

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
SOC 1200
Section A18 (Slot E1, Monday 7-10 p.m.)
2008-2009

Instructor: Professor C. Axelrod
Office: 301-D Isbister Building
Hours: After class and by appointment
Phone: 474-8458
Class location: 235 Isbister Building
Credit hours: 6

REQUIRED READINGS:

Peter Berger, Invitation to Sociology, 1963, Anchor Books.

Plato, Great Dialogues of Plato, 1984, Mentor Books.

Emile Durkheim, Suicide 1966, Free Press.

Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, 1994 Ed. Ansell-Pearson, Cambridge

Other reading material will be handed out in class as needed. The last assignment will deal with this material.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

The course is divided into four segments corresponding to the four books on the list of required readings. The first is an overview of sociology during which students will read Berger's Invitation to Sociology. The second segment consists of lectures and readings on Plato. Most of that period will be spent on Plato's Republic (which is found in Great Dialogues of Plato.) The third segment will deal with the founding and logic of scientific sociology, during which students will read Durkheim's Suicide. The fourth segment consists of lectures connected with the reading of Nietzsche, "On the Genealogy of Morality, "Second Essay: 'Guilt', 'bad conscience' and related matters."

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Essay test to be written in class on October 6th. The test will cover material from Peter Berger's Invitation to Sociology, and will count for 20% of the final grade.
2. Essay test to be written in class on December 1st, covering lectures and readings on Plato. This will count for 20% of the final grade.
3. Essay test to be written in class on February 23rd, covering the Durkheim material. This will count for 20% of the final grade.
4. A take-home essay on Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality, due "March 30th." This will count for 20% of the final grade.

5. Essay test to be written in class on April 6th on the general subject of Sociology dealing with articles distributed and discussed in class during the year. This will be worth 20% of the final grade.

GRADING SCALE

I find the normal grading system too constraining, so I have modified it to a limited extent by introducing the minus grade

(e.g., A-, B-, C-). In the final grade submitted, however, I must conform to the university scheme.

Your answers are being evaluated on a letter grade system, not on a point system, which is converted to a letter grade. The main benchmarks for the grade ranges can be described as follows:

D/F = an answer which is factually weak, faulty analysis, and very poor organization.

C = an answer which is mostly complete in terms of facts but suffers from poor analysis, organization and integration. Knowing the facts is a good start, but only a beginning.

B = answer is factually accurate and mostly complete as well as organized and integrated.

A = answer factually complete, well organized, sophisticated analysis which demonstrates a good degree of comprehension.

No make-up tests or late assignments except for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness as attested by a medical certificate).

NOTE: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Examinations: Personations' (Section 4.2.8) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1) found in the University of Manitoba's Undergraduate Calendar.

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 such equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is March 19, 2008.