

**University of Manitoba**  
**Department of Sociology**

**SOC 1200 A09**  
**INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY**  
**September 2011 - April 2012**

**Instructor:** Dr. L.W. Roberts  
**Telephone:** 474-6941  
**Email:** Lance\_Roberts@umanitoba.ca (Identify SOC1200 in subject line)  
**Office:** 306 St. John's College  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays immediately after class, or by appointment  
**Classroom:** Robert Schultz Lecture Theatre, Room 172 St. John's College  
**Credit Hours:** 6  
**Required Text:** Robert J. Brym, John Lie, Steven Rytina *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Edition. Nelson Education.  
**NOTE:** New copies of the text include a CNOW PAC (Personal Access Code). This card provides access to the study guide site. If you obtain a used copy of the text, the CNOW PAC can be purchased separately from the bookstore.

### **Overview**

This course is designed to introduce you to the diversity of concepts, principles, and procedures that comprise an introduction to the discipline of sociology. A quick perusal of the table of contents of the textbook demonstrates that the course takes us through a wide range of topics, from micro-level considerations of everyday interaction to macro-level processes of globalization.

Learning sociology is like learning the lessons of any other discipline; it requires work. My goal is to make this work both meaningful and interesting. Based on over three decades of helping students master the fundamentals of the discipline, I am confident in telling you that, if you are willing to put in the time and effort, this course will move you along the liberal education path.

### **Objectives**

The course aims to help you learn the lessons of Introductory Sociology in three ways. First, this course contains a body of fundamental concepts, principles, procedures, and facts that you must know. Learning this *basic information* is the primary objective of this course. The second course objective builds upon the first one and requires you to move beyond understanding the contents of the textbook and lectures. This second objective requires you to be able to *comprehend and apply* sociological concepts and principles. The final course objective requires you to *display analytical skills*. Analysis is a higher order ability that requires taking something whole, breaking it down into constituent parts, and showing the relationship among the components. All the activities and assessments in the course are designed to advance your learning in one or more of these three ways.

### **Schedule**

This schedule lists the class dates, suggested readings (in parentheses), test dates (**in bold**), and assignment due date (underlined). Content-related materials and other relevant weekly information are found on the course web site. *Please consult this Angel web site routinely for important course information.*

September

8 (Orientation) 13 & 15 (Chapter 1) 20 & 22 (Chapter 2) 27 & 29 (Chapter 3)

October

4 & 6 (Chapter 6) **11 & 13 Unit Test 1** 18 & 20 (Chapter 4) 25 & 27 (Chapter 5)

November

1 & 3 (Chapter 7) 8 & 10 (Chapter 8) **15 & 17 Unit Test 2** 22 & 24 (Chapter 9) 29 & Dec. 1 (Chapter 10)

December 6 (Chapter 11)

January

5 (Chapter 13) **10 & 12 Unit Test 3** 17 & 19 (Chapter 14) 24 & 26 (Chapter 15)

February

January 31 & February 2 (Chapter 16) 7 & 9 (Chapter 17) **14 & 16 Unit Test 4** 21 & 23 MID-TERM BREAK

March

February 28 & March 1 (Chapter 20) 6 & 8 (Chapter 22) 13 & 15 (Chapter 19) 20 (Sociological Illustration) & 22 (Chapter 21) 27 & 29

April

**3 & 5 Unit Test 5**

### **Course Organization**

Typically, our weekly work in this course will be organized as follows. First, you should prepare for the class by completing the suggested reading and completing the on-line study guide materials. This will provide you with an orientation to the sociological content for the week. During the week, one of the classes will be in the form of a traditional lecture. The other class will centre on digitized content. Commonly, the digital content will centre on a viewing and discussing part of a documentary related to the week's sociological theme. I will also be introducing sociological images related to current events. In class I will provide some suggestions for how you can best prepare for the digital presentations. Again, please consult the course web site on Angel for current information about our weekly classes.

### **Course Requirements**

Your grade in this course will be based on your mastery of the contents of the readings, class presentations and discussions, and an application exercise. Although you are personally responsible for mastering the course contents, I firmly believe that learning is a *social enterprise*. Therefore, I strongly encourage students to help one another both inside and outside of class.

The components of your final grade in this course include the following:

- *Unit Tests –75 percent.* There are five unit tests in the course, each of which takes two class periods. Each test centres on the course content since the previous test so, in effect, the tests are not cumulative. The coverage and format of the tests will be announced in class in advance of the test dates. Each test is equally weighted toward your final grade.
- *Sociological Illustration – 20 percent.* This is a group assignment whose details will be discussed in class and on the web site. The project requires students to work together to produce a short video that illustrates a sociological concept, principle, or theme.
- *Course Participation – 5 Percent.* The sociological illustration project, data analysis exercises, and course discussions all require your active participation to be successful. For this reason, a course participation grade is being assigned. The assessment of this course component will be discussed in class.

## Application and Analysis Exercises

The section on “Objectives” indicated that this class requires both “knowing” and “doing”. The “doing” component takes the form of application and analysis exercises. The following descriptions provide a brief overview of these components, details of which will be provided in class and the website.

*Social Data Analysis:* Near the beginning of each course unit, a social data analysis exercise will be distributed. Each of these exercises requires you to work on analyzing and interpreting empirical evidence related to a sociological issue. Class periods early in the term will provide you with the analytical tools required to complete these assignments. Once an analysis exercise is distributed, students are encouraged to work through the requirements, since you will be tested on this material as part of the following unit test.

*Sociological Illustration:* This project requires students to work in small groups to produce a 3-5 minute digital presentation that utilizes sociological concepts, principles, or themes. In this exercise students will have the opportunity to explore a sociological topic in some depth. Students can select from among alternate project choices. Like the other application and analysis exercises, details of this project will be discussed in class.

*Homework Illustrations:* I am considering the possibility of creating some homework assignments based on web site materials. If these assignments are viable, their content will become part of the unit test materials. I will keep you posted on this account.

## Some Final Notes:

- 1) *Consequences:* Only documented reasons (medical, emergency, or grief) are acceptable for not meeting course requirements, which includes class attendance (see the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar). For consideration of accommodation for late assignments, missed tests, or religious holy days, you need to *submit a written request and provide appropriate documentation*.  
Re: Late Assignments: Late submission of assignments may not be accepted. In cases where late submissions are accepted, grade penalties will be applied.  
Re: Missed Tests: Students who provide appropriate documentation for missing a unit test will be given ONLY ONE opportunity to write a make-up test. For the first term, the make-up test is scheduled for *Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.* For the second term, the make-up test is scheduled for *Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.* **NOTE:** If you are granted a make-up test, you are responsible for making whatever adjustments are necessary to write at the scheduled dates and times. No exceptions will be accommodated.  
Re: Religious Holy Days: The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith which fall within the academic year. I will make the necessary arrangements to ensure that your studies will not be jeopardized. To do so, I need to be notified in writing of your intended absence at least a week in advance.  
Re: Special Learning Needs: Students with documented special learning needs should identify themselves to me at the beginning of the term to arrange suitable accommodation.
- 2) *Voluntary Withdrawal:* Voluntary withdrawal deadline date: March 16, 2012.

- 3) *Academic Integrity:* As a cautionary note, students should know that the University of Manitoba strictly enforces its policy with respect to academic dishonesty. 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>Sections 8. Academic Integrity. The Faculty of Arts reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.
- 4) *Making the Grade:* Students often ask how I translate the percentage grades received on tests, projects, and other course requirements into the letter grades awarded at the end of the year. My procedure is straightforward. I weight each course component according to its contribution toward your final grade and add these weighted products. Then I use the following key:

Total Percentage	Letter Grade
90+	A+
80-89	A
75-79	B+
70-74	B
65-69	C+
60-64	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

Please note, however, that Introductory Sociology is a multi-sectioned course. 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 levels of performance in all sections." Accordingly, your final grade in this course may be raised or lowered to achieve this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

- 5) *Civility:* Disruptions due to excessive talking, use of personal technology, late arrivals or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes. Please be considerate 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 beginning of class.
- 6) *Other Notes:*
1. Personal Technology: Active cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc. are not welcome. Laptop computers may only be used to facilitate note-taking, and solely at the instructor's discretion.
  2. Email:
    - To receive an answer, email correspondence with me or the teaching assistants must (i) *list SOC1200 in the subject line*, and (ii) *use proper English sentence structure and vocabulary*. Email that does not meet these conditions will NOT be answered.
    - We strive to answer your email inquiries within 24 hours (*weekends excluded*). So *please plan accordingly and be patient*. If you have not received a reply within 48 hours, please resubmit your request because the delay indicates it was not received.
  3. Copyright notice:The lectures, displays, and materials delivered or provided in this course, including any visual or audio recording of the same, are subject to copyright owned by the instructor. Without the expressed written permission of Dr. Lance Roberts, it is prohibited to record or copy by any means, in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, any of the lectures or materials provided or published in any form during or from this course.