

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**SOC 2360 - A01 -SMALL GROUP INTERACTION**

3 credit hours

**301 Tier      -Slot 4 -T/Th 8:30-9:45 am**

**Dr. D. Albas**

**Winter 2018**

**OFFICE: 325 Isbister**

**PHONE: 474-9389**

**OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 10:00 - 11:00 & by Appt.**

-----

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Albas & Albas: Student Life & Exams: Stresses & Coping Strategies

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course will examine the basic sociological concepts and methods used in analyzing and designing small groups such as the family, children's groups, work groups, and friendship groups.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students are required to complete two term tests and a written assignment.

Test I	March 1, 2018	30%
Written Assignment	March 20, 2018	50% <b>(Due in class. No exceptions)</b>
Test II	April 3, 2018	20%

Students will receive their test grades back within 3 class periods from the date in which it was written.

**Student Responsibility and Academic Integrity**

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting in large classes. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in debarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.

NOTE:

- You must notify me **before** the test if you must be absent.
- Please provide a note from a medical professional or counseling professional to confirm that you were unable to write a test at a particular time.
- Make-up tests must be completed within one week of the original date. Responsibility for initiating a make-up test lies with the student. Make-up tests will be scheduled at **one time only**, to be determined by the teaching assistant.
- Failure to complete any test or the class assignment will result in a mark of zero for that test or assignment.
- Students are not permitted to re-schedule tests regardless of scheduling “overload” with examinations or assignments in other courses.
- Any student who submits an assignment that the professor suspects is plagiarized must submit to an oral exam based on the material in the assignment. 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)

Academic Integrity: Cheating is a serious offense with grave consequences. Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, (“Personation at Examinations” (Section 5.2.9) and “Plagiarism and cheating” (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at:

[http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student\\_resources/student\\_responsibilities\\_integrity.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html).

Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

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.

Unclaimed term work disposal: Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

**TENTATIVE GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

A+	=	95 - 100	C+	=	68 - 69
A	=	85 - 94	C	=	60 - 67
B+	=	80 - 84	D	=	50 - 59
B	=	70 - 79	F	=	0 - 49

**March 16, 2018 is the final date for Voluntary Withdrawal without academic penalty.**

## COURSE OUTLINE

### A. Social Groups: What Are They?

1. Definitions
2. Reality of Groups
  - a. The Assembly Effect (production)
  - b. Problem Solving Effects
3. Classification

#### REQUIRED READINGS:

##### On Reserve:

Debra Comer

“A Model of Social Loafing in Real Work Groups”  
Human Relations. 1995. vol. 48(6):647-667.

Karen Cerulo and Janet M. Ruane

“Coming Together: New Taxonomies for the Analysis of Social Relations.”  
Sociological Inquiry. 1998. vol. 68(3):398-425.

Barrie Thorne

“Borderwork Among Girls and Boys.” In Spencer Cahil (ed.) Inside Social Life: Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology. 1995. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury

Donna Elder

“Friendship and Collaborative Storytelling.” Social Psychology Quarterly. 1988. Vol. 51: 225-235

Albas, D. and C. Albas

“Tertius Dolens: The Student Experience of the University of Manitoba Faculty Association Strike” The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology 2000 Vol. 37 (4): 461-483

##### Required Text:

Albas & Albas: Student Life & Exams: Stresses & Coping Strategies  
Chapter 8 Phase III - The Exam Act Proper

### B. Theory and Methods

1. The Nature of Scientific Inquiry
2. Conceptual Frameworks

REQUIRED READINGS:

On Reserve:

Dan E. Miller and Robert A. Heinz, Jr.

“The Structure of Social Interaction.” Studies in Symbolic Interaction. 1997. Supplement 3:87-107.

Carl Couch “The Structure of Social Relationships”. In Spencer Cahill (ed.) Inside Social Life: Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology. 1995. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury.

George Homans

“The Human Group: Conceptualizations” The Human Group. 1950. pp. 156-189

Required Text:

Albas & Albas: Student Life & Exams: Stresses & Coping Strategies

Chapter 2 Making Sociological Sense of the Exam

Chapter 3 Uncertainty, Stress, and Coping Mechanisms

**C. Motivational Basis For Group Formation**

1. Anxiety and Affiliation: Social Comparison and Social Support
2. Instrumental Basis for Affiliation

REQUIRED READINGS:

Required Text:

Albas & Albas: Student Life & Exams: Stresses & Coping Strategies

Chapter 7 Phase II - Immediate Pre-Exam pp.82-94

Chapter 9 Phase IV - The Post Exam

**D. Social Control**

1. Types of Conformity
2. Surveillance and Insulation from Observability

## E. Leadership

### REQUIRED READINGS:

#### On Reserve:

Donna Winslow

“Misplaced Loyalties: The Role of Military Culture in the Breakdown of Discipline in Peace Operations”. The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology. 1998. Vol.35(3): 345-367.

George Homans

“Leadership”. In George Homans The Human Group. 1950. Pp. 156-189

## F. Interactional Production of Relationships and Social Worlds

### REQUIRED READINGS:

#### On Reserve:

Peter Berger and M. Kelner

“Marriage and the Social Construction of Reality”. In H. Robboy et.al. Social Interaction. 1979.

Diane Vaughan

“Uncoupling”. In R. Cuzzort Humanity and Modern Sociological Thought.

Candice Clark

“Emotions and the Micropolitics of Relationships”. In Spencer Cahill (ed.) Inside Social Life: Readings in Sociological Psychology and Microsociology. 1995. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury.

Ray Cuzzort

“Violent Groups”. In R. Cuzzort Humanity and Modern Sociological Thought.

Louis Zurcher

“The Friendly Poker Game.” Social Forces. 1970. vol.49: 173-186.

Michael Katovich

“Extending Couch’s Thesis of Romance as a Complex Accomplishment”. Studies in Symbolic Interaction. 1997. Supplement 3:149-164.

Norman Denzin

“Toward a Phenomenology of Domestic, Family Violence”. American Journal of Sociology. 1984. Vol.90 (3):483-513.

G. Groups and Total Institutions

REQUIRED READINGS:

On Reserve:

Erving Goffman  
“Characteristics of Total Institutions”.

Carl Couch  
“Tyrannical Relationships.” In Carl Couch Social Processes and Relationships. 1989. Dix Hills, NY: General Hall.

Carl Couch  
“Macrostructures”. In Carl Couch Social Processes and Relationships. 1989. Dix Hills, NY: General Hall.