

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
Introduction to Sociology
(6 credit hours)
077.120 L01

2004-2005

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Course Description:

Sociology is the study of social relationships and social life. It provides a context for examining our world and how we (as individuals and as groups) live within it. This course is designed to give a theoretical overview of some of the major issues addressed by/through sociology, while leaving room for you to *develop, articulate, and substantiate your own perspective*. The course is loosely structured around the theme of ***form vs. substance***. The benefit of using a theme is that it enables the class to share a common language and structure from which to abstract. Although this course requires the student to follow particular arguments closely, the topics remain diverse enough to allow *you* to integrate *your* own interests with the material being presented.

Course Objectives:

- Increase awareness regarding society's organization, its basic elements and how it functions.
- Understand the importance of social influence on the individual.
- Understand the importance of individual agency in light of social influence.
- Bridge the gap between course study and everyday life.
- Develop critical thinking in regards to the "nature" of society and the individual's position within it.
- Look at issues of social diversity, noting both its significance and contradictions.

Required Texts:

- ❖ Plato. Great Dialogues of Plato, trans. W.H.D. Rouse, Signet Classic.
- ❖ Marx, Karl. The Marx-Engels Reader, W.W. Norton & Company.
- ❖ Lewis, C.S. The Screwtape Letters,
- ❖ Nietzsche, Fredrich. On the Geneology of Morality, ed. Keith Ansell-Pearson, Cambridge University Press.
- ❖ Spiegleman, Art. The Complete Maus, Pantheon Publications.

Recommended Texts

- *A Good Dictionary
- *A Writers Handbook

Assignments

There will be five essays required of students over the course of the year. All essays must be typed and double-spaced. All essays are due, and must be submitted, at the beginning of class. Late papers will not be accepted if I have not been contacted *prior* to the assignment being late.

Class Schedule

Mondays and Wednesdays

Class time on these days will be used to concentrate on the *required reading* as outlined below.

Fridays

Friday Classes will be used to introduce students to a wide range of sociological topics, in manageable and accessible doses. This time is set aside primarily for lectures and “guest speakers.” The topics for these classes will remain flexible so as to accommodate scheduling issues, as well as to reflect class interest through out the course. Although there is no required readings for Friday classes, you will be required to write a one page (double-spaced, typed) response (valued at two percent each) to a question that will be posed at the end of some classes. These “response papers” (10 in total) will be kept as a journal and handed in the Monday following its being assigned. This journal will account for a total value of 20% of your final grade. Journal assignments will be given a letter grade. Class attendance is mandatory in order to adequately answer the question posed and thus to receive a mark for the assignment. If you *must* miss a Friday class, please notify me before class.

Required Readings Schedule

September 10th - first class – introductions and syllabus review

September 13th to October 18th - classes will consist of a close textual reading of Books 1-4 of Plato’s, “The Republic.”

October 11th - Thanksgiving (no class)

October 20th – Plato paper is due.

October 20th to November 22rd - classes will consist of a close textual reading of Marx’s Philosophical Manuscripts from the Marx-Engels Reader.

November 24th – Marx paper is due.

November 24th to January 19th – classes will consist of a close textual reading of C.S. Lewis, ‘The Screwtape Letters.’

December 9th to January 5th – Winter Break (no classes)

January 21th – The Screwtape Letters paper is due.

January 24th to March 2 – classes will consist of a close textual reading of the second essay of Nietzsche’s Genealogy of Morality.

February 14th to 18th – Spring Break (no classes)

March 4th – Nietzsche paper is due.

March 7th to April 6th – classes will consist of an introduction to, and discussion of, Art Spiegelman’s, The Complete Maus.

March 18th – LAST DAY FOR VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

April 8th – Maus paper is due (final paper)

April 11th – Last Class - overview and debriefing, final grades will be given out at the end of class

Method of Evaluation

Essay #1 (Plato, due on Oct. 06).....	10%
Essay #2 (<u>Marx</u> , due on Nov. 10).....	15%
Essay #3 (Screwtape Letters, due on Jan. 21).....	15%
Essay #4 (Nietzsche, due on March 4).....	20%
MARCH 18: LAST DAY FOR VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL	
Essay #5 (<u>The Complete Maus</u> , due on April 8).....	20%
Response Journal.....	20%
 Total Course Work	 100%

There will be no final exam.

How will my essays be graded?

A+ to A Shows extensive development and knowledge of subject as well as excellent organization.
GPA = 4.5- 4.0

B+ to B Shows solid understanding of subject and is well-organized. Some minor problems or inconsistencies of argumentation may be present.
GPA = 3.5 – 3.0

C+ Shows basic understanding and adequate development of subject. There are some errors or inconsistencies in organization, and/or argumentation.
GPA=2.5

C May lack adequate understanding or development of certain aspects of the subject. There are errors and organization and argumentation.
GPA = 2.0

D Lacks development, and/or shows major errors of expression and/or substantial problems with structure and argumentation.
GPA =1.0

F Assignment incomplete, undeveloped, off topic, handed in too late to be considered, and/or fundamental errors/ problems. Papers not handed-in receive an automatic F. GPA= <1.0

Academic Integrity

“Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on ‘Examinations: Personations’ (p.25) and ‘Plagiarism and Cheating’ (p.26) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.”

University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307

There will be a post-examination review of final grades in all multi-sectioned courses, ensuring 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 this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.