

Sociology 077.232 (L01) Canadian Society and Culture

Department of Sociology
University of Manitoba
Fall 2005
3 credit hours

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Lori Wilkinson
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Office hours: TBA

Class meeting: 8:30-9:20am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Class location: 213 Tier Building

Teaching Assistant: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“To the traditional inevitabilities of life, death and taxes, can be added a third (sic)---social problems” in Russell Dynes, Social Problems: Dissensus and Deviation in an Industrial Society. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1964, 584.

Poverty, racism, drug addiction, terrorism and unemployment are a few of the many social problems facing Canada today. A comprehensive understanding of Canadian society, however, is not possible without understanding our position in the international context. Despite its similarities with the US and several European countries, Canada remains distinctive. 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 to better understand Canada's position at the dawn of the 21st century. Scheduled topics, in addition to those listed at the beginning of this paragraph, include: gun control, gender inequalities, urbanization, environmental degradation and technology problems. Each topic is discussed using the social problems approach in an international context. The secondary theme of this class is border control. Border control, until recently, has been taken for granted. We examine this issue in detail through discussion of 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Tepperman, Lorne and James Curtis (2003) *Social Problems: A Canadian Perspective*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

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

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.

TEXTBOOKS ON RESERVE IN DAFOE

The following textbooks contain chapters on several social problems in Canada and may be useful for researching your term papers. All are on reserve in the Dafoe Library under this course.

Alvi, Shahid, Walter DeKeseredy and Desmond Ellis (2000) *Contemporary Social Problems in North American Society*. Don Mills, ON: Addison-Wesley.

Antony, Wayne and Les Samuelson (1998) *Power and Resistance: Critical Thinking about Canadian Social Issues*. Halifax: Fernwood.

Bolaria, B. Singh (2000) *Social Issues and Contradictions in Canadian Society*. Toronto: Harcourt Brace.

Fleras, Augie (2001) *Social Problems in Canada: Conditions, Constructions and Challenges*. Third Edition. Toronto: Prentice Hall.

GRADING AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In-class Assignment (Friday September 30) Students are expected to complete most of this assignment during class time and will submit the finished assignment on Friday October 7. Students are required to attend this class. No “make-ups” are available for this assignment. Details of the assignment will be distributed and discussed prior to this date.

Mid-term Examination (Friday, October 14). The mid-term exam is 50 minutes and consists of multiple choice questions and essay questions. Study questions for the essay portion are provided one week prior to the examination. Students should note that the professor will not reschedule this examination for any reason other than medical.

Term Paper outline (Friday, October 28). An outline of your term paper should include the thesis statement or research question. Additional details to follow.

Term paper (Friday, November 25). 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. Term papers more than one week late will not be accepted.

A **Term Examination (December 7, 2005)** 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

In-class assignment: 10%
 Term paper outline: 10%
 Essay: 35%
 Mid-term examination: 25%
 Term 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 October 21, 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, December 12, 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 learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, or who require aids or other supports) should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "plagiarism and cheating" and "examinations: personations" 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 or electronic journals
- 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.

COURSE READINGS AND SCHEDULED COURSE ACTIVITIES

Sept. 9	Introduction to Social Problems Tepperman and Curtis Introduction
Sept. 12	Introduction to Social Problems, Continued Appendix, Tepperman and Curtis p. 451-455 Drache Chapter 1
Sept. 14-21	Poverty and Homelessness Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 1 Drache Chapter 2
Sept. 23-28	Drug and Alcohol Addiction Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 2 Drache Chapter 3
Sept. 30	In-class assignment
Oct 3-7	Crime and Gun Control Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 3 Drache Chapter 4
Oct 7	In-class assignment due
October 10	Public Holiday, University Closed

Oct 10-14 Gender Inequalities
Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 5

October 14 Mid-term Examination

Oct 17-21 Racism and Ethnic Relations
Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 4

Oct 24-28 Work and Unemployment
Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 6

October 28 Term paper outline due

Oct31-Nov 4 Urban Problems
Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 9

Nov. 7-11 Environment and Technology
Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 10
Drache Chapter 5

November 11 Public Holiday, University Closed

Nov. 14-18 Border Control
Drache Chapter 6

Nov. 21-25 Violence and Terrorism
Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 11

November 25 Term Paper Due

Nov. 28-Dec 2 Social Problems in the Future
Tepperman and Curtis Chapter 12

December 7 Term Examination

OBJECTIVES

This class is intended to introduce students to the basic theories behind social problems 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 social problems 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 social problems

- 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

The VW date for this class is November 16, 2005