

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA • DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 1200, "INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY"
SEPTEMBER 2011 TO APRIL 2012
6 CREDIT HOURS • SECTION A05

Instructor: Professor Chris Powell
Class Times: 12:30-1:20, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
Location: 312 Tier
Website: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/angel>

Office: 311 Isbister Building
Office Hours: 1:30-2:30 Wednesdays, or by appointment
Telephone: 474-8150 (with voice mail)
Email: Through the Angel website

COURSE SUMMARY

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the "sociological imagination" and to show how thinking sociologically can give insight into both our own everyday lives and large-scale public issues.

Sociology is an exciting field: partly a science, partly an art, it addresses nothing less than the whole universe of human experience. Everything that people do, everything that happens to us, is potentially interesting to a sociologist. The course will introduce you to the *sociological imagination* – a way of seeing the world that looks beyond the events of an individual life, to see the patterns of relationships that structure both our everyday lives and the great events of our world.

This course aims to help you do three things:

1. To think sociologically – to see the social forces behind individual actions.
2. To use specific sociological ideas to understand public events and your own everyday life.
3. To think critically about society – to question why things are the way they are, and to believe that change is possible.

This course uses issues drawn from Canadian and global contexts to show the range and depth of sociological thinking. In the first term, we will focus on concrete social issues such as poverty, globalization, racism, and sexism; in the second term we will link those issues to the theories and methodologies that distinguish sociology. Throughout, we will focus on struggles by oppressed people for social change and social justice.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

There are just two required textbooks for this course:

- John Steckley and Guy Kirby Letts, 2010. *Elements of Sociology: A Critical Canadian Introduction*, Second Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.
- Michelle Webber and Kate Bezanson, eds., 2008. *Rethinking Society in the 21st Century: Critical Readings in Sociology*, Second Revised Edition. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc.

Both of these books are available at the University of Manitoba Bookstore. It may also be possible to buy used copies of either or both of these books.

However, it is important that you get the *second edition* of both texts. The second editions contain substantial new content not included in the first editions.

COURSE EVALUATION

Introduction to Sociology is a prerequisite for future sociology courses. For some students, Intro will be their only exposure to sociological thinking. Whether this will be your first or your last Sociology course, you should be prepared for a rigorous experience. There is a great deal of material to cover – a full textbook and an accompanying reader. Students are expected to be on-schedule with readings, and to come to class ready to demonstrate their preparation.

Evaluation is conducted through two methods: tests, and group work assignments, both of which take place in class. Tests will involve a mix of multiple-choice questions and written answers. Tests are cumulative. Group work assignments involve students collaborating to answer questions based on the readings, usually readings from *Rethinking Society in the 21st Century*. Unless otherwise notified, Students will need to bring that text to class on days when group work is assigned. There will be four group work assignments per term; students' group work grades for each term will be scored as the best three out of these four assignments.

Term 1

Test 1	Oct 12	10%
Test 2	Nov 9	15%
Test 3	Dec 7	20%
In-class group work		5%

Term 2

Test 4	Feb 3	10%
Test 5	Mar 7	15%
Test 6	Apr 4	20%
<u>In-class group work</u>		<u>5%</u>
Total		100%

Grades will be posted on the course website. Students must consult the course website to learn their grades. Assistance on accessing the website will be provided in class.

Students should familiarize themselves with the University policy on appeal of term and final grades, found in University of Manitoba's 2011-12 *Undergraduate Calendar*. Grades can be appealed up to ten working days after they have been posted to the website.

Generally speaking, the following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used. however students should note that *these are guidelines only* and that different percentage cut-offs may be used in the course, depending on final grade distribution.

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	90 - 100%	4.5	Exceptional
A	80 - 89%	4.0	Excellent
B+	75 - 79%	3.5	Very Good
B	70 - 74%	3.0	Good
C+	65 - 69%	2.5	Satisfactory
C	60 - 64%	2.0	Adequate
D	50 - 59%	1.0	Marginal
F	49% or less	0	Failure

Religious Holy Days

The University of Manitoba acknowledges the right of all students to observe recognized holy days of their faith. You will need to send me an email about your intended absence(s) at least two weeks in advance of the test date, so that I can make special arrangements.

Special Learning Needs

Students with documented special learning needs who require learning accommodations during the course should introduce themselves to me *and* contact me through email, either during the first week of each term, or else (if you receive a diagnosis during the term) as early as possible. I will be pleased to make accommodations, including suitable testing arrangements, to assist you. Disability Services (474-6213) is a resource to help students with learning or other special needs. If you are uncertain if you can or should avail yourself of this opportunity, please feel free to consult me.

Website

The course website helps students in a variety of tasks. It is the best method for contacting me. It will also allow you to download any handouts that I distribute in class. (I will *not* post my lecture notes to the website.) Importantly, it will also allow you to securely review your grades (which are private, and cannot be accessed by other students.) The only place grades will be posted is to the course website.

No previous experience is required to use the course website; you do not need a personal account or e-mail address to use the course site. Not every student has access to a personal computer and so the University provides free access to over one hundred computers in various labs located around the campus.

STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITY

My responsibility as an instructor begins with the University ROASS policy (see the University of Manitoba's *Undergraduate Calendar*) and extends to creating a safe, cooperative and stimulating learning environment for students. I encourage a participatory and dialogic classroom environment (that means: talk back to me! ask questions!). I have selected texts and organized classroom time to meet the teaching objectives of this course. Lectures are designed to help you understand and extend the concepts and ideas discussed in your texts and in any films shown in class. I comply fully with all University of Manitoba policies regarding teaching.

Students have responsibilities, too:

- (1) Students are responsible for their own learning. You are expected to do readings in advance of class and to come prepared. You will often need to independently cover material in the textbooks, since not everything in the textbooks will be addressed in class. You may be tested on *all* aspects of assigned readings – including theory and empirical data – as well as on lectures, films and other classroom activities.
- (2) It is in your best interest to attend class regularly. Note that the *Undergraduate Calendar* stipulates that "regular attendance is expected of all students in all courses," and that an instructor may initiate procedures to debar a student "where unexcused absences exceed those permitted. Students so disbarred will have failed the course." Announcements may be made in class during lectures that may affect student performance, course schedule, or other aspects of the term organization: all students will be governed by the new information, irrespective of whether they were in attendance when the new policy or information was announced.
- (3) If you are unclear about material or have academic concerns or questions, *it is your responsibility to ask for help*. The best way to do this is to visit the instructor during office hours. The instructors will be pleased to schedule extra time with you outside of class to help you succeed in this course, but you must make the request. It is also your responsibility to track your success in the course, and to take action if you discover you are failing tests or assignments, or not earning the grades you hope for.
- (4) If you miss a film, you will need to arrange to view it at an alternate time. Making this arrangement is a student responsibility. To view a missed film, you need a form which is available from 123 Fletcher Argue and which requires the instructor's signature. It is your job to bring the form to the instructor for signing.

- (5) You are responsible for complying with all course policies. You will find all course policies in this syllabus – please review it regularly. If you misplace this syllabus or a term schedule, you can download a copy from the course website.
- (6) You must be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of other students in the class. This is a large course, and classroom management can be an issue. Whispering, talking, taking cell phone calls, or engaging in non-course activity is especially inappropriate, since it bothers other students. Other disruptions include late arrivals, early departures, leaving and returning during class time, and other behaviour deemed inappropriate by the instructor or other students. You should be aware that such disruptions may result in you being asked to leave a lecture. If they are severe enough, they may result in you being barred from the course, which results in course failure. I reserve the right to ask students to sit elsewhere, if this could improve the classroom experience for other students. You will be required to comply with University policy on "Inappropriate and Disruptive Student Behaviour." as well as Faculty of Arts policies on student responsibilities (see *Undergraduate Calendar*). Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should let me know at the beginning of the class and should select a seat near the door to minimize disruption.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence, with grave consequences. Students should acquaint themselves with the University of Manitoba's policies in the *Undergraduate Calendar*. The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test or examination is "F" on the assessment and "F" for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in the Faculty. 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.

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

The last day for voluntary withdrawal from the course without academic penalty is Friday, 16 March 2012. Students will have received at least four test grades and half of their in-class grades, or 60% of their total grade, before then.

TERM SCHEDULES

A schedule of topics, lectures, readings, films and any guest lectures will be handed out the first day of each term. The schedule is subject to change. Changes announced in-class will take precedence over written or posted notices.