



## SOCI-225 – Introduction to Sociological Theory

University Arts and Science

**Effective Term & Year:** Fall 2022

**Course Outline Review Date:** 2026-04-01

---

**Program Area:** Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

### Description:

This course introduces students to sociological thought. Students explore the ideas of the founding figures (especially Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Georg Simmel), their philosophical predecessors, the primary theoretical perspectives used in the discipline (functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, feminism, poststructuralism and postmodernism), and contemporary theoretical directions (including theories of race and colonialism, globalization theory, and theories of science, technology and nature). By analyzing each approach, students will increasingly appreciate the role theory plays in understanding social life and contemporary social problems.

---

### Program Information:

Most sociology degree programs require a sociology theory course like SOCI 225 be taken in second year. It can also be used as a second-year arts course for an Associate of Arts Degree. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

**Delivery Methods:** On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

**Credit Type:** College of the Rockies Credits

**Credits:** 3

**Course type/s:** Social Sciences

### Instructional Activity and Hours:

**Activity**

**Hours**

Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

### Course Requisites:

- Complete 1 of the following
  - Completed the following:
    - **SOCI101** – Introduction to Sociology: The Individual and Society (3)
  - Completed the following:
    - **SOCI102** – Introduction to Sociology 2: Social Institutions (3)

### Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

### Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

### Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date, the following textbooks were in use:

Ritzer, George and Jeffrey Stepnisky (2022). *Modern Sociological Theory*. 11th edition. United

States. Sage

## Course Reading Package

*Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.*

---

## Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- recognize the social and historical context that produced sociological thinking, with an emphasis on the Industrial Revolution and the Enlightenment;
  - compare the theories of the founding figures, especially Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Georg Simmel, George Herbert Mead and Erving Goffman;
  - discuss and evaluate the primary theoretical perspectives used in sociology, especially functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, feminism, poststructuralism and postmodernism;
  - identify the contemporary directions of sociological theory, including theories of race and colonialism, globalization theory, and theories of science, technology and nature;
  - recognize the development of sociological theory, from inception to the contemporary period, appreciating significant points of continuity and departure;
  - discuss the necessity of theory in comprehending the social world and social problems;
  - read and comprehend original writings from 19th and 20th century sociological thinkers;
  - discuss and write papers on topics in sociological theory, developing the ability to apply conceptual frameworks to varied social phenomena; and
  - develop a sociological worldview that facilitates comprehension of the major issues of 21st century global citizenship.
- 

## Course Topics:

- The Early History of Sociological Theory
- Classical Sociological Theory
  - Karl Marx
  - Emile Durkheim
  - Max Weber
  - Georg Simmel
- The Major Schools of Sociological Theory
  - Structural Functionalism
  - Conflict Theory and Neo-Marxian Theory
  - Symbolic Interactionism

- Feminism
- Cotemporary Theoretical Directions
  - Poststructuralism and Postmodernism
  - Theories of Race and Colonialism
  - Globalization Theory
  - Theories of Science, Technology and Nature

### OPTIONAL COURSE TOPICS:

- Overview of Other Major Schools
  - Ethnomethodology
  - Metatheoretical Approaches
  - Exchange, Network, and Rational Choice Theories

*See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.*

## Evaluation and Assessments

### Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Essays (2: 1 short: 10%; 1 long: 20%)	30
Midterms	30
Final Exam	30
Short Assignments	10

### Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

**Pass requirements:** None

**Evaluation Notes:** A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

### Evaluation Notes Comments:

*Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments and use of electronic aids.*

### Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a “0” on the exam.

---

### **Academic Policies:**

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
  - Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
  - Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
  - Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
  - Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty
- 

### **Course Changes:**

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.