University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology

SOC 1200: Introduction to Sociology (Ao6)

Fall 2013 / Winter 2014

6 Credit Hours

Instructor: Evan Bowness, MA
Class Location: 312 Tier
Class Schedule: 12:30 – 1:20 PM
Monday/Wednesday/Friday
Course Website: https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/
Email (preferred): Through D2L (course website)
Email (urgent messages only): umbownes@cc.umanitoba.ca
Phone: 204-474-8875 (voice mail checked twice a week)
Office: 328 Isbister Building, U of M Fort Garry Campus
Office Hours: By appointment only
Teaching Assistant: Jill Patterson (contact via D2L)

Course Overview:

Are you curious about the way the social world works? Are you concerned about social problems, such as racism, gender inequality, environmental degradation, corruption and crime? Do you want to help build a better community to live in?

This course gives you an overview what sociology can do to help make sense of the complex world around you. You’ll develop a “sociological imagination” (a quality of mind that makes connections between personal troubles and public issues), and over the course of the year we’ll explore the relationship between the individual and society. You can expect to engage with a number of critical issues in sociology, and you’ll leave with some familiarity of the major classical and contemporary traditions of the discipline. And you’ll get some experience in ‘envisioning’ more inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities—an important contribution sociologists can make as we move down the road of history into an increasingly uncertain and precarious era.


Assignments and Grading:

Tests -- Value: 70% (4 x 17.5%)

Four in-class test of 50-60 multiple choice questions:

First Test: October 18th
Second Test: December 4th
Third Test: February 14th
Fourth Test: April 9th

Online Discussion Forums -- Value: 10%

There are discussion forums on the course website (the total number of forums is TBD). These are online spaces for discussion and student exchange. Each forum contains a link to a TED talk video and a list of discussion questions. Contributions to these forums will be evaluated. Deadlines for posts to the discussion forums will be announced on the course website; late submissions to discussion forums will not be accepted.

Group Project -- Value 20% (Due April 11th by midnight)

In pre-selected groups of 5-7, you will help envision a ‘real utopia’ – a community based on existing examples of alternative social structures that reduce human suffering and increase human flourishing. Drawing on the work of Eric Olin Wright, former president of the American Sociological Association, your group will make a short video (less than 5 minutes) describing a place ‘worth living.’ A handout detailing the assignment, peer evaluation and submission instructions will be distributed in class.

Final Grades:

A+: Exceptional (90-100%)  C+: Satisfactory (66-69%)
A: Excellent (80-89%)  C: Adequate (60-65%)
B+: Very Good (76-79%)  D: Marginal (50-59%)
B: Good (70-75%)  F: Failure (Below 50%)
Course Content and Schedule

Week One  
September 6th – 13th  
Ch 1: Understanding the Sociological Imagination

Week Two  
September 16th – 20th  
Ch 2: Classical Social Theories

Week Three  
September 23rd – 27th  
Ch 3: Modern Social Theories

Week Four  
September 30th – October 4th  
Ch 4: Research, Methodology and Ethics

Week Five  
October 7th – 11th  
Ch 5: Culture

Week Six  
Test 1  
Monday October 14th – Thanksgiving (No Class)  
October 16th – Review  
October 18th – Test 1 (Ch 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)

Week Seven  
October 21st – 25th  
Ch 6: Socialization and Social Interaction

Week Eight  
October 28th – November 1st  
Ch 7: Social Inequality

Week Nine  
November 4th – 8th  
Ch 8: Gender

Week Ten  
November 11th – Remembrance Day (No Class)  
November 13th – 15th  
Ch 9: Sexualities

Week Eleven  
November 18th – 22nd  
Ch 10: Race and Racialization

Week Twelve  
November 25th – 29th  
Ch 14th: Crime, Law and Regulation

Week Thirteen  
Test 2  
December 2nd – Review  
December 4th – Test 2 (Ch 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14)
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<tr>
<th>Week Fourteen</th>
<th>January 6th – 10th</th>
<th>Ch 11: Families AND Chapter 12: Education</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week Fifteen</td>
<td>January 13th – 17th</td>
<td>Ch 13: Religion</td>
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<td>Week Sixteen</td>
<td>January 20th – 24th</td>
<td>Ch 15: Health, Aging and Disabilities</td>
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<td>Week Seventeen</td>
<td>January 27th – 31st</td>
<td>Ch 16: Work and the Political Economy</td>
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<td>Week Eighteen</td>
<td>February 3rd – 7th</td>
<td>Ch 17: Mass Media</td>
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<td>Week Nineteen</td>
<td>Test 3</td>
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<td>February 10th – Review</td>
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<td>February 12th – Test 3 (Ch 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17)</td>
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<td>February 14th – TBD</td>
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**Reading Week – February 15th-23rd – No Classes**

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<tr>
<th>Week Twenty</th>
<th>February 24th – 28th</th>
<th>Ch 19: Globalization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week Twenty-One</td>
<td>March 3rd – 7th</td>
<td>Ch 20: Challenges to the Global Environment</td>
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<td>Week Twenty-Two</td>
<td>March 10th – 14th</td>
<td>Ch 18: Social Change, Collective Behavior and Social Movements</td>
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<td>Week Twenty-Three</td>
<td>March 17th – 21st</td>
<td>Envisioning Real Utopias - Part 1</td>
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<td>Week Twenty-Four</td>
<td>March 24th – 28th</td>
<td>Envisioning Real Utopias - Part 2</td>
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<td>Week Twenty-Five</td>
<td>March 31st – April 4th</td>
<td>Envisioning Real Utopias - Part 3</td>
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<td>Week Twenty-Six</td>
<td>Test 4</td>
<td>April 7th – Review</td>
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<td>April 9th – Test 4 (Ch 18, 19, 20 + lectures from weeks 23-5)</td>
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<td>Group Projects Due</td>
<td>April 11th</td>
<td>Online Submission by Midnight</td>
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Other Considerations:

**Conduct:** Come to class having read the assigned readings for the week and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Be respectful to classmates and the instructor – disruption by a student may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify the instructor at the onset of class if you need to leave early or if you have to come late to the next class.

**Keep an Open Mind:** Sociology can be a frustrating business – it often requires us to face the root of misconceptions that we hold about the social world. Be open to taking on a diversity of perspectives. Challenge your own thinking. Recognize that society shapes culture and consciousness, and expect to evaluate, scrutinize and reflect on your thoughts and actions, which might otherwise go unquestioned.

**Late/ Missed Assignments:** Assignments submitted after the deadline without permission from the instructor will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends and holidays.

**Extensions:** I am open to granting extensions for assignments where they are warranted. Note that documentation (such as a doctor’s notes) will usually be required. I will not entertain requests for extensions after the fact – you have to make your request in advance of the deadline in question.

**Unclaimed Term Work Disposal:** Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

**Missed Tests:** Any student who misses a test or exam must provide a doctor’s note (or appropriate equivalent). This will be strictly enforced. No student will be allowed to write a make-up test without a doctor’s note (or some form of written documentation). Any student who does not inform me (by phone/e-mail/voice mail/office hours) prior to test time (that they will be absent for the test) will not be allowed to write a make-up test. This also will be strictly enforced. Missed tests must be written within one week of original test date. The instructor will inform the student of when and where the make-up test will be written. No alternate date will be given; as such, it is the student’s responsibility to show up at the specified date and time, without exception.
Note on VW Deadlines: The last date for Voluntary Withdrawal without academic penalty is March 19, 2014 (see refund schedule, published on the Registrar’s Office website in July 2013, for financial implications).

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

Religious Holidays: The University recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student’s intended absence in advance with at least two weeks’ notice.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, (“Personation at Examinations” (Section 5.2.9) and “Plagiarism and Cheating” (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

Statement on Multi-Sectioned Courses: In accordance with University and Faculty of Arts policies and the University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307, departments and programs are required to utilize a final grades review and approval process of multi-sectioned undergraduate courses before course grades are rolled into AURORA Student. At the discretion of a Department’s Council, the Faculty of Arts policy states there may also be a review and approval of proposed final grades of other undergraduate courses.