

University of Manitoba

Section L16 Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-4:00p.m.

Room 229 St. Paul's College

77:120 Introduction to Sociology

Instructor: Tracy Nielsen

Phone: 474-8192

Email: umniels3@cc.umanitoba.ca

Office: 319D Isbister

Office Hours: After class and by appointment

Required Text:

Macionis, John, and Linda Gerber (1999). Sociology. Ontario: Prentice Hall.

Required Reader:

Macionis, John and Nijole Benokraitis (2001). Seeing Ourselves. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Course Objectives:

The course introduces students to the discipline of sociology. Sociology is the study of human social life including social actions, interactions, relationships, groups, subcultures, cultures and institutions. The course will look in detail at all these components of societies. We will explore a variety of fields within the discipline (e.g., family, religion, deviance). By way of an exploration of these fields students will be exposed to the role of theory in sociology and to the connections between social research and social theory.

It is the aim of the course to provide students with the basic concepts of sociology in order to encourage them to develop sociological insights into both their everyday life experiences and more exceptional social issues. The goal is to develop in students a "sociological imagination" which encourages students to look critically at their own taken-for-granted world. The written assignment gives students a chance to think about their experiences and apply them to the concepts that they learn in the classroom.

Course Requirements:

Students will be required to complete three tests and a term paper. The tests will consist of both multiple choice and written answers. Details of the written assignment will be provided. In writing the tests students are responsible for lecture notes, films, readings and handouts. The breakdown of marks is as follows:

Test 1 Thursday, October 18 at 2:30 p.m. 20%

Test 2 Tuesday December 4 at 2:30 p.m. 20%

Test 3 Thursday February 7 at 2:30 p.m. 20%

Term paper Thursday March 14 at 2:30 p.m. 20%

Test 4 Thursday April 11 at 2:30 p.m. 20%

OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Part 1: Introductory Concepts and Sociological Perspectives

Topic 1: Introduction to Sociology: The "Sociological Imagination"

Readings: Text chapter 1 Reader, sections 1-4.

Topic 2: Sociological Method, Theory and Perspective

Readings: Text, chapter 2 Reader, sections 5-7.

Topic 3: Culture and Socialization

Readings: Text, chapters 4-5 Reader, sections 8-11 and 16-18.

Test one (On topics 1-3) October 18, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. Value= 20%

Part 2: Social Dynamics

Topic 4: Social Psychology: The Study of Social Interaction

Readings: Text, chapter 6 Reader, sections 19-22.

Topic 5: Social Groups and Collective Behaviour

Readings: Text, chapter 7 and 22 Reader, sections 23-26 and 71-73.

Topic 6: Deviance and Social Control

Readings: Text, chapter 8 Reader, sections 27-29.

Test 2: December 4, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. (on topics 4-6) Value=20%

Topic 7: Sex, Gender and Sexuality

Readings: Text, chapter 12 Reader, sections 36-38 and 30-32.

Topic 8: Social Class and Stratification

Readings: Text, chapters 9-10 Reader, sections 33-35.

Topic 9: Race, Ethnicity and Minority Groups

Readings: Text, chapter 13 Reader, sections 39-42.

Test 3: February 7, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. (On topics 7-9) Value=20%

Part 3: Substantive Areas and Social Institutions

Topic 10: Urban Sociology

Readings: Text, chapter 21 Reader, sections 12-15 and 64-66.

Concepts Paper due on March 14, 2002 at 2:30 p.m. Value=20%

Topic 11: Sociology of the Family

Readings: Text, chapter 17 Reader sections 52-54

Topic 12: Sociology of Religion

Readings: Text, chapter 18 Reader, sections 55-57.

Topic 13: Economy and Politics

Readings: Text, chapters 15 and 16 Reader, sections 46-48 and 49-51.

Test 4: April 11, 2002 at 2:30 p.m. (On topics 10-13) Value=20%

Student responsibility and academic dishonesty:

Disruptive behaviour such as whispering or talking during lectures will not be tolerated. Students will be asked to refrain from the behaviour one time only. The second time, disruptive students will be asked to leave the classroom. This policy has been adopted to protect other students as these behaviours severely impede the academic environment.

An exam can only be missed for a legitimate reason such as a medical emergency. In such cases, documentation must be provided in order for a re-write to be arranged. If no documentation is provided within a week, a grade of zero will be recorded.

Late papers are not accepted except in the case of an emergency as stated above. All assignments received after the due date will receive a grade of zero except in outstanding circumstances that have been pre-arranged by the professor.

Students should take time to familiarize themselves with the University's policies on academic ethics such as cheating, plagiarism and exam impersonation. These behaviours will not be tolerated and can result in heavy academic penalties. See page 38 of the University's general calendar.

Marking Scheme:

A+ = 90-100% C+ = 65-69

A = 80-89% C = 55-64%

B+ = 75-79% D = 50-54%

B = 70-74% F = 0-49%

Important Dates:

Classes begin on September 6, 2001 and end on April 11, 2002.

Classes end for winter break on December 5, 2001 and resume January 3, 2002

Reading week break: February 11, 2002 to February 15, 2002 (no classes).

Voluntary withdrawal (VW) date (without academic penalty) is March 18, 2001

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 such equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.