

**BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**Division of Sociology and Family Studies**  
**SOCIOLOGY 2270A: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL THEORY**  
**SECTION 530 – Fall 2016**

**Course Director:** Dr. Lina Sunseri

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Class Times: Tuesdays 11:30 am-1: 30 pm, and Thursdays 11:30 am: 12:30 pm Room BR MRW 153

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 pm, or by appointment.

**Course Description:**

This course studies the responses of sociological theorists to the massive social and economic changes of the early modern age: capitalism, industrialism, urbanization, and the French and Industrial Revolutions. We deal with the main ideas and a selection of the writings of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Simmel.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify the basic theoretical perspectives of major classical theorists like Marx, Weber, and Durkheim.
- Define social theoretical concepts such as: class formation and class consciousness, alienation, solidarity, anomie, and rationalization.
- Describe how the major classical theorists strove to explain the social changes of the early modern age.
- Compare radical perspectives on capitalism and workers, like that of Karl Marx, to more functionalist perspectives, such as that of Emile Durkheim.
- Evaluate and apply classical sociological theories to address contemporary social phenomena, e.g. youth violence and suicide.
- Demonstrate competency in written communication skills.

*Students may vary in their competency levels on these outcomes. They can expect to achieve these outcomes if they honor course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of them as students. (Linda Nilson, Teaching at its Best, 2010: 37).*

### **Brescia Competencies**

**Communication** includes the articulation of one's ideas, developing informative and persuasive arguments in all forms of communication, understanding the communication context. Students will also develop interpersonal communication skills including working with others in groups, sharing opinions, resolving conflicts, offering ideas, listening to others, asking questions, and demonstrating effective nonverbal behaviours.

**Inquiry and Analysis** involves the methodical practice of exploring issues and posing questions to seek information, knowledge, or clarity in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of what is true. Inquiry and analysis begins with the collecting of information, the examination of the knowledge, and then converting the material into valuable new knowns. Knowledge is therefore discovered over time because investigation is continual, as is the testing of new knowledge. Once the evidence has been organized and synthesized, conclusions about the question or problem are developed that logically follow from the inquiry process.

**Critical Thinking** involves reasoning, a process where we create arguments by connecting thoughts together so that some thoughts (premises) provide support for other thoughts (conclusions). There are three basic skills involved in critical thinking: interpretation, verification and reasoning. The first skill comprises understanding how words express or fail to express thoughts, expressing clearly what we mean, and discerning an argument's structure. The second skill involves determining whether premises are acceptable. And the third skill encompasses evaluating whether premises make it reasonable accept the conclusion.

**Social Awareness and Engagement** involves the "the ability to understand and respond to the needs of others" (Daniel Goleman). To do so, students need to develop an understanding of the interrelationship between individual and society. They come to see how their actions influence, and are influenced by, other people, social institutions, and social structure. They appreciate the diverse standpoints and cultural experiences of others, and attempt to see things from different perspectives. Socially aware and engaged students demonstrate knowledge of contemporary social problems, and propose solutions for dealing with these issues. They have the ability to reflect on the impact they have on others. They are able to work with a diverse group of people

in intercultural contexts to develop and implement social justice initiatives and enact positive social change.

**Prerequisites:** Sociology 1020 or Sociology 1021E, formerly Sociology 020 or 020E. Unless you have either the requisites 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.

**Antirequisites:** Sociology 2240E or the former Sociology 230.

**Format:** Three Hour Seminar.

### **Assignments and Grade Structure:**

1. Test One.....30% of total mark  
There will be an in-class test during the Tuesday class period of October 18<sup>nd</sup> 2016. It will have true/false questions, multiple choice questions and 2 essay questions. (Brescia competencies covered: Communication; Inquiry and Analysis; Critical Thinking; Social Awareness and Engagement)
2. Test Two.....30% of total mark  
There will be an in-class test during the Tuesday class period of November 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. It will have true/false questions, multiple choice questions and 2 essay questions. It will cover class material from October 20<sup>th</sup> until, and including, November 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. (Brescia competencies covered: Communication; Inquiry and Analysis; Critical Thinking; Social Awareness and Engagement)
3. Final Exam.....40% of total mark  
Scheduled in December 2016, it will have true/false questions, multiple choice questions and 3 essay questions (chosen out of six). The final exam will cover ALL course material from first day of classes until last day of classes. (Brescia competencies covered: Communication; Inquiry and Analysis; Critical Thinking; Social Awareness and Engagement)

### **Required Texts**

1. George Ritzer and Jeffrey Stepnisky. *Contemporary Sociological Theory and Its Classical Roots*. 2013. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. [RTZ]
2. Peter Kivisto. *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*. 2013. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. [PK].

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:**

1. **In case Brescia University College might close due to hazardous weather conditions or other emergency circumstances and classes are not held:** examinations scheduled for the day or evening of a closing are cancelled and rescheduled. Deadlines for assignments and other submissions originally scheduled on the day of closure are postponed until the same hour on the next weekday (Monday through Friday) on which Brescia is not closed. Assignments and other submissions will be made to the **locked drop off box outside the Academic Dean's Office (BR-126) by 4:00 pm.**
2. **Laptop Use:** laptops are allowed in class, **however**, they are only to be used to take notes, not for “chatting” on line or surfing the internet for non-class related information. The latter constitutes disruptive and disrespectful behaviour and is not acceptable. If instructor finds a person doing so, she will warn that student to stop such behaviour. If the student persists in that behaviour, he/she might be told to stop using the laptop or leave the class. Also, please **turn OFF** and **PUT AWAY** any cell phones, blackberry and other similar devices during class!!
3. For academic accommodation to be considered for any course component worth less than 10% of the final course grade, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the course instructor(s) in a timely fashion. Documentation may be required to be submitted to the academic advisor. If documentation is required, the request for accommodation will be decided by the academic advisor in consultation with the instructor. If documentation is not required, the instructor will make the final decision as to whether or not accommodation will be granted. The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline.
4. Electronic devices **WILL NOT** be allowed during tests/exams.
5. Please note that grades **CANNOT** be adjusted on the basis of need. The mark in the course will be the mark that you earn. Tests and exams cannot be re-written to obtain a higher mark. There are no supplemental or bonus assignments. Marks will not be given to students via e-mail, only in person and will be posted in the course OWL, except for final marks –these will be available only through the Office of the Registrar.
6. The instructor does **not** post lecture notes online, therefore it is your responsibility to borrow notes from a classmate if you have missed a class and to find out about other important information that you missed during your absence.
7. I will normally answer emails within 24 hours, but do not expect a reply during the weekend. If a question/comment requires a lengthy conversation, it might be best to see me in person during office hour or by appointment.

### Weekly Topics and Readings

#### September 8: Introduction to course and Introducing Social Theory

- Introduction to Sociological Theory, 1-13, RTZ
- “Social Theory....”, xxi-xxx, PK

**September 13-22: Cont'd Introducing Social Theory and introduction to Karl Marx: His Major Concepts and Model**

- Karl Marx, 21-30, RTZ
- Marx, "Alienated Labor", 3-10, PK
- Marx and Engels, "The German Ideology", 11-14, PK
- Marx and Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party", 15-22, PK

**September 27-September 29: Karl Marx: His Critique on Capital**

- Marx, "Commodities", 23-32, PK
- Marx, "The General Formula for Capital", 33-38, PK

**October 4-13: Emile Durkheim: On Division of Labor**

- Emile Durkheim, 15-21, RTZ
- Durkheim, "On Mechanical and Organic Solidarity", 39-43 PK
- Durkheim, "What is a Social Fact?", 44-49, PK

**October 18: Test One!!!!**

**October 20-25: Emile Durkheim: On Suicide and Religion**

- Durkheim, "Anomic Suicide", 50-56, PK
- Durkheim and Mauss, "Note on the Notion of Civilization", 57-59, PK
- Durkheim, "The Human Meaning of Religion", 60-67, PK

**October 27: No Class: Fall Study Break**

**November 1-November 10: Max Weber: The Spirit of Capitalism and Bureaucracy**

- Max Weber, 30-43, RTZ
- Max Weber, "Objectivity in Social Science and Social Policy", 68-73, PK
- Max Weber, "The Spirit of Capitalism", 74-84, PK
- Max Weber, "Bureaucracy", 85-90, PK

**November 15: Test Two!!!**

**November 17: Weber's Analysis of Power**

- Max Weber, "The Nature of Charismatic Domination", 91-97, PK
- Max Weber, "Class, Status, and Party", 98-103, PK

**November 22- December 6: Georg Simmel**

- Georg Simmel, 45-54, RTZ

- Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life”, 116-124 PK
- Simmel, “Fashion”, 104-109, PK
- Simmel, “The Stranger”, 125-128, PK
- Simmel, “The Philosophy of Money”, 129-135, PK

## 2016-17 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student’s Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean’s Office in consultation with the student’s instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html> The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill” is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg130.html> )

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

### 4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

**Plagiarism:**

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 Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may 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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

**Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

**5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg112.html> )

**6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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 prerequisite(s).

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## 7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for information including a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.