

Department of Sociology
077.120
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Intersession 2004

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Required Textbook:

John Macionis & Linda Gerber (2002) *Sociology* (4th Canadian Edition). Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice Hall Allyn and Bacon Canada.

Overview

This course is designed to introduce you to the diversity of concepts, principles, procedures, and facts that comprise an introduction to the discipline of sociology. A quick perusal of the table of contents in your textbook demonstrates that during this course you shall investigate a variety of subject areas.

Learning sociology is like learning the lessons of any other discipline. For most of us, this means both fun and work. I am confident that you shall find some of the topics included in this course taxing or tedious; others, you shall find interesting and relevant. All of this is part of becoming a liberally educated person.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to help you learn the lessons of Introductory Sociology in two ways. These ways of knowing the course content comprise the course objectives identified below:

1. In this course there exists a body of fundamental concepts, principles, procedures, and facts that you must know. Learning this **basic information** is the fundamental educational objective of Introductory Sociology.
2. The second objective of this course builds upon the first one, and requires you to move beyond understanding the contents of the textbook. The second objective requires you to be able to **comprehend and apply** sociological concepts and principles.

Class Organization and Activities

Note: Past experience suggests that some students enrolling in intersession believe that class attendance and participation is less important than it is for regular session courses. For this course, such an attitude is seriously dysfunctional. A substantial proportion of your grade in this course involves teamwork. Students who do not fully participate in group exercises and projects will have their group work scores heavily downgraded.

This course is designed on the principle that *learning is a social enterprise*. Accordingly, much of our classroom activity will involve *team learning*. The ideas behind team learning, and how this kind of learning will take place in our class, will be discussed during our first meeting. From the outset, however, you need to appreciate that a considerable proportion of your time in class will involve *working with other students* completing exercises directed at the course objectives.

With occasional variations, our class time will be allocated as follows.

Part 1 of the Class: For almost every class you will be assigned a required reading from the textbook. The first component of our class will be devoted to testing your basic understanding of the reading assignment and reviewing any difficulties you encountered. This testing will take the following form.

First, each student will complete a short quiz on the reading material. Next, students will gather in their teams and complete a group quiz. The group quiz will be the same as the individual quiz, except that your team will have to arrive *at a consensus* about the correct answers. After these quizzes are completed, we shall review the correct answers, grade the quizzes, and discuss any problematic issues.

By following these procedures, the first part of the class is aimed at the first course objective, mastering the basic information covered in the textbook readings. The second part of the class will be devoted to the second course objective, comprehending and applying sociological concepts and principles.

Part 2 of the Class: The format for second component of our class will be less standardized than the first part. Typically the second component will involve either a short lecture on some issues related to the week's readings and/or having you work with your group on an application exercise. The focus of the second part of the class will center on *applying* sociological ideas by working with your team members. The goal is to encourage you to see the operation of abstract sociological concepts and principles in concrete situations.

Evaluation

Although you will be working in groups during part of your class time, in the final analysis you will be individually responsible for mastering the contents of the course. However, since the course outcomes (individual mastery) are tied to the learning process (team learning), it is reasonable to evaluate both individual and group performances. Specifically, your final grade in the course will be composed of your performance on the following items.

Individual Quizzes: Most days you will be completing a quiz based on the reading assignment. These quizzes will concentrate on identifying your understanding of the basic information contained in the readings. In total, your grades on these individual quizzes will account for 15 percent of your final grade in the course.

Unit Tests: The readings are organized into units containing four chapters. After completing each unit, you shall write a unit test. The unit test will cover the contents of the readings of that unit as well as any additional materials we have introduced in class. There will be 5 unit tests during the course and each unit test will test both course objectives (i.e. basic information as well as comprehension and application). Each unit test will count for 12 percent of your final grade in the course so, in total, 60 percent of your course grade will come from your performance on these unit tests.

Group Quizzes: As mentioned earlier, after you have completed an individual quiz, you will work with your team members to complete the same quiz as a group. The group score a team achieves on these quizzes will be awarded to each member of the team. The scores each person receives from these group quizzes will comprise 5 percent of that person's final course grade.

Sociological Journals: The second course objective noted that a fundamental goal of this course is to encourage you to apply sociological concepts and principles to concrete situations in the real world. One way of demonstrating comprehension and application skills comes from completing a sociological journal. The details of the sociological journal will be presented in a separate handout. For now, the basic point is to understand that each group will be creating and submitting a sociological journal that identifies the operation of sociological concepts and principles in real world situations. Your group's sociological journal will be graded and will account for 7 percent of your final grade in the course.

Analyzing A Case Study: A second way of demonstrating comprehension and application skills involves analyzing a complex social situation. In this analysis, you will be viewing a videotape that documents the experience of a lower class, urban, poor family. Your team's task in the exercise involves identifying how sociological forces are operating on this family. The details of this exercise are described in a separate handout that will be distributed to you later in the course.

For now, you need to appreciate that *your group* will be performing a sociological analysis of a documented case study. Your team's sociological analysis will be graded and the project's score will be awarded to each member of the team. Your completed case study will account for 8 percent of your final grade in the course.

Group Assessment: As noted, your mastery of the course material and achievement of the course objectives is facilitated through teamwork. In a real way, your learning will be dependent upon the support and encouragement of the other members on your team. Likewise, their educational experience will be affected in important ways by your support of them. Since team members are dependent upon one another in these ways it is appropriate that members' contributions to the group be evaluated. In this course, 5 percent of your final grade will be based on evaluations of your contributions to the group throughout the course. The details of how these group assessments will be made are discussed in a separate handout.

To summarize, your final grade in this course will be composed of your performance on the following individual and group activities:

Individual Performance:

Chapter Quizzes	15 percent
Unit Tests	60 percent

Group Performance:

Chapter Quizzes	5 percent
Case Study Analysis	8 percent
Sociological Journal	7 percent
Group Assessment	5 percent

Critical Dates

In addition to the regular weekly individual and group quizzes, the following are important dates and deadlines.

Unit Tests:

Unit Test 1	--	May 11
Unit Test 2	--	May 19
Unit Test 3	--	June 10
Unit Test 4	--	June 18
Unit Test 5	--	June 29

Intersession VW date - Wednesday, June 23

Sociological Journal Submissions: June 29

Case Study Analysis Submission: June 29

Some Final Notes

- 1) The chapter quizzes are so frequent that there is no reasonable way to permit students to rewrite quizzes they miss for justifiable reasons. Accordingly, of the 20 weekly quizzes that are administered, only the best 18 grades will be included in computing a student's overall quiz performance. This procedure is intended to make accommodation for students who are unable to complete a quiz or simply have a poor performance day.
- 2) Only documented reasons will be accepted as justifications for missing unit tests. In cases where a make-up test is permitted, the "objective questions" component(s) of the test may be replaced by essay questions.
- 3) Late assignments will not be accepted.
- 3) Students always ask how the percentage grades you receive on the tests and the assignments are translated into the letter grades awarded at the end of the year. The procedure is straightforward. Each course component is weighted according to what it's worth toward your final grade and these weighted products are added together. Then the following key is applied:

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

- 4) Class will not be held on the following date: May 24 – Victoria Day
- 5) As a cautionary note, please acquaint yourself with the university's policies on *academic dishonesty* (i.e. plagiarism and cheating and *class attendance*), as described in the General Calendar
- 6) Each week you are responsible for reading a textbook chapter and each unit test covers 4 chapters. The *order* the chapters are covered and the *coverage* for each unit test includes the following:

Unit Test 1:	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4
Unit Test 2:	Chapters 5, 6, 7, 9
Unit Test 3:	Chapters 10, 11, 12, 14
Unit Test 4:	Chapters 17, 19, 18, 20
Unit Test 5:	Chapters 13, 16, 22, 24

NOTE: The readings do not cover all textbook chapters and are not in sequence. It is your responsibility to ensure you cover the correct readings for each quiz and unit test.

INTERSESSION 2004 – READING ASSIGNMENTS & CRITICAL DATES

May

3	Orientation
4	Chapter 1
5	Chapter 2
6	Chapter 3
7	Chapter 4
10	Review Class & Group Work
11	Unit Test
12	Chapter 5
13	Chapter 6
14	Chapter 7
17	Chapter 9
18	Review Class & Group Work
19	Unit Test 2
20	Chapter 10
21	Chapter 11
24	No Class – Victoria Day
25	Case Study Analysis Video
26	Journal Presentation and Discussion
27	No Class
28	No Class

June

7	Chapter 12
8	Chapter 14
9	Review Class & Group Work
10	Unit Test 3
11	Chapter 17
14	Chapter 19
15	Chapter 18
16	Chapter 20
17	Review Class & Group Work
18	Unit Test 4
21	Video Showing 2 & Group Work
22	Chapter 13
23	Chapter 16
24	Chapter 22
25	Chapter 24
28	Review & Group Work
29	Unit Test 5
	Journal Submissions
	Case Study Submissions