

University of Guelph
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Sociology 6070: Graduate Sociological Theory
(Fall 2020)

Details

Time & Location: SOC*6070 will be delivered entirely online with synchronous and asynchronous components.

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Parnaby

Office: MacKinnon 638

Office Hours: Online. Availability to be determined.

Email: pparnaby@uoguelph.ca

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Readings available via ARES/Perusall

ASSESSMENT (Due dates are TBD)

Weekly engagement with *select* readings using Perusall – 20%

Four reflection papers (500 words each) – 20%

Research paper presentation – 10%

Research paper first draft – 20%

Research paper final draft – 30%

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course has been designed around various themes that will provide us with an opportunity to extend our intellectual horizons in myriad directions. The themes are “generic” in so far as they are likely to be compatible with your own research interests while, at the same time, being robust enough to stand on their own. Topics of discussion may include culture, power, capitalism, colonization, race and ethnicity, identity, evolutionary sociology, and more. My hope is that 6070 will advance your sociological imagination in new and inspiring ways. More often than not, that will mean thinking outside the box and outside your intellectual comfort zone. Together we will explore all kinds of theoretical connections and will subject *everything* to critical examination. At the end of the semester, I hope you will be in a position to take what you have learned and apply it to your own research.

COURSE DELIVERY

Given current conditions with regard to COVID-19 and public health requirements, SOC*6070 will be delivered entirely online, with both synchronous and asynchronous components. For the *synchronous* component we will meet on a weekly basis using Zoom, a video conferencing platform that is now

integrated into CourseLink: this will require you to have a computer, a webcam, and access to a stable internet connection. The *asynchronous* component pertains mostly to the assigned readings. Each week you will engage the readings using the Perusall platform, which is accessible through CourseLink (for more information, see Readings).

SEMINARS

We will meet once per week via Zoom to discuss and critically evaluate course material. The success of our weekly seminar will depend, in large part, on everyone having done the readings and being prepared to discuss the ideas in a meaningful way. At the graduate level, my role is not to lecture on sociological theory; rather, I am there to facilitate discussion, pose challenging questions, clarify ideas, and support you as you think through complex and sometimes confusing ideas.

READINGS

The working assumption will be that most, if not all, of you have undergraduate training in sociological theory and that you are at least somewhat familiar with key intellectual traditions, concepts, and debates. If that's not the case, then please be proactive and seek out additional resources: I'm more than happy to help you in that regard. If you have trouble understanding the material, please don't hesitate to ask questions. Explaining the material to each other builds a sense of community and strengthens the learning experience for everyone.

With few exceptions, all your required readings will be available through ARES (the library's electronic course reserve system). However, each week, you will be required to engage specific readings (marked with an asterisks) in a more engaged way using Perusall. If you look under "Content" → "Perusall" on CourseLink, you will see links to these selected readings. Clicking on each link will bring you to the Perusall reading interface. As you read, you can comment on particular passages, ask questions, reply to your peers, or reply to questions or comments that I have posted. Perusall will automatically grade your level of engagement using a three-point system; however, I will review the grades and make changes as necessary from week to week (I trust algorithms, but not that much 😊). Please finish your Perusall readings *at least* 24 hours before class so that I have time to review your work and incorporate ideas/questions into our seminar.