

The University of Manitoba
SOC 1200 Introduction to Sociology
Mondays 7:00-10:00 p.m. Fall/Winter 2011-2012

Department of Sociology
Section A14, CRN 11009
Rm. 235 Isbister

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Credit hours: 6
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*Office Hours: Mondays 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.,
Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

* These are merely my "official" hours, so please consider my door open any time.

Required Materials

Macionis, J, and Gerber, L. (2011). *Sociology* (Seventh Canadian edition). Toronto: Prentice Hall. (Students may feel free to use an earlier edition at their own risk.)

Course Objectives and Description

"May you live in interesting times."

Dubious references to this phrase as an "ancient Chinese curse" have been made for decades, but they may have roots in a Chinese proverb that bemoans the difficulties of living in a period of chaos and change rather than the peace and stability valued by Confucians. These are indeed interesting and changing times for our world. Perhaps some of these changes are for the better, while others are for the worse.

Sociology is the systematic study of human society. This means that sociologists study various aspects of social life, such as groups, institutions, cultures, and relationships. In order to give you a broad familiarity with sociology, various disciplinary fields will be covered, such as the family and deviance. Students will be introduced to the core concepts, theories and methods of the discipline, and shown how these can be used to gain an understanding of the major issues facing societies and individuals.

Studying sociology helps us to acquire critical thinking skills and a broadened intellectual horizon that are not only useful in any career, but enhance our lives in general. I believe that we can study it in an enjoyable manner that is scientifically grounded yet free of pretension. I had an enormous amount of fun creating our course material. I really look forward to this year, and I hope that you do too.

Class Format (tentative)

- A thematic lecture based upon on the relevant material, or occasional films
- During some weeks, we will gather into groups and conduct a small exercise
- During January, will set aside class time to work on your major assignment

Evaluation

1) Textbook Quizzes (25%): There will be 20 multiple-choice quizzes based upon each of the textbook chapters covered in class. The best 16/20 quiz marks will be used in calculating your total quiz mark; the other 4 quiz marks, including absences for any reason, will be dropped. Therefore no provisions will be made for make-up quizzes, and no documentation (e.g. sick notes) will be required. Quizzes will normally take place at the start of each class, and will normally cover the chapter being discussed that week.

2) Term Tests (50%): Students will write five tests (three during Term 1 and two during Term 2) based upon in-class material (lectures and exercises). Each test is worth 10% of your grade. (Some tests cover more or fewer chapters than the others, depending upon the volume of lecture material involved.) The tests are not cumulative, although you will need to retain and utilize your knowledge of core sociological concepts, theories, and methods throughout the course. They will be primarily comprised of short-answer questions.

Test # 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 - October 3

Test # 2: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 9 - November 7

Test # 3: Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 - December 5

Test # 4: Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19 - March 5

Test # 5: Chapters 20, 21, 22 (and course wrap-up) - April 2

3) Assignment: Applying your Sociological Knowledge (25%): Many students like the opportunity to do something creative. You will get this chance via a 12-15 page written assignment based on a documentary series that movie critic Roger Ebert has declared to be "On my list of the ten greatest films of all time." Details will be provided in class. The assignment is due on April 2. Assignment marks will be contingent upon in-class participation in discussion groups and film viewings, with approximately 25% based upon notes taken during the in-class film showings. If you miss class, you are eligible to receive marks for that portion provided that you (1) make arrangements with me to view the film on campus and submit your work within one week of the missed film, and (2) submit appropriate documentation (e.g. Dr. note) covering your absence.

I have designed the above evaluative approach with two goals in mind: (1) To provide

you with a variety of ways of being evaluated, so that if your strengths tend to lie in written assignments rather than tests, or vice versa, you are not subject to a single means of evaluation; and (2) To take the pressure off you so that an inordinate amount of weight is not riding on just a few tests (i.e. everyone can have a relatively "bad day" at least once, without it destroying their mark in the course.)

Policy on Missed Tests or Late Assignments

Students who miss a test for documented medical or compassionate reasons will have the option of answering a series of essay questions in lieu thereof. To be eligible, students must contact my teaching assistant in writing within 24 hours of the missed test. She/he will arrange the dates, times and locations as necessary. Please note that vacations or automobile problems will not be considered reasonable justifications for absences of any sort. With the exception of religious reasons (see below), all other missed tests will result in a mark of zero.

Late assignments are accepted, but in fairness to fellow classmates, they are subject to a 10% (i.e. 2.5% of course mark) per day penalty. Students who request extensions for documented medical or compassionate reasons must submit to me their current assignment draft to me along with a written request for an extension, and may be required to apply to the Faculty of Arts for an Incomplete in the course.

The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance and at least three weeks notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

Grade Distribution

90-100%	
80-89%	
76-79%	
70-75%	B
66-69%	C+
60-65%	C
50-59%	D
<50%	F

Please note that the *University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307* requires a "post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will ensure an equitable correspondence between grades and level of performance in all sections." Accordingly, the final grade distribution in this course may be raised or lowered to achieve this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "**Personation at Examinations**" (Section 5.2.9) and "**Plagiarism and Cheating**" (Section 8.1) found online under UManitoba Catalog 2011-2012>General Academic Regulations>Section 8. Academic Integrity. The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism. While consulting one another about your assignments is acceptable, please bear in mind that you must submit original work. On the other hand, students are strongly encouraged to study together for tests; it makes all of this more enjoyable!

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes, including ringing/talking on cell phones. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the start of class.

Other than these standard policies, please note the following:

- Class attendance is considered mandatory in order to receive credit
- Please read the relevant textbook chapter *before* coming to class
- In order to avoid disrupting others, the use of laptop computers or other electronic devices is prohibited during class

Companion Website

I will try to make practice quiz questions and skeleton lecture notes available on Angel (<http://angel.cc.umanitoba.ca>). All marks and final grades will be posted there as well.

Additional Considerations

If using email, please use the address provided on page 1 of this course outline. I do not normally see emails sent via Angel. If you are using a non-university account (e.g. Hotmail, which is unreliable) or have provided the university with an invalid email address, please be aware that you might not receive important course updates.

Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, or who require aids or other supports) should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2011-2012

Term 1

September 12: The Sociological Perspective (Chapter 1)
September 19: Sociological Investigation (Chapter 2)
September 26: Culture (Chapter 3) and Society (Chapter 4)
October 3: **Test #1** (first half of class) Socialization (Chapter 5)
October 10: Thanksgiving holiday (**no classes**)
October 17: Social Interaction in Everyday Life (Chapter 6)
October 24: Groups and Organizations (Chapter 7)
October 31: Deviance (Chapter 9)
November 7: **Test #2** (first half of class) and Social Stratification (Chapter 10)
November 14: Social Class in Canada (Chapter 11) and Global Stratification (Ch. 12)
November 21: Gender Stratification (Chapter 13)
November 28: Race and Ethnicity (Chapter 14)
December 5: **Test # 3**

Term 2

January 9: In-class work on "Seven Up" Assignment, Part 1
January 16: In-class work on "Seven Up" Assignment, Part 2
January 23: In-class work on "Seven Up" Assignment, Part 3
January 30: In-class work on "Seven Up" Assignment, Part 4
February 6: The Economy and Work (Chapter 16) & Politics/Government (Chapter 17)
February 13: Family (Chapter 18)
February 20: FEBRUARY BREAK (**no classes**)
February 27: Religion (Chapter 19)
March 5: **Test #4** (first half of class) and Education (Chapter 20)
March 12: Health and Medicine (Chapter 21)
March 19: Population, Urbanization, and Environment (Chapter 22)
March 26: Course wrap-up and consultation on assignments
April 2: **Test #5** and Assignment DUE

*** Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline: **March 16, 2012** ***