

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY 077.120, "INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY", SECTION L11
2005-2006 FULL TERM, 6 CREDIT HOURS

Instructor: Professor Chris Powell
Time: 12:30 to 1:20 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
Location: 201 St. John's College
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COURSE SUMMARY

Sociology is an exciting field: partly a science, partly an art, it addresses nothing less than the whole universe of human experience. Everything that people do, everything that happens to us, is potentially interesting to a sociologist. The course will introduce you to the *sociological imagination* – a way of seeing the world that looks beyond the events of an individual life, to see the patterns of relationships that structure both our everyday lives and the great events of our world.

In the fall term, we will examine the core ideas and theories that define the sociological perspective. We will develop these ideas by examining *the social construction of the self*, or how individual identity is produced through social relationships. Individual identity has many social dimensions; we will examine just a few: class, gender, sexuality, race, and disability. In the winter term, our focus broadens to consider how sociology addresses problems and issues in society. We will investigate social issues in Canada as they are affected by developments in global society, looking particularly at the areas of work and the economy, politics, the environment, media, and social movements.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will help you develop a critical and informed approach to social issues. You will engage with a combination of textbook readings that provide a broad overview of sociological research, and special articles that look at particular topics. About two hours each week will be devoted to lectures, and about one hour to films, class discussion, or group work. Although this will be a large class, you 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. You are encouraged to question the lectures, the texts, the films, and each other. You are also warmly invited to introduce yourself to me, and to drop by during office hours or by special appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Karen Anderson, *Sociology: A Critical Introduction*. Thompson and Nelson Canada, 1996.
- Michelle Webber and Kate Bezanson, eds., *Rethinking Society in the 21st Century: Critical Readings in Sociology*. Canadian Scholars' Press Inc., 2004
- Manfred B. Steger, *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Chris Powell, ed., *Introduction to Sociology, Section L11, Additional Readings*. CANCEOPY Course Pack, 2005.

COURSE EVALUATION**1) In-class short quizzes – 30% of course grade**

There will be four short quizzes, two in each term. Each quiz will be written in class and will be 20 minutes long. Each quiz will consist of a number of matching, fill-in-the-blanks, and/or short answer questions. Questions will address a mix of theoretical and factual information presented in the readings, lectures, films, and other course materials.

2) In-class tests – 60% of course grade

There will be four in-class written tests, two in each term. Each test will be written in class and will be 50 minutes long. (Note: Students who require extra time for written tests due to a language barrier or disability should contact the instructor at the start of the fall term.) In each test, students will be presented with a list of possible questions, and asked to choose a fixed number of questions and answer these in mini-essay format. Questions will cover material presented in lectures, readings, films and class exercises. Tests may be cumulative. For this course there will be no exams held during the examination periods.

3) In-Class Participation Exercises – 10% of course grade

Participation grades will be based on student submissions to *unannounced* in-class exercises. There will be at least four of these exercises each term; each student's grade will be the average of the *best three* assignments she or he has participated in. Assignments will usually be carried out collaboratively in small groups, with the group submitting one finished product and all members of the group receiving the same grade for that product. Students may be asked to hand in questions following a film, or analyze one of the course readings, or apply their sociological knowledge to a special question given by the instructor.

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, a perfect grade is still achievable if one assignment is missed.

GRADE VALUES AND DUE DATES

Each term contains 50% of the total grade for the course. The due dates for these assignments are distributed as follows:

First Term:

Quiz 1	Friday, September 30
Test 1	Friday, October 28
Quiz 2	Monday, November 21
Test 2	Wednesday, December 7
Participation	5% (Best 3 out of 4)

Second Term:

Quiz 3	Friday, January 20
Test 3	Friday, February 10
Quiz 4	Friday, March 10
Test 4	Friday, April 7
Participation	5% (Best 3 out of 4)

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 during office hours by the instructor and the teaching assistant.

Students should familiarize themselves with the University policy on appeal of term work and final grades, found in Section 5 of the General Academic Regulations and Requirements listed in the University of Manitoba's 2005-06 *Undergraduate Calendar*.

LETTER GRADES

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. **University of Manitoba 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 this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	Description
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

MISSED TESTS, TEST DEFERRALS AND TESTING

Test dates are listed in this syllabus. Students must be aware that missing a test is a serious problem and is likely to result in a grade of zero. Only documented reasons will be accepted for missing a test. Deferrals *may* be granted for disability or compassionate reasons, at the full discretion of the instructor. If you will absent on a test day for vacation, you will forfeit that test.

If you miss a test for a health-related or emergency reason, you should (a) provide advance notice, if possible, by phoning or e-mailing the instructor, then (b) directly contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange a makeup test. Note that it is a student's responsibility to take the initiative to make arrangements for makeup tests with the instructors. Ordinarily, arrangements must be made 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 makeup tests will be short-answer essay-format questions.

Written assignments handed in late will be penalized 2% per day, including days on weekends and holidays. Medical documentation will normally be required to waive this penalty. However, if you know before the due date that a paper will be late *for any reason*, you should *contact me immediately*. In some cases, entirely at the instructor's discretion, it may be possible to arrange an extension.

It is the student's responsibility to approach the instructor as early as possible to make arrangements for an extension. Although extensions may be given at the instructor's discretion before the due date, no extension will be given for any assignment after its due date, except for documented medical reasons. No extension will be given under any conditions more than two weeks after the due date.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

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.

SPECIAL NEEDS

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 instructor 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 me.

STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITY

My responsibility as instructor begins with the University's ROASS Policy and extends to creating a safe, cooperative and stimulating learning environment for students. I encourage a participatory and dialogic classroom environment. As instructor, I 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. I comply fully with all University of Manitoba policies regarding teaching. Students have responsibilities also:

(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 facts – as well as on lectures, films and other classroom activities. It is in your 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. I 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 or the instructor. To view a missed film, you will 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 instructor 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. University's policy on 'Examinations: Personations' (p. 26) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (pp. 27) found in the Undergraduate Calendar. Penalties for plagiarism and academic dishonesty 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.

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

Last day for voluntary withdrawal from the course without academic penalty is **March 17th, 2006**. Students will have received grades amounting to at least 60% of their final grade by this date (except for late assignments).

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 e-mail, 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.

The instructor will be available to assist students in learning how to use the course website.

TERM SCHEDULES

A summary of topics is appended below. A complete list of readings and films will be distributed once classes begin. Please note that the schedule is subject to change without notice.

LIST OF READING AND LECTURE TOPICS**TERM 1**

- Week One – *Introduction: The Sociological Imagination*
- Week Two – *Thinking Critically About Society*
- Week Three – *Categories, Knowledge, and the Social Construction of Reality*
- Week Four – *Visions and Revisions: Culture in Context*
- Week Five – *Full Circle: Culture, Evolution, and Ecology*
- Week Six – *Socialization, Isolation, and Human Existence*
- Week Seven – *Who Are You? Socialization and Identity*
- Week Eight – *Identity and Inequality I: Social Class*
- Week Nine – *Identity and Inequality II: Sexuality*
- Week Ten – *Identity and Inequality III: Gender*
- Week Eleven – *Identity and Inequality IV: Race*
- Week Twelve – *Identity and Inequality V: Disability*

TERM 2

- Week One – *Introduction to Research Paradigms*
- Week Two – *Research Methods for Beginners*
- Week Three – *Interpretive and Critical Social Research*
- Week Four – *Enlightenment Theory: The Beginnings of Scientific Sociology*
- Week Five – *Classical Theory: Conflict and Cooperation in Society*
- Week Six – *Contemporary Theory: The Modern and the Post-Modern*
- Week Seven – *Global Society*
- Week Eight – *Global Economics*
- Week Nine – *Global Politics*
- Week Ten – *Global Ecology*
- Week Eleven – *Global Media*
- Week Twelve – *Global Social Movements*