

University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology

## **SOC 1200 A05 Introduction to Sociology**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00am – 11.15am

Fall: 206 Human Ecology

Winter: 260 Helen Glass Centre

Fall/Winter 2015-2016, 6 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Sonia Bookman

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Office Hours: Fall: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2.30pm-3.30pm or by appointment

Winter: TBA

### **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 sorts of questions sociologists typically ask, and what the aims of sociology are. The course will first introduce students to the ‘sociological imagination’, challenging students to begin thinking sociologically. The course will proceed to examine some of the key theoretical perspectives, ideas, and themes in the discipline of sociology. We will consider some basic social processes such as the social construction of the self and identity, the significance of social interaction in everyday life, as well as the different kinds of social collectivities in which we participate. We will explore the relationship between culture and society, with a special emphasis on the media. We will investigate issues of social inequality, particularly focusing on gender inequalities, race and ethnic relations, class structures and poverty, as well as global inequalities. In addition, we will look at some of the broader social institutions, processes, and issues that sociologists are concerned with such as the economy and work, urbanization and the city, politics and social movements, as well as globalization and the environment. The course will conclude with a discussion of how sociologists engage in sociological research. 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

Brym, R. (ed.) 2014. *New Society*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: Nelson Education.

Brym, R. (ed.) 2014. *Society in Question*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: Nelson Education.

## Assessment

### Term Tests

- In each term of this course there will be two tests held in-class. The tests will consist of a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions, covering 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.*

### Assignments

- In each term, students will complete one short written/video assignment designed to help develop your sociological imagination, and the quality of your research, writing and communication skills. Instructions will be handed out in class.

### Participation

- Participation marks will be based on student submissions to online, take-home or in class exercises. Students may be asked to complete questions following a film, use online resources provided with the text, analyze one of the course readings, or apply their sociological knowledge to a question given by the instructor. Instructions will be handed out in class.

**Note:** All written work (papers, assignments) must be submitted in hard copy form (on paper)! **Electronic copies will not be accepted.** *Do not submit written assignments by email.* Students are instructed to *always keep a personal copy of any submitted work* in the case that they are required to submit another copy.

## Composition of Final Grade

Requirement	Mark	Due Date
Term 1, Test 1	15%	October 8, 2015
Assignment 1	15%	November 12, 2015
Term 1, Test 2	15%	December 8, 2015
Term 2, Test 1	15%	February 4, 2016
Assignment 2	15%	March 10, 2016
Term 2, Test 2	15%	April 7, 2016
Participation	10%	Variable

## Grade Distribution

Letter Grade	Percentage	GPA	Description
A+	90-100%	4.5	Exceptional
A	80-89%	4.0	Excellent

B+	76-79%	3.5	Very Good
B	70-75%	3.0	Good
C+	66-69%	2.5	Satisfactory
C	60-65%	2.0	Adequate
D	50-59%	1.0	Marginal
F	49% or less	0	Failure

**Note:** In accordance with University and Faculty of Arts policies and the *University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307*, department and programs are required to utilize a final grades review and approval process of multi-sectioned undergraduate courses *before* course grades are rolled into Aurora student. 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. At the discretion of a Department's Council, the Faculty of Arts policy states there may also be a review and approval of proposed final grades of other undergraduate courses.

### **Missed Tests and Late Submissions**

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.

Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day late (including weekends). Medical documentation will normally be required to waive this penalty. However, if you know before the due date that an 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.

### **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**

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://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html> . Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

**Note:** 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.

- *The minimum penalty for plagiarism on a written assignment is F on the paper and may result in and F-DISC (discipline) in the course. This notation appears on the student's transcript. For repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period of up to 1 year.*
- *The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty in a test or final examination is F for the test/examination, and an F-DISC (discipline) in the course plus a suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period of one year. The F grade and disciplinary notation appears on the student's transcript. For repeat violations, the penalty may include suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period of up to 5 years*

### **Voluntary Withdrawal**

Last day for voluntary withdrawal from the course without academic penalty is **March 18, 2016**.

### **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.

### **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 assignments.
- 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.
- *Students should be made aware that group projects are subject to the rules of academic dishonesty and that group members must ensure that a group project adheres to the principles of academic integrity. Students should also be made aware of any specific instructions concerning study group and individual assignments. The limits of collaboration on assignments should be defined as explicitly as possible (ROASS)*

**Lecture topics and readings to be handed out the first day of class**