

The University of Manitoba
Sociology 077.120, “Introduction to Sociology”
September 2003 - April 2004
6 credit hours
Sections L08 & L09

Instructors	Fall term: Professor Chris Powell Winter term: Professor Susan Prentice
Office	Powell: 311 Isbister Building Prentice: 329 Isbister Building
Telephone	Powell: 474-8150 (with voice mail) Prentice: 474-6726 (with voice mail)
Email	Through the website, at http://www.umanitoba.ca/webct
Website	http://www.umanitoba.ca/webct
Office Hours	Posted on instructors’ door, and by special appointment
Meeting Times	Section L08: Mon-Wed-Fri, 11:30 - 12:20, Room 206 Tier Bldg Section L09: Mon-Wed-Fri, 12:30 - 2:20, Room 100 Fletcher Argue
Teaching Assistants (TAs):	_____ _____ <i>(will be announced by second week of September, and posted to website)</i>

Required Textbooks

- Kendall, D, R. Linden and J. Lothian-Murray. 2003. *Sociology In Our Times*. 3rd edition. Nelson: Toronto. ISBN: 0176223193 -- *please be sure to buy the 3rd edition; earlier editions will not contain the material on which you will be tested.*
- Prentice, S. 2003. *Custom Reader for Introduction to Sociology (077.120)*. Pearson Education: Toronto.
- please note you must buy the 2003-04 edition; earlier versions do not contain this year’s readings.

Course Objectives

The goals of this course are to introduce students to the “sociological imagination” and to show how it helps us to understand recurring features and patterns of social organization and social relations. These objectives will be accomplished through presenting students with some of the major theoretical perspectives, concepts, findings and methods of the discipline of sociology, and demonstrating how they illuminate central aspects of society.

The focus of this course is Canadian and comparative. The material we discuss ranges from the economy and the labour market to the family and childhood, covering what sociologists term “production” and “reproduction.” Students will be also introduced to the ideas and theories of the founders of the discipline (Marx, Weber and Durkheim), as well as contemporary approaches and

concerns. Other topics include socialization, gender, racial/ethnic relations, social stratification and inequality, religion and deviance as well as power and politics, among others.

Overall, the aim of this course is to help students develop an analytic and informed approach to social life. To accomplish this, class time will be spent in a variety of ways. Much of our time together will be spent in lectures or watching (then discussing) films, or working together in pairs or small groups. Although this will be a large class, students are expected to get to know other students and to work with them. Peer work (pairs and groups) will be a basis both for independent learning and for graded work. Students are encouraged to question the instructors, their texts, the films and each other.

Students are warmly invited to introduce themselves to the instructors, and to drop by during office hours or by special appointment.

Course Grades

First Term:		Total = 50%
Test 1	Sept. 24	10%
Test 2	Oct. 24	10%
Test 3	Nov. 12	10%
Test 4	Dec. 3	15%
Participation	Best 3 assignments	5%
Second Term:		Total = 50%
Test 5	Jan. 26	10%
Test 6	Feb. 25	10%
Test 7	March 19	10%
Test 8	April 7	15%
Participation	Best 3 assignments	5%

Grades will be posted exclusively on the course's private webct site. Students must consult the course website to learn their grades. Assistance on accessing webct will be provided in-class and by the instructors andTAs

Students should familiarize themselves with the University policy on appeal of term and final grades, found on pp. 28-29 of the University of Manitoba's 2003-04 *Undergraduate Calendar*.

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. 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.

<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

Policy on Tests, Missed Tests, Make-up Tests and Testing

Tests will consist of multiple-choice questions. They will cover theoretical, conceptual and empirical material covered in lectures, readings, films and class exercises. Many questions will be data-specific; others will be theoretical. Tests also will require you to apply concepts and facts learned in class. Within each term, tests may be cumulative. There is no final exam.

Test dates are listed in this syllabus. Students must be aware that missing a test is a serious problem and will result in a grade of zero, except under restricted circumstances. Only documented reasons will be accepted for missing a test. If you miss a test for a health-related or emergency reason, you should (a) provide advance notice, if possible, by phoning or emailing in advance, then (b) must directly contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange a make-up test. Makeup tests *may* be granted for compassionate reasons, at the full discretion of the instructors. If you will absent on test day for vacation, you will forfeit that test. Note that it is a student responsibility to take the initiative to make arrangements for makeup tests with the instructors. Ordinarily, arrangements must be initiated and completed within one week of the missed test; requests made later than one week will normally be denied. Under no circumstances will a makeup test be offered more than two weeks after the scheduled test date. Students should be aware that all make-up tests will be short-answer essay-format questions.

The University of Manitoba acknowledges the right of all students to observe recognized holy days of their faith. You will need to inform the instructor in writing of your intended absence(s) at least two weeks in advance of the test date.

Students with special learning needs (who, for legitimate reasons, require extra time to write an exam, or who require aids or other supports) should introduce themselves to the instructors during the first week of the course in order to organize suitable testing arrangements. 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 us.

Participation

Participation grades will be based on student submissions to unannounced exercises. The participation grade will be a cumulative score from a range of sources. Occasionally, there may be a quiz covering that day's assigned reading. On other days, students may be asked to hand-in answers to questions following a film. On still other days, small group or pair work may be assigned. Group assignments will be collective work, and students will each receive the collective grade. When group or pair work is assigned, students will not have the option of working solo. Each term, students will work on a minimum of four participation assignments, and the lowest score each term will be dropped.

Students who attend on the day when these unscheduled events occur, who have done their readings in advance and who have been attentive during lectures and films are very likely to get good marks for participation. A student who is absent, for any reason, cannot make up that day's participation work. Since the lowest grade will be dropped, students can assume that a perfect grade is still achievable if one assignment is missed.

Bonus work may occasionally be offered to students. Bonus grades will be applied at the full discretion of the instructors. The cumulative value of bonus grades (irrespective of the number of bonus

assignments) will never exceed 2% of the total course grade.

Student and Instructor Responsibility

Our responsibility as instructors begins with the University's ROASS Policy (see the University of Manitoba's *General Calendar*, pp 32-33) and extends to creating a safe, cooperative and stimulating learning environment for students. We encourage a participatory and dialogic classroom environment. As instructors, we have selected texts and organized classroom time to meet the objectives of this course. Lectures are designed to help you understand and extend the concepts and ideas discussed in your texts and in the films. We 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 are required 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 will be tested on all aspects of assigned readings -- including theory and empirical data -- as well as on lectures, films and other classroom activities. It is in your personal and collective best interest to attend class regularly.
- (2) If you are unclear about material or have academic concerns or questions, it is your responsibility to ask for help. The TAs and 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.
- (3) If you miss a film, 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 Educational Support Services. 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 instructors for signing.
- (4) You are responsible for complying with the policies on grades and tests, including policies on missed tests. You will find all course policies listed 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.
- (5) You must be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of other students in the class. Whispering and talking is especially inappropriate, since it bothers other students. Students who talk in class will be asked to leave the classroom. Other disruptions include late arrivals, early departures, 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 or being barred from the course (which results in course failure). Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of the class and sit in a seat near the door to minimize disruption.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, with grave consequences. Students should acquaint themselves with the University of Manitoba's policy in the *Undergraduate Calendar* (Section 7, page 29-30).

Penalties for plagiarism and academic honesty are severe. The common penalty in Arts for

plagiarism in a written assignment, test or examination is “F” on the paper 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.

Last day for voluntary withdrawal from the course without academic penalty is **March 17, 2004**. Students will have received grades from a minimum of five tests and four assignments before that date.

Website

This course has a website. Registered students can visit the website and do a variety of things: for example, send mail to other classmates, contribute to a bulletin board discussion of issues, communicate with the instructors via email, etc. 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 website; you do not need a personal account or email address to visit the course’s site. Not every student has access to a personal computer and so the University provides free access to nearly one hundred computers in various labs located around the campus. We will be pleased to help you locate a computer terminal.

The TAs and instructors will be available to assist students in learning how to use the course website.

Term Schedules

A schedule of topics, lectures, readings, films and any guest lectures will be handed out the first day of each term. Please note that the schedule is subject to change without notice.