck this term.
Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.