

# Sociology 077.232 (L01) Canadian Society and Culture

Department of Sociology  
University of Manitoba  
Winter 2005  
3 credit hours

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Lori Wilkinson  
Office: 331 Isbister Building  
Phone: 474-8491  
Email: Lori\_Wilkinson@umanitoba.ca  
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: Mike Chotka, 326 Isbister Building  
Email: umchotka@cc.umanitoba.ca

---

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Fleras, Augie (2005) *Social Problems in Canada: Conditions, Constructions and Challenges*. Toronto: Pearson Hall.

Drache, Daniel (2004) *Borders Matter: Homeland Security and the Search for North America*. Halifax: Fernwood.

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.

---

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is organized around social problems and various aspects of inequality in Canada. A comprehensive understanding of Canadian society, however, is not possible without understanding our position in the international context, and the obvious comparison is with the US. In many ways, Canada is similar to the United States in terms of its capitalist economy and democratic political structure. Yet in other ways, it is dissimilar. For example, our social welfare system is more inclusive than the US, but much less extensive than many European countries. For this reason, the topics in class will be discussed using an international comparison 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, immigration, gun control, terrorism, intimate partner and family violence, poverty, and homelessness. Each of these topics will focus on a global perspective. The secondary theme of this class is border control. Border control is an issue that at

times is taken for granted and at other times has been problematic. We examine this issue in detail through reading and discussing the Drache book.

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.

---

## GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

***Mid-term Examination (Thursday February 10).*** 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. Students should note that the professor will not reschedule this examination for any reason other than medical.

***Term Paper outline (Thursday February 24).*** An outline of your term paper should include the thesis statement or research question. Additional details to follow.

***Term paper (Tuesday March 29).*** 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 (Tuesday April 12)*** 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. Students having two or more term exams on this day are advised that the professor will not re-schedule this exam.

### 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 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 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, next page)
- The mid-term must be made up within one week of the examination (i.e., on or before February 22, 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 within three days of the last day of the class (i.e., on or before, April 15, 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.
- Note: make-up tests will vary from the tests assigned to the class. *No study questions are provided for make-up tests*
- Students are not permitted to re-schedule midterms, assignments, term papers, and term exams regardless of the scheduling of examinations and assignments in other courses.
- 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 ensure suitable testing arrangements.

---

## 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 all or parts of papers from Internet web-pages
- Plagiarizing from books, journal articles and research reports
- Copying all or parts of other students' papers
- Having someone else write your paper

- Submitting a paper you have previously submitted to another professor for another course
- 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 and has access to software geared to uncover plagiarism on the Internet. ***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 integrity, please arrange an appointment to see me.

**Important Notice:** 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.

---

## 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

---

## 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

*\*\*The VW date for this class is March 18, 2005\*\**