



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 3404F-650**  
**Modern Sociological Theory**  
**Spring/ Summer 2022**  
**Online**

**Instructor:** Dr. Suzanne Ricard  
Department of Sociology  
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**Course Description:**

This course will survey major trends in modern sociological theory.

**Prerequisite(s):** 0.5 courses from [Sociology 2263A/B](#), [Sociology 2270A/B](#), [Sociology 2271A/B](#) OR 1.0 [Sociology 2240E](#).

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The 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.

**Antirequisite(s):** [Sociology 4404F/G](#).

**Learning Outcomes:**

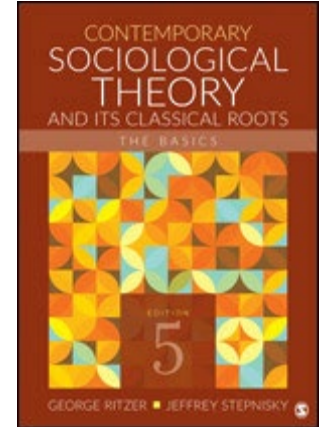
- Demonstrate key theorists and theories in modern sociological theory.
- Develop an enriched understanding of a broad range of sociological perspectives.
- Students will be able to critically examine social issues through a modern sociological lens.
- Students will be able to compare the strengths and weaknesses of various modern sociological theories.
- Employ modern sociological theories to investigate contemporary sociological issues.

**Course Portal:**

The on-line version of Introduction to Sociology makes use of OWL powered by SAKAI, a course management system found on the University's server– <https://owl.uwo.ca>. Once you have entered the above URL, you will be prompted for your username and password. Information about getting started with on-line courses can be found by accessing the Distance Studies Office.

**Required Text(s):**

- 1) Ritzer, G., & Stepnisky, J. (2017). *Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots* (5th Edition). SAGE Publications, Inc. (US).  
<https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com/books/9781506339429>
- 2) Online Readings- Links provided in OWL



**Evaluation Breakdown:**

Assessment	Value of Course Grade	Due Date
Weekly Participation	10%	Continuous– sections close Sunday after a topic is covered. Cut off dates noted in forums.
Theoretical Analysis Paper	15%	Due June 3 @ 11:59pm
Midterm Exam	20%	Take home exam- due June 19 @ 11:59pm
Critical Review Essay	25%	Due July 22 @ 11:59pm
Final Exam	30%	Take home exam- scheduled by the Registrar’s office during the week of August 2-5

**How to Contact Me:**

The easiest way to contact me is via email at [srcard2@uwo.ca](mailto:srcard2@uwo.ca). You may also send me messages through OWL or post questions on the class discussion board. Student appointments are available via Zoom by appointment.

**How to get important information:**

All important course information will be posted in OWL via the announcements feature or messages.

**Lecture Notes:**

Lecture notes are available through the side menu on the left-hand side of your screen. Each week’s lecture(s) are labelled according to week and topic. Lecture notes are automatically released to students the Monday of the week we cover the topic at 12:00am. Students are responsible for all of the specified readings, even if they are not covered extensively in lecture notes or discussions. Exams will be based on a combination of readings and lectures.

**Exams:**

The midterm and final exams will be delivered online for this session.

### **Essays:**

See specific instructions on OWL for each assignment. Analysis paper is due June 3 and the final essay is due July 22.

#### *Essay Guidelines:*

Complete essay guidelines concerning topic, essay format, expectations, etc. are posted on the course site in the evaluations (assignment) section. There are two essays for this course. You will be graded on both form and content. You will be using the assignment submission feature of OWL to submit your essay. Your essays must be submitted no later than 23:59 (Eastern Time Zone) on the due date. Assignments submitted to OWL are date and time stamped. Turnitin.com is integrated into the new OWL software and your essay will be scanned upon submission.

*Late Essays: There is a 3% deduction, per day (including weekends), for essays submitted past the deadline (for example, if you received 76% on your essay, but it was 2 days late, you would receive a 70%). After 14 days, no essay will be accepted and will automatically receive a 0.*

### **Participation Grade:**

As the course discussions section allows everyone to read all of the posted messages, we will also use this forum for class participation. Your grade for class participation will be based on your submissions (with the exception of your introductory message and the formal posted discussion questions) to the participation section of the discussions areas. You will be assessed for both the frequency, the quality of and the use of course material in your participation. You can earn up to 10% of your grade by submitting messages spaced throughout the course related to the course content. For example, these messages can be in response to one of the questions asked in the course notes, or you may wish to share your thoughts or ideas on the readings. You can also apply aspects of the course material to current events. To receive full marks for this section, it is not enough to merely say that you liked or disliked a reading, topic, point in the lecture notes, etc. – you must explain your position explicitly using the course content to support your position. *You must provide the sources you use for your responses, including the page numbers for the course texts.* It is recommended that you participate at least once per topic to receive full marks for this course component (one posting does not equal one mark). Lastly, since active participation is most beneficial, the participation areas will close on Sundays at 11:59pm of the week after we cover a section in the course. The participation will help keep you on track with the readings and foster a sense of community. Although not for credit, you can also use the discussion area of OWL to ask questions about assignments, exams, etc. I urge you to ask any questions about course requirements, readings, lectures, etc. in the discussions area, instead of by email, as your questions may also be beneficial to your classmates as they may have the same questions or may find your questions useful for their own work. Please note that questions regarding your grades should not be posted on the discussion board– any questions regarding grades should be directed to me via email. *Vigorous academic debate is encouraged. However, students are reminded that in any classroom, courtesy and mutual respect are vital elements of a collegial atmosphere. Hateful remarks, unscholarly examples, or personal attacks are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.*

## **Important Policies**

### **Missed Exam and Late Work:**

Requests for academic accommodation will only be granted once appropriate documentations is submitted to the student's academic counsellor and approved by both the counsellor and professor. Submitting documentation

does not mean that a request will be granted automatically. If, due to medical illness, you cannot write a test or exam, or submit an assignment by the due date, it is your responsibility to follow the University's "Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness". This policy can be accessed at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html).

*Compassionate Grounds:* a) Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office. b) In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

### ***A Note on Plagiarism:***

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea 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 scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

### ***Plagiarism Checking:***

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for 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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([www.turnitin.com/](http://www.turnitin.com/)).

### ***Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness***

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html).

### ***Academic Consideration for Missed Work***

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will NOT be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

### ***Accessibility Options:***

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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Scholastic Offences***

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***Mental Health***

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western ([www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Week 1: May 9- 15</b>	Introduction	Lecture 1- Introduction R&S- Chapter 1 Mills- Online Hollis- Online
<b>Week 2: May 16-22</b>	Structural Functionalism	Lecture 2- Structural Functionalism R&S- Chapter 4 Merton- Online Davis and Moore- Online
<b>Week 3: May 23-29</b>	Conflict and Critical Theory	Lecture 3- Conflict and Critical Theory R&S- Chapter 5 Bourdieu- Structures, Habitus and Practices- Online Horkheimer and Adorno- Online
<b>Week 4: May 30- June 5</b>	Symbolic Interactionism	Lecture 4- Symbolic Interactionism R&S- Chapter 6 (Symbolic Interactionism and Dramaturgy) Goffman #1 – online Goffman #2- online
<b>Week 5: June 6-12</b>	Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology	Lecture 5- Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology R&S- Chapter 6 (Ethnomethodology until end) Linstead (online) Berger and Luckmann- Online Smith- Online
<b>Week 6: June 13-19</b>	Midterm Exam Online	

<b>Week 7: June 20-26</b>	Evolutionism and Modernization Theory	Lecture 6- Modernity R&S- Chapter 7 Giddens- Post-Modernity or Radicalized Modernity- Online
<b>Week 8: June 27- July 3</b>	Globalization and Dependency Theories	Lecture 7- Globalization and Dependency R&S- Chapter 11 Kay- Online Beck- Online Hoffamn- Online
<b>Week 9: July 4- 10</b>	Sociology of Race	Lecture 8- Sociology of Race R&S- Chapter 9 Ray and Mahmoudi (2022) Coulthard- Online Delgado & Stefanic- Ch. 1 Online
<b>Week 10: July 11- 17</b>	Sociology of Gender	Lecture 8- Gender R&S- Chapter 8 De Beaviour- Woman as Other- Online Chafetz- Online
<b>Week 11: July 18-24</b>	Sociology of the Body	Lecture 10 - Sociology of the Body Mason and Boero, Chapter 1: Toward a Sociology of the Body Howson and Inglis- Online
<b>Week 12: July 25-31</b>	Postmodernism	Lecture 11- Postmodernism R&S- Chapter 10 Foucault- Knowledge as Power- Online Mirchandani- Online
<b>Distance Studies Exam Week</b>	Schedule by the Registrar's Office- August 2-5- Online	