

# Sociology 077.232 (L01) Canadian Society and Culture

Department of Sociology  
University of Manitoba  
Fall 2003  
3 credit hours

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Lori Wilkinson

Office: 331 Isbister Building

Phone: 474-8491

Email: [Lori\\_Wilkinson@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Lori_Wilkinson@umanitoba.ca)

Website: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/sociology/lori/index.htm>

Office hours: Tuesdays 2-3:30, Wednesdays 12-1, or by appointment

Class meeting: 8:30-10:00am Tuesdays and Thursdays

Class location: Room 403 Tier Building

Teaching Assistant: TBA

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## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

James Curtis, Edward Grabb and Neil Guppy, eds. (1999) *Social Inequality in Canada: Patterns, Problems and Policies*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Scarborough, ON: Prentice Hall.

Workman, Thom (2003) *Social Torment: Globalization in Atlantic Canada*. Halifax: Fernwood Press.

Several other textbooks will be available on reserve in the Dafoe library. These are not required readings but intended to supplement course materials and may be useful references for preparing your term papers.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is organized around one major theme, globalization. A comprehensive understanding of Canadian society is not possible without understanding our position in the international context. In many ways, Canada is like the United States in terms of its capitalist economy and democratic political structure. Yet in other ways, it is not. For example, our social welfare system is more developed than the United States, but much less extensive than in many European countries. For this reason, the topics in class will be discussed in an international context in order to better understand Canada's position in this globalized era. Scheduled topics include: employment, education, issues of self-determination for Aboriginal peoples, healthcare, racism, French and English relations, crime, terrorism, poverty, and homelessness. Each of these topics will focus on a global perspective. We will also take a critical stance on globalization, asking throughout the course if globalization is a new phenomenon and is it inevitable?

The course is organized around lectures, assigned readings, discussions, and films, all of which may appear in some form on the mid-term and final exams. Class discussion is encouraged and expected.

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## GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Mid-term Examination (Tuesday, October 7).** The mid-term exam is 50 minutes and consists of four essay questions (of which you will provide answers for 2) based on lectures, films, and readings.

**Term Paper outline (Tuesday, October 21).** An outline of your term paper should include the thesis statement or research question. Additional details to follow.

**Term paper (Thursday, November 20).** A term paper of 8-10 double spaced pages, including bibliography (12 pt font) will be graded on grammar, spelling and punctuation, structure, content, and style of writing. More information on the term paper will follow.

**Film reviews (due date varies by film):** Films will be shown several times during the semester. You are expected to submit two reviews throughout the semester. The instructor will distribute, on the day of the film, a handout containing questions, one of which you must answer in one to two pages by the due date on the handout (usually the next class). There are no “make up films” for this assignment as students are free to select the films they submit for review. Students may submit up to three film reviews. The instructor will take the top two grades for your final mark for this part of the course.

A **Term Examination (December 2)** of 50 minutes in length will be held during the last day of class. All questions are based on readings, lectures, guest lectures and films. The examination will consist of several multiple-choice questions and one essay question. Study questions for the essay section will be provided prior to the examination.

### Grade Weights

Term paper outline: 10%  
Essay: 30%  
Film reviews (2 at 5% each): 10%  
Mid-term examination: 30%  
Final examination: 20%

*Please note that all five components of the class must be completed before a final grade is assigned.*

<i>Grade Distribution:</i>	A+	91-100%	4.5	Exceptional
	A	80-90%	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

- Late term papers and term paper outlines will be penalized 5% per day late (including weekends) to a maximum penalty of 35%. In the event of a medical emergency or other serious problem, extensions to the term paper may be granted but only if I am contacted prior to the deadline.
- Papers, assignments and/or examinations more than ONE WEEK LATE will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- Any student who submits an assignment or term paper that the professor suspects is plagiarized must submit to an oral examination based on the material in the assignment/paper. Should the professor find that the paper is plagiarized as a result of this examination, the student will face immediate disciplinary action. (Please see Academic Integrity, this page.)
- The mid-term must be made up within one week of the examination, on or before October 14, without exception. Students failing to complete the examination at this time risk failing the course. Responsibility for initiating a make-up test lies with the student.
- The term examination must be made up by December 5. Students failing to complete the examination at this time risk failing the course. Responsibility for initiating a make-up test lies with the student.
- Note: make-up tests will vary from the tests assigned to the class. *No study questions are provided for make-up tests*
- The University of Manitoba acknowledges the right of students to observe recognized Holy Days of their faith that fall within the academic year. The instructor should be notified in writing of a student's intended absence at least three weeks in advance.
- Students with special needs (who require aids, other supports or require extra time to write a test) should introduce themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable testing arrangements.
- Students are not permitted to re-schedule presentations and assignments regardless of the scheduling of examinations and assignments in other courses.

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## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "plagiarism and cheating" and "examination impersonation" found in the *University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar*.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying and/or paraphrasing papers from the Internet
- Plagiarizing from books, journal articles and research reports
- Copying and/or paraphrasing other students' papers
- Having someone else write all or parts of your paper
- Working with other students in completing assignments
- Paraphrasing an author's ideas without proper referencing

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in this course. The instructor uses a variety of methods to check for academic dishonesty, including accessing Internet software geared to uncover plagiarism. ***The penalties are severe and range from failing the course to expulsion from the university.*** Guidelines for properly referencing your papers and assignments will be distributed in class. We will

be discussing plagiarism in class as necessary. If you would like further clarification regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty, please arrange an appointment to see me.

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**WEBSITE** <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/sociology/lori/index.htm>

Students may find the contents of the website useful. It contains information on Internet sites related to the study of Canadian society, the course syllabus, study questions and term paper guidelines, and allows you to communicate with the instructor via e-mail.

The university provides free access to computers in various labs across campus (consult Undergraduate Calendar for locations). Every student receives a free e-mail account and access to the Internet. Students will not be penalized by not visiting or using the website. However, students may find the website faster in accessing course assignments and study questions.

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## **COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS**

September 9-11	<i>Introduction to the Study of Social Problems</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy: General Introduction
September 16-23	<i>Poverty and Homelessness</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy Chapters 5-7
September 25-Oct. 2	<i>Social Class, Ownership and Corporate Control</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy Chapters 1, 2, and 4
<b>October 7</b>	<b>Mid-term Examination</b>
October 9-14	<i>Education and Schooling</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy Chapters 12, 13, and 14
<b>October 13</b>	<b>Civic holiday, no classes</b>
October 16-21	<i>Occupation</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy Chapters 9, and 11 Workman Chapter 1
<b>October 21</b>	<b>Term paper outline due</b>
October 23-28	<i>Crime and Victimization</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy Chapter 26 Workman Chapter 2
Oct. 30 to Nov. 4	<i>Race and Discrimination</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy Chapter 29, 18, 19
November 6-13	<i>First Nations Peoples</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy Chapter 20 Workman Chapter 3

<b>November 11</b>	<b>Civic holiday, no classes</b>
November 12	Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline.
November 18-20	<i>French/English Relations in Canada</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy, Chapter 24 Workman Chapter 4
<b>November 20</b>	<b>Term paper due</b>
November 25-27	<i>Healthcare</i> Curtis, Grabb and Guppy Chapter 25 Workman Chapter 5
<b>December 2</b>	<b>Term Examination</b>

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## OBJECTIVES

This class is intended to introduce students to the basic principles behind globalization and to apply it and sociological theory to the study of various institutions in Canada. By the end of the class, students should be:

- Knowledgeable in several sociological standpoints on globalization and Canadian society
- Knowledgeable in some of the laws and government policies of various institutions such as education, criminal justice, and employment
- Acquainted with the sociological literature on globalization
- Understand the contradictions between policy and practice within many institutions in Canadian society

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## WHAT CAN THIS CLASS DO FOR YOU?

In addition to the knowledge gained in learning about Canadian society and its institutions, this class has applications outside the course which include the ability to:

- Critically evaluate journal articles, books and media reports
- Prepare professional research reports
- Work in collaborative groups