



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

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Department of Sociology and Criminology
SOC 1200 Section A08 CRN 10575

Introduction to Sociology: Fall & Winter 2018/19, 6 credit hours

“Sociology is about challenging commonsense... I often say sociology is a martial art, a means of self-defense. Basically, you use it to defend yourself, without having the right to use it for unfair attacks.” - Pierre Bourdieu, 1930-2002 -

Professor: Dr. Christopher J. Fries, PhD
Time & Place: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays: 2:30pm - 3:20pm, 118 Saint John’s College
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1. Nature and Scope of the Course

Sociology is a social and behavioural science that studies the dual process wherein society shapes individual behaviour, which, in turn, in its totality, shapes society. As such, sociology is interested in understanding the shared relationship between individual and society. This course will introduce students to the discipline of sociology, its basic concepts and perspectives, and the sociological approach to thinking about human beings and our behaviour.

One of the most important ways of thinking about sociology is to understand sociology as a way of thinking critically about the reality of people and the world; a way of thinking which questions everything (Berger, 1967; Bourdieu, 1992; Goffman, 1974; Gouldner, 1970; Mills, 1959). This is what is meant by the term, “*reflexivity*”; understanding the broader sociocultural forces that affect our individual lives. This understanding can serve as the basis for greater self-understanding: As we come to know society and culture better, we come to know ourselves better. As such, this course is centered around the concept of “the sociological imagination”, with an emphasis on developing your abilities to reflexively examine and understand the world in which you live and its relevance for your own life: This is what it means where Bourdieu describes sociology as, “*a Martial Art*”: Society and culture provide us all with a series of ‘recipes’ for understanding life (Schutz, 1964). These *taken-for-granted* recipes make up a shared repository of common sense cultural beliefs about life and the world. In this course, we will learn how to use social scientific knowledge to challenge common sense as a means of intellectual self-defense.

2. Objectives of the Course

- ✓ Students will develop their sociological imaginations, which will help them to challenge common sense beliefs that shape their own behaviour and lives.
- ✓ Students will become familiar with sociology as a social scientific discipline.
- ✓ Students will become familiar with introductory aspects of sociological theory.
- ✓ Students will learn about basic sociological concepts, methods of social and behavioural research, and some of the substantive topics studied by sociologists.

3. Required Texts and Documentaries

- ✓ Berger, Peter L. (1963). *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective*. New York: Anchor Books.
- ✓ Ravelli, Bruce and Webber, Michelle. (2017). *Exploring Sociology: A Canadian Perspective*, Fourth Edition. Toronto: Pearson. You will also need access to MySocLab, the textbook's website.
- ✓ In addition to the required textbook, supplementary readings have been selected from various sources (i.e., published journal articles). Links to these readings are available online where you may download your own copies.
- ✓ The documentaries we view and discuss during this course are a required element of the course material for which you are responsible.
- ✓ iClicker: You will need to have an iClicker (new or used, or via your phone or other device). The iClicker is used in assigning participation marks and to support class discussions, and should be brought to every class.

4. Organization of the Course

This class will meet in the place and at the times indicated in the timetable. Basically, the course will consist of informal lectures - consequently, students are encouraged to participate by making points and asking questions. From time to time, documentaries will be shown, there may be guest lecturers, and we may do some group exercises. NOTE: The documentaries we view during this course are a required element of the course material for which you are responsible.

5. Professor Expectations (Read this carefully - it will help ensure your success in this course)

♣**Collegiality:** Together, we can create and maintain a collegial learning environment; one in which we all develop as individuals and scholars and in which the free and respectful exchange of ideas occurs. At all times, it is expected that you will be polite and respectful of your fellow students and your professor!

♣**Participation:** Questions and discussion are as much a part of the class as are the lectures. Please participate.

♣**Independent Scholarship:** You will be held responsible for all required readings and course materials, such as videos and study guides, whether discussed further in class or not. Please keep up with your homework!

♣**Appropriate Referencing Style:** In all written assignments you must provide citations following the *American Sociological Association Style Guide* (4th ed.), 2010. (A *Quick Style Guide* made available by the ASA is available online.)

♣**Attendance and Missed Tests / Assignments:** Regular attendance is expected. Poor attendance will negatively affect your grade. Tests and assignments missed due to unexcused absences will result in a grade of zero, except under documented reasons for missing a test or assignment, i.e., a doctor's note. Ordinarily, tests must be made-up within one week. Failure to request a make-up test within the expected time frame may result in ineligibility for a make-up test and a mark of zero for the missed test.

♣**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will not be graded. In exceptional circumstances (documented illness, etc.) an extension may be granted, provided you receive the professor's permission **beforehand**. If an extension is granted, a new due date will be set. Work missing this date will not be graded.

♣**Personal Copies:** Students are instructed to always keep a personal copy of any submitted work in the case that they are required to submit another copy.

☞ **Professor Availability:** I appreciate that sociology may be a relatively new area of study for some of you and you may feel overwhelmed by the material. Anxiety over one's performance on, and preparation for, lectures, tests and assignments is understandable. If you are unclear about the material, my lectures, or my expectations, please ask for clarification during class, or if you prefer, make an appointment to meet with me individually.

☞ **Sociological Engagement:** As the central learning objective of this course is the development of your sociological imagination, I expect you to think about and discuss course material with others outside class. That is, you are to be a "sociologist of life"!

☞ **Roadmap:** Read and use this outline as your roadmap for the course: It will be your course reference throughout the term. Many of the organizational questions students ask are answered by it. Further copies are downloadable.

☞ **Online Learning Environment:** An abundance of course and supplementary material is made available to you through UMLearn (UML). For example, here you will find lecture notes containing basic terms and concepts that form the basis of my course slides and video study guides. Please check the course website regularly for newly posted material. You are responsible for this material.

6. Student Expectations

☞ Students are encouraged to review the University of Manitoba's "Responsibilities of Academic Staff with regard to Students" document, which can be found online at:

http://www.umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/278.htm

☞ As supplement to the above policies, by the second full week of classes I will collect, summarize, and attach as an addendum to this syllabus your collective expectations of your professor.

7. Policies and Resources

☞ **Post-examination Review of Final Grades:** Senate policy on multi-sectioned courses 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 such equity, and therefore your final grade may be changed.

☞ **Religious Holidays:** The University recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With professor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The professor should be notified in writing 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.

☞ **Missed Videos:** If you miss a video, you will need to arrange to view it at an alternate time. Making this arrangement is a student responsibility, and must be undertaken in ways that do not inconvenience Information Services and Technology or the professor.

☞ **Disruptions:** Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are distracting. 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 professor at the beginning of class and sit near the exit.

☞ **Smart Phones and Electronic Devices:** I won't text or chat when you are talking to me. Please extend me the same courtesy. **Smart phones and other electronic devices should be turned off prior to the class.** If, for any reason, you need to leave your cell phone on, you should obtain permission from the professor. While portable computers may be used **for the purposes of taking notes**, any other use during class time is not permissible.

♣**Copyright / Intellectual Property:** The lectures and displays (and all material) delivered or provided in this course including any visual or audio recording thereof, are subject to copyright. It is prohibited to record or copy any means, in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, in the absence of express written permission from Christopher J. Fries any of the lectures, materials provided or published in any form during or from this course.

♣**Voluntary Withdrawal:** Last day for voluntary withdrawal from the course without academic penalty is **January 18, 2019**. The results of your first three tests, 35% of your final grade, will be available to you prior to this date.

♣**Unclaimed Assignments:** 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.

♣**Academic Integrity:** 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_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them. Please don't cheat! When in doubt about any practice, ask your professor.

♣**Academic Learning Centre:** Students are welcome to make appointments with a learning skills specialist to discuss a wide variety of learning related issues. ALC staff work with students at all levels and abilities to improve their study and writing skills. Located at: 201 Tier Building Phone: 204-480-1481 Fax: 204-474-7659 Email: academic_learning@umanitoba.ca

♣**Student Counselling and Career Centre:** The Student Counselling and Career Centre is staffed by professional counsellors whose primary goal is to facilitate the personal, social, academic, and vocational development of university students. Located at: 474 University Centre. Phone: 474-8592.

♣**Aboriginal Student Centre:** Providing student support in a manner consistent with the culture and values of Aboriginal Peoples for the purpose of increasing/enhancing the accessibility and retention of Aboriginal students. Located at: Migizii Agamik 114 Sidney Smith St. Phone: 474-8850. Email: asc@umanitoba.ca

♣**Student Accessibility Services:** If you are a student with a disability, please contact SAS for academic accommodation supports and services such as note-taking, interpreting, assistive technology and exam accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental illness, learning, medical, hearing, injury-related, visual) are invited to contact SAS to arrange a confidential consultation. Student Accessibility Services is located at: 520 University Centre (Main Office), 155 University Centre (SAS Exam Centre). Phone: 204 474-7423. TTY: 204 474-9790. Fax: 204 474-7567. Email: student_accessibility@umanitoba.ca

♣**International Centre for Students:** Provides support for all University of Manitoba students, offering programs and services to help international students before and after their arrival to ease their transition to Canada and ensure their experience is enjoyable, safe, and successful. Located at: 541 University Centre Phone: (204) 474-8501 Fax: 204 474-7562

♣**Safewalk:** The Safewalk Program was created by utilizing the theory that there is safety in numbers. It is available on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses. The Student Patrols, under the supervision of the Security Services, walk/escort individuals to any destination within the campus boundaries. The Safewalk service is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, all year round. A Safewalk escort can be initiated by calling 474-9312 or an individual may want to approach the Student Patrol when seeing them on campus to request an escort.

8. Course Grades

Your grade in this course will be based on your mastery of the content of lectures, readings, presentations, exercises and participation assignments as well as your ability to use and apply theory, methods, and content. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Tests - 70% (provisionally planned for September 19, October 24, and December 7 in Fall term; February 6, March 8, and April 8 in Winter term).
- Sociological Exercise – 15% (due March 18, 2019)
- Course participation – 15% (September-April)

Tests

There will be six equally weighted in-class tests, worth a total of 70% of your final grade. There is no final exam. Tests may consist of multiple-choice and/or short-answer questions, and may include short essays. They cover theoretical, conceptual and empirical material addressed in lectures, readings, videos and class exercises. You will be tested on materials contained in the textbook, any assigned readings, lectures and discussions, video and digital materials, and classroom work. Tests will require you to accurately recall facts as well as independently apply concepts. You are welcome to review your test results during office hours with the instructor or the Teaching Assistant (TA).

More details about the tests will be provided in-class and posted to the website. Note that the provisional test dates may be subject to change.

The sociological video exercise

Separate instructions will be provided. However, in brief, working in small groups, students will produce a short (4 minute) video plus supporting documents that apply sociological concepts and findings to a selected issue. Briefly, students will analyze one of the following:

- Any two Canadian newspaper opinion articles or editorials that take contrasting approaches on a controversy or issue;
- Any mainstream movie released in 2016 or 2017;
- Any current commercial or advertisement: options include a television commercial, a billboard, a magazine or newspaper ad; or equivalent;
- Any mainstream song and/or music video released in 2017 or 2018.

The sociological exercise, worth 15% of your final grade, is a small group assignment and each student in the small group will (usually) earn the same grade: students will evaluate each other's work, and students who do not fully participate will receive a reduced grade.

The video and supporting documents must be submitted through the course website. Details about the assignment will be provided in-class. A portion of the exercise must be completed in the fall term.

Course participation:

Course participation is worth 15% of your final grade. Participation grades will be assigned based on your performance on an open-ended number of unannounced in-class exercises and quizzes (paper and/or iClicker) and your performance on an open-ended number of other assignments, including ones that may be online. Each term, the lowest grade you earn on one piece of participation work will be dropped. Students who attend on the day when unscheduled events occur, who have done their readings, who have been attentive during classes, and who are up-to-date with the website are very likely to get full marks for in-class work. A student who is

absent, for any reason, cannot make up that day's in-class work. Further details about the participation grade will be discussed in-class.

Some participation work will be completed in pairs, triads or small groups. You will often be asked to work with your neighbours(s) to discuss course material. We would like to maximize the chances of each student meeting a range of different classmates. Accordingly, we will formally ask you to move seats at least twice each term. We realize this is an unusual request, and we will discuss its sociological implications in class.

9. **Letter Grade Assignment**

The following percentage / letter / GPA / descriptive scale will be used:

90 – 100	A+	(4.5)	Exceptional	66 – 69	C+	(2.5)	Satisfactory
80 – 89	A	(4.0)	Excellent	60 – 65	C	(2.0)	Adequate
76 – 79	B+	(3.5)	Very Good	50 – 59	D	(1.0)	Marginal
70 – 75	B	(3.0)	Good	0 – 49	F	(0.0)	Failure

10. **Course Topics and Required Readings**

NOTE: This tentative outline is subject to change. Changes announced in class will take precedence over the tentative, written schedule. Additional readings may be assigned for topics. (I will provide you with advanced notice.)

PART ONE – THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION:

- Part One will introduce students to applying the sociological imagination to studying the fundamentals of culture, society, and social interaction.

Introducing the Sociological Imagination: Challenging Commonsense

- ✓ Berger - Preface, Chapter 1, 2, 3
- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Preface, Chapter 1

Culture and Society

- ✓ Berger - Chapter 4
- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 5

Test 1

What does it mean to be human?: Socialization and the Nature / Nurture Debate

- ✓ Berger - Chapter 5
- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 6

Test 2

PART TWO – SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY AND METHOD:

- Part Two will introduce students to sociological theory and method.

Sociological Theory

- ✓ Berger - Chapter 6
- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapters 2 and 3

Sociology as Social Science: Research and Practice

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 4

Test 3

PART THREE – UNDERSTANDING ASPECTS OF CANADIAN SOCIETY:

- Part Three will introduce students to sociological understanding of various aspects of Canadian society and some of the substantive topics studied by sociologists.

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Gender and Sexualities

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapters 8 and 9

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Race, Ethnicity, and Multiculturalism

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapters 10 and 19

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Education

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 12

Test 4

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Crime and Deviance

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 14

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Health, Medicine, and the Body

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 15
- ✓ Wright, C.J. (2009). "Too Much Health Care: We Can't Afford Life's Creeping Medicalization", *Literary Review of Canada*, 17, pp. 3-5.

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Aging and the Elderly

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 15

Test 5

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Social Change, Collective Behaviour and Social Movements

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 18

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: The Environment

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 20

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Mass Media

- ✓ Ravelli and Webber - Chapter 17

Review, Conclusion, and Further Study: Challenging Commonsense: Risks and Benefits

- ✓ Berger - Chapters 7 and 8

Test 6