

University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology

## **SOC 1200 A11 Introduction to Sociology**

Slot 7: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12.30-1.20  
201 St. John's College  
Fall/Winter 2006, 6 Credit Hours

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

### **Course Summary**

Sociology is an exciting and challenging subject, which gets to the heart of our everyday lives, and the world in which we live. It is also a subject that has a broad range of interests – there is definitely something for everyone in sociology! This course will provide an introduction to what sociology is; what sorts of social phenomena sociologists typically research; what the aims of sociology are; and what sorts of questions sociologists typically ask. More specifically, in this course we will examine some of the key ideas and theoretical perspectives in the discipline of sociology. We will consider the social construction of the self by looking at the various social dimensions that shape individual identity such as gender, race, and class. In addition, we will look at some of the broader social structures, processes, and issues that sociologists are concerned with, such as work and the economy, the media, power and politics, as well as global stratification, among others. The course will be organized around a combination of lectures, discussions, films, and small group work.

### **Course Objectives**

- To introduce students to sociology as a social science discipline
- To introduce students to the concept of the 'sociological imagination' and facilitate the development of students' own sociological imaginations
- To enable students to critically engage with, and understand social processes, phenomena, and the societies in which they live
- To present the variety of sociological discourse and demonstrate some similarities and differences between different forms of sociological reasoning and analysis
- To familiarize students with a number of generic themes in sociology
- To enable students to relate key ideas and theoretical perspectives to substantive social issues and problems

## **Required Textbook**

Macionis, J. and Gerber, L. (2005) *Sociology*, 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian ed (Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall).

**Note:** Additional required readings will be available on reserve in the Dafoe library. These will be from the following text:

Macionis, J. and Plummer, K. (2005) *Sociology: A Global Introduction*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed (Harlow: Pearson Prentice Hall)

## **Assessment**

### **In-Class Tests (Wednesday, December 6, and Wednesday, April 11)**

- Two tests of 50 minutes each will be held in-class. 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. The tests are non-cumulative. For this class there will be no exams held during the examination periods. *Students should note that the instructor will not reschedule these tests for any reason other than medical.*

### **Short Written Assignments (Due Friday, November 17, and Friday, February 23)**

- Students will be asked to complete two short written assignments of 500-1000 words each. The first assignment will be a library-based piece of work. The second assignment will consist of a proposed outline of the short essay you are required to write for this course. Details for each assignment will be handed out in class.

### **Short Essay (Due Friday, March 16)**

- Students are required to write a short essay of 1500 words. The essay topics for this piece of written work will be chosen by the student from a list of several possible essay questions, which will be distributed in class. Essay writing and expectations will be discussed in class, accompanied by instructive handouts.

### **Participation**

- Participation marks will be based on student submissions to informal, unannounced in-class exercises. There will be at least three of these exercises each term. Each student's mark will be the average of the best two of the exercises he or she has participated in each term. These 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 assignment. 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 question given by the instructor.

**Note:** Students are instructed to *always keep a personal copy of any submitted work* in the case that they are required to submit another copy.

## Grade Weights

### ***Fall Term***

In-class Test 25%  
Short Written Assignment 10%  
Participation 5% (best 2 out of 3)

### ***Winter Term***

In-class Test 20%  
Short Written Assignment 10%  
Participation 5% (best 2 out of 3)  
Short Essay 25%

## Grade Distribution

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>GPA</i>	<i>Description</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

**Note:** 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.

## Missed Tests and Late Submissions

Late papers and written assignments will be penalized 5% per day late (including weekends). Medical documentation will normally be required to waive this penalty. However, if you know before the due date that a paper or written assignment will be late you should contact me immediately. Extensions may be granted under extenuating circumstances, entirely at the instructor's discretion, ONLY if the student contacts the instructor PRIOR to the deadline.

Missing a test is a serious problem and is likely to result in a grade of 0. Only documented reasons will be accepted for missing a test. If you miss the test for health-related or emergency reasons, you should a) provide advance notice, if possible, by phoning or emailing the instructor, then b) directly contact the instructor *as soon as possible* to arrange a makeup test. Note that it is the student's responsibility for initiating a makeup test. 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.

## Missed Films

If you miss a film during a lecture you will need to view it at an alternative time. Making this arrangement is a student responsibility. To view a missed film, you will need a form that is available from 123 Fletcher Argue and which will require the instructor's signature. It is your job to bring the form to the instructor for signing during office hours or by appointment.

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1) and 'Examinations: Personations' (Section 4.2.8) found in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar. *Penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and range from failing the course to expulsion from the University.* Guidelines for properly referencing your papers will be distributed in class.

**Note:** The Faculty of Arts 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 19, 2007.

## **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 three weeks in advance, particularly if such absence(s) coincide with the set in-class test dates.

## **Special Learning Needs**

Students with special learning needs (who, for legitimate reasons, require extra time to write a test, 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 accommodation and assessment arrangements.

## **Student and Instructor Responsibility**

My responsibility as your instructor begins with the University's ROASS Policy and extends to creating a safe, cooperative and stimulating learning environment for students. As your 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.

Student responsibilities include:

- 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 textbook will be directly addressed in class). Tests will draw on assigned readings as well as the lectures.
- 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 provide help during my office hours or by appointment. Students are warmly invited to drop by during office hours or to arrange an appointment to discuss any issues, concerns, or questions related to the course. Students are also responsible to track their own progress in the course, and to take action if you discover you are failing tests or papers.
- Students 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.
- Students are asked to contribute to the creation and maintenance of a collegial learning environment; one in which all can develop as individuals and scholars, and in which the free and respectful exchange of ideas occurs. In order to achieve this, students are especially asked to 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, mobile phone use, and other behaviour deemed inappropriate by the instructor or other students. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class and sit in a seat near the door to minimize disruption.

## **Lecture Topics and Readings: Fall Term**

Sept. 8	Introduction to the sociological imagination
Sept. 11-15	The sociological perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-16)</li></ul>
Sept. 18-22	Thinking sociologically: classical to contemporary sociological theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 1 (pp. 16-25)</li></ul>
Sept. 25-29	As nature intended? The natural and the social <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 5 (pp. 107-110)</li></ul>
Oct. 2-6	How did I become me? The creation of the self and identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 5 (pp. 110-129)</li></ul>
<b>Oct. 9</b>	<b>No class, Thanksgiving</b>
Oct. 11-13	What's the difference between men and women? Gendered identities <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapters 13 and 8 (pp. 183-186, 190-193, 197-201)</li></ul>
Oct. 16-20	Social class and identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 11</li></ul>
Oct. 23-27	Race, ethnicity and identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 14</li></ul>
Oct. 30-Nov. 3	The importance of the everyday: group interaction and the self <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 6 (pp. 131-134, 138-153)</li></ul>
Nov. 6-8	Social groups and organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 7</li></ul>
<b>Nov. 10</b>	<b>No class, Remembrance Day</b>
Nov. 13-17	Culture: the components <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 3 (pp. 54-66)</li></ul> <b>*Short Written Assignment Due Nov. 17*</b>
Nov. 20-24	Culture: diversity and analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 3 (pp. 66-81)</li></ul>
Nov. 27-Dec. 1	Knowing our social worlds: social construction of reality <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 6 (pp. 135-137, 151)</li></ul>
Dec. 4	Review and clarification
<b>Dec. 6</b>	<b>In-class Test</b>

## Lecture Topics and Readings: Winter Term

Jan. 5 – 12	Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 4</li></ul>
Jan. 15-19	Traditional, modern and postmodern society <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 24</li></ul>
Jan. 22-26	Social structure, stratification, and inequality <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 10</li></ul>
Jan. 29-Feb. 2	Global stratification and inequality <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 12</li></ul>
Feb. 5-9	Social institutions: economy, work and consumption <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 16</li><li>• Macionis and Plummer, Chapter 14 (pp. 388-391 on consumption)*</li></ul>
<b>Feb. 12-16</b>	<b>No Classes, Mid-Term Break</b>
Feb. 19-23	Social institutions: education <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 20</li></ul> <b>*Short Written Assignment Due Feb. 23*</b>
Feb. 26-Mar. 2	Social institutions: politics and government <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 17</li></ul>
Mar. 5-9	Social institutions: mass media <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Plummer, Chapter 21*</li></ul>
Mar. 12-16	Social control: deviance and the criminal justice system <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 9</li></ul> <b>*Short Essay Due Mar. 16*</b>
Mar. 19-23	Social change: collective behaviour and social movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 23</li></ul>
Mar. 26-30	Sociological inquiry: research frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 2 (pp. 26-39)</li></ul>
Apr. 2-4	Sociological inquiry: research methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Macionis and Gerber, Chapter 2 (pp. 40-53)</li></ul>
<b>Apr. 6</b>	<b>No Class, Good Friday</b>
April 9	Review and clarification
<b>April 11</b>	<b>In-class Test</b>

\*On reserve in the Dafoe library. Students are advised to copy the reading well in advance of the class.

**Note:** This is a tentative schedule and may be subject to change!