



# Course Outline – Sociology 2271B Survey of Contemporary Theory

## School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course moving away from in-person delivery, course content may be delivered online either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). There may also be changes to any remaining assessments at the discretion of the course instructor. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence, detailed information about the impact on this course will be communicated by the Office of the Provost and by the course instructor.

### General Information

Course #: Sociology 2271B

Section #: 530

Term: Winter

Year: 2022-23

Delivery: In-person

Course Day and Time: Tuesdays 10:30- 11:30 am, and Thursdays 12:30- 2:30 pm

Course Location: BR 201

### Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Lina Sunseri

E-mail: lsunseri@uwo.ca

Telephone number for office appointments: X28115

Office hours: Wednesdays 1-2 pm

Office location: BR 301A

*Deshkan Ziibing (Thames River) reminds us that this beautiful campus rests upon the traditional homelands of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg, Haundenosaunee, and Leni Lenaapewak people. This territory falls under the London Township Treaty and Sombra Treaty 1796, and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum. As an Oneida, Turtle Clan member, I give thanks to my relations for their love, sacrifices, and teachings, and I promise to do my best to live in a good way and respect all my relations.*

### Course Description

Continuities in Sociological thinking will be stressed by building upon the insights of the discipline's founding thinkers, while simultaneously exposing students to the rich variety that characterizes contemporary theorizing. Among other approaches, structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism, Marxism, critical theory, feminist theory, and post-modernism will be discussed.

Antirequisite(s): Sociology 2240E

Prerequisite(s): Sociology 2270 A/B

## Required Course Materials

1. George Ritzer and Jeffrey Stepnisky. *Sociological Theory*. 2022. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. (herein referred to as RTZ).
2. Peter Kivisto. *Social Theory: Roots and Branches*. 2021. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. (herein referred to as PK).

Both texts available at Western Bookstore.

## Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify the basic theoretical perspectives of major contemporary social theorists like Parsons, Merton, Marcuse, Goffman, and Foucault.
- Describe how the major contemporary social theorists strove to explain the social changes happening in late modernity and in our current social world.
- Compare critical perspectives on modernity, to more conservative approaches, such as structural functionalism.
- Evaluate and apply contemporary social theorists to understanding contemporary social phenomena and own everyday life.
- 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

**1.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. (Level 3)

**2.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. (Level 3)

**3.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. (Level 3)

**4.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. (Level 3)

The above competencies will be achieved through two exams. and one assignment that will require students to apply the theories to their own life.

#### Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

The format of this course is 3 hours lecture per week. The students are encouraged to participate in class discussions, ask clarifying questions, and apply the material to their everyday lives. The instructor uses various media (such as documentaries, music videos, popular movies, social media) during the lectures to illustrate the sociological concepts covered throughout the term. If you miss a class, please contact a classmate or the instructor to find out if any film, or other visual aids were used throughout the lecture and how you could access those. Students are expected to read the assigned readings before coming to class, pay close attention to the lecture and **do not distract themselves and others by chatting with classmates or surfing the net/ mobile phones.**

Please e-mail me with administrative questions, or a question that would require minimal text, or to arrange a one-on-one consultation meeting. I normally answer to emails within 24 hours from Monday to Friday. I **do not** reply to e-mails during the weekend. Please use your UWO e-mail account for any correspondence and include a subject line.

Due to privacy regulations, I am unable to send marks or discuss issues regarding grades by email. Please come to see during office hour, or set up an appointment, to discuss any such matter. Your marks will be posted on the course OWL site when they become available, except for the final mark of the course. Final marks are available through the Office of the Registrar. **PLEASE NOTE:** there will be **NO** extra work assigned for the purpose of improving grades. It is unfair to other students in the class who are not given the same opportunity. **The mark in the course will be the mark that you have earned.**

## Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

## Evaluation

Mid-term Exam is a mixed format exam, containing multiple-choice questions and essay questions, and covers course material from beginning of term until February 9.

Final Exam is a mixed format exam, containing multiple-choice questions and essay questions, and covers course material from February 9 until end of term.

Essay Assignment will be uploaded on the course OWL site in the Assignments tool within first week of classes. You will need to submit it online in a **WORD** document on the OWL site in the Assignments tool by the due date.

Evaluation Breakdown:

Component	Weight	Date/ Deadline	Learning Outcomes	Brescia Competencies
Mid-Term Exam	35%	Feb. 9	All	All
Final Exam	35%	TBS	All	All
Essay Assignment	30%	March 23	All	All

## Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

## Course Content

Topics will be covered in the order listed; any dates listed are meant as guideline. Please note that the following might be subject to revision. That is, throughout the semester, circumstances may arise that will alter the ordering of topics, the pace at which we move through the material and so on.

**Spring Reading Week runs through February 18-26: no classes will be held during that week.**

Weekly Organizer:

Class/Week	Date	Description	Assignments and/or Readings Due

1	Jan 9-13	Introduction to course and beginning of Structural Functionalism	Chapter 7 in RTZ, pp. 228-251 (excluding System theory)
2	Jan. 16-20	Structural Functionalism -Continued	Chapters 25 “The Unanticipated Consequences of...” & 26 “The Structure of the Societal Community” in PK.
3	Jan. 23-27	Symbolic Interactionism	Chapter 9 in RTZ; & Chapter 31 “Performances” in PK.
4	Jan. 30-Feb. 3	Ethnomethodology	Chapter 10 in RTZ pp. 360-368; & Chapter 33 “Studies of the Routine...” in PK.
5	Fe. 7-9	Review Feb. 7; Mid-term exam Feb. 9	<b>February 9 Mid-term Exam</b>
6	Feb. 13-17	Critical Theory: Marcuse	Chapter 8 in RTZ, pp. 272-279; & Chapter 47 “One Dimensional Man” in PK.
7	Feb. 27-March 3	Globalization Theories	Chapter 17 in RTZ
8	Mar. 6-10	Feminist Theories –Part One	Chapter 12 in RTZ
9	Mar. 13-17	Feminist Theories –Part Two	Chapter 39 “Doing Gender”, & Chapter 42 “Toward an Afrocentric Feminist Epistemology” in PK.
10	Mar. 20-24	Postmodernism: Bauman	Chapter 14 in RTZ, pp. 527-532; Chapter 63 “On Living in a Liquid Modern World”, in PK. <b>Essay Due –Submit on OWL!!</b>
11	Mar. 27-31	Poststructuralism: Foucault	Chapter 15 in RTZ, pp. 551-562; & Chapter 70 “Panopticism” in PK.
12	April 3-6	Wrap Up and Review	No New Readings

## 2022-23 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at [https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_135](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135)

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services ([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

### **Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence**

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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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. An SMC can be downloaded from [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf);
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

## **2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor ([https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment\\_services/academic\\_advising/book\\_an\\_appointment.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php)). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

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.*

### 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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

**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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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

([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_64](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64)).

### 4. 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:

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the 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).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Development & Success at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>).



## **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, [https://brescia.uwo.ca/student\\_life/health\\_and\\_wellness/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).

## **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at [https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe\\_campus/sexual\\_violence/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php).

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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.

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