

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology, 3 Credit Hours

SOC 2200: Sociology through Film (A01)

Instructor: Evan Bowness, MA
Class Location: 160 Dafoe Library
Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Course Website: UMLearn
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Office Hours: By appointment only
Teaching Assistant: abdulkaa@myumanitoba.ca

Note: All inquiries about assignment submission or grades should be directed to the TA

Course Overview and Objectives:

Welcome to *Sociology through Film*. This course has two objectives: To offer an engaging environment for learning to think sociologically, and to change the way you watch television. We'll draw on the first season of four serialized dramas as a means of illustrating key ideas in the discipline. You'll engage with concepts in sociology and leave the course with a solid foundation in applying them to a range of social contexts. Best of all, this all happens while watching TV and eating pizza. This may be the only course you take that *encourages* binge-watching Netflix and talking about popular television in class.

Required:

1. Access to a Netflix account (or legal copies of the first season of: *Mad Men*, *Breaking Bad*, *Orange is the New Black* and *Narcos*).
 2. Scott, John (ed). 2006. *Sociology: Key Concepts*. New York: Routledge.
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Demonstrating Understanding Through Illustration:

This course is an exchange based on learning sociological concepts. You demonstrate that you understand the concepts that we talk about in class, you get grades in return. How do you demonstrate understanding of sociological concepts? Every time, it's the same three-step process called an 'illustration':

- 1) define the concept in question, then
- 2) use an example (or examples) from the television content under consideration to apply the concept, and then ...
- 3) express some insight into the messiness of fitting social reality into conceptual categories (ie. reflect on the application and/or concept).

Evaluation of Illustrations:

Whenever you're asked to demonstrate your understanding (in assignments/tests) of a sociological concept, you're evaluated according to the following rubric:

≥95%	= superlative: <i>precise</i> definition & application + <i>critical & unique</i> insight
≥85%	= exceptional: <i>precise</i> definition & application + <i>critical</i> insight
≥70%	= proficient: <i>acceptable</i> definition & application + insight
≥50%	= competent: <i>acceptable</i> definition & application
≥40%	= close, but not quite: definition <u>or</u> application <i>does not meet expectations</i>
<40%	= not there yet: definition & application <i>do not meet expectations</i>

An accurate definition and application is enough to get a passing grade in this course. But, the goal here is that you will understand these concepts so well that you'll not only be able to define and apply them, but also to reflect on their usefulness to making sense of social reality – and not just its cinematic representation. Note: At the instructor's discretion, standards for group and individual work might differ so as to not let the dynamics of group work negatively affect individual student grades.

Assignments and Deadlines (due before class, day-of):

1. Viewing Journal (10%). 24 short entries each with an illustration
 - First half: **May 26** Second half: **June 16**
2. Critical Reflection Assignments (2 x 15 = 30%). Select 4 journal entries (two per CRA) and expand each one with a more engaged illustration.
 - CRA1: **May 19** CRA2: **June 2**
3. Final Test (20%). In-class, select from a list of illustrations. Date: **June 16**
4. Sociological Imagination Video Assignment (20%). For an assigned character, make a video exploring a selection of illustrations using clips from the show.
 - Team Charter: **May 12** Final Submission: **June 14**
5. In-Class Discussion Activities (5 x 2.5 = 10%, lowest mark dropped). Group illustrations based on in-class viewing.
6. Participation (10%). Contribution to discussions, attendance, peer-evaluation.

Note: Assignment descriptions will be distributed first week of class. Students will receive a mark of Zero for not submitting an assignment or not writing a test.

Final Grades

A+: Exceptional (90-100%)	C+: Satisfactory (65-69%)
A: Excellent (80-89%)	C: Adequate (60-64%)
B: Good (70-74%)	B+: Very Good (75-79%)
F: Failure (Below 50%)	D: Marginal (50-59%)

Submission Guidelines:

All written assignments (except the test) will be submitted through the course website. No e-mail or hardcopy submissions unless arranged in advance.

For all written assignments that require an online submission, be sure to **carefully** follow these instructions—failing to do so will result in a loss of marks:

1. Include the following on a title page (not counted in page/word count limits):
 - The Course Name (e.g., SOC 2200 (A01): Sociology Through Film)
 - The Assignment Name: (e.g. Critical Reflection 1)
 - Your Name **and** Student Number, OR the Names **and** Seven-Digit Student Numbers of all group members if it's a group assignment.
 - The Date and Year (e.g. Oct 25, 2013)
 - My Name (Evan Bowness)
2. Save the file as a **.doc** or **.docx** file on your computer. *Do not use any other file formats.*
3. Use the following filename format for individual assignment submissions: "Firstname_Lastname_Assignment Title." Use the following filename format for group submissions: "Group Number_Assignment Title" for group submissions.
4. Sign into UMLearn (only submit assignments). For group submissions, select one group member to submit the assignment on behalf of the group.
5. Click on the "Assessments" Tab. Click "Dropbox." Find the appropriate folder (e.g., In-Class Discussion Activity #1).
6. Click on "Add File." In the popup window that opens, make sure that "My Computer" is selected on the left hand side. Click "Upload." Locate and select your file. Click "Open." Click "Add." Click "Submit."

You will receive an e-mail confirming that your Dropbox submission was received. If you do not, try again; if there is still an issue, *then try again*. If that doesn't work, then you can contact the course TA who will help address the issue.

Note: Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day late (including weekends).

Formatting:

Double-space, 12-point font, number pages. Use APA style except in-text citations for:

- TV shows, use (show's initial, episode #). e.g., (MM, ep. 1).
- Lectures, use (SOC 2200, date). e.g., (SOC 2200, May 3 2016).

Other Considerations:

Conduct: Come to class *prepared to participate* in class discussions. Be respectful – disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify me at the onset of class if you need to leave early or if you have to come late to the next class.

E-mails: The best way to reach me is through an e-mail containing the following:

1. *A salutation* (e.g., “Hi Evan,”)
2. *Mention of course that your e-mail is about* (e.g., “I’m in your SOC 2200 class.”)
3. *A clear purpose for your e-mail* (e.g., “I would like to ask for an extension...”)
4. *Your signature* (e.g., “Thank you, Tina Weymouth, Student Number 1234567”)

E-mails must also be sent from your institutional UM account and include SOC 2200 in the subject line. If any of these elements is missing, you can expect this in response:

*“Please fix this e-mail, then resend.
I will get back to you as soon as I have a complete e-mail inquiry to work with.”*

If your e-mail is written using text shorthand, bad grammar and/or spelling, or was otherwise overly informal, you’ll get a reply like this one:

“Lol. Pls fix dis!?!?!?! Thaksssss. G2G! :P”

Keep an Open Mind: Sociology can be frustrating. Often it requires us to face the root of misconceptions that we (often unconsciously) hold about the social world. Be open to taking on a diversity of perspectives and challenge your own thinking.

Late Assignments: Assignments submitted after the deadline (without my prior arrangements) will be penalized 10% per day, including weekends and holidays.

Extensions: I am open to granting extensions for assignments where they are warranted. Note that documentation (such as a doctor’s notes) will usually be required. Except under exceptional circumstances, I will not entertain requests for extensions after the fact – you have to make your request *in advance of the deadline in question*.

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.

Make-up Tests: A Make-up Test can be arranged if, *and only if:* notification that the test will be missed is issued *prior* to the test AND a doctor’s note (or equivalent documentation) is provided. This will be strictly enforced. If a make-up test is scheduled, no alternate date will be offered; as such, it is the student’s responsibility to show up at the specified date and time, without exception.

VW Deadlines: May 6, 2016 is the last day to withdraw and not be assessed a “VW.” June 7, 2016 is the last date for Voluntary Withdrawal without academic penalty (see refund schedule, published on the Registrar’s Office website, for financial implications)

Special Needs: Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time, aids or other supports) should discreetly identify themselves to me at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation.

Religious Holidays: The University recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. At my discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. Again, please notify me via e-mail if you need to miss a class.

Academic Dishonesty: Don’t do it. 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 (found here: umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html). Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them. In particular, **everyone should read this document on avoiding plagiarism:** umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/dafoe/media/plagiarism.pdf. Anyone found to have committed academic dishonesty will be punished.

Support Services:

The Academic Learning Centre is located in 201 Tier Building. The centre provides a number of services to help students fine tune their test-taking, note-taking, essay-writing, and listening skills. You can access the Centre’s website here: <http://umanitoba.ca/virtualllearningcommons/>

Please direct your attention to two services in particular:

The Writing Tutor Program: A great way to improve your writing skills. You can connect with a tutor in a number of ways: book an in-person session, show up for a drop in during peak times, or book an online session.

Workshops: Both facilitated group workshops, and brief on-line tutorials. Topics range from test preparation to time management.

You’re encouraged to take advantage of these services if available - they can make you a better student.

Schedule (subject to change)

Date	In-Class Viewing	Reading	Deadlines	Home Viewing
03-May	MM1	Action and Agency (3-7) Class (29-32) Gender (72-5) Social Structure (157-160)		
04-May				MM2
05-May	BB1	Deviance (53-6) Kinship, Family and Marriage (93-6) Rational Action (134-8) Self and Identity (146-9) Subculture (178-181)		
06-May				BB2
07-May				BB3
08-May				MM3
09-May				MM4
10-May	N1	Globalization (76-9) Organization (119-121) Power (127-131) The State (173-5) Time and Space (182-4)		
11-May				N2
12-May	ONB1	Anomie (10-13) Citizenship (25-6) Institution (90-3) Surveillance (181-2)	Charter	
13-May				ONB2
14-May				ONB3
15-May				N3
16-May				BB4
17-May	MM5	Modernisation and development (107-110) Role (144-5) Status (175-8) Rationalization (138-9)		
18-May				ONB4
19-May	BB5	Culture (46-51) Definition of the situation (50-3) Discourse (56-9) Emotion (66-9)	CRA 1	
20-May				N4
21-May				ONB6
22-May				N5
23-May				MM6

24-May	MM7	Domestic labour (63-4) Masculinity (97-9) Patriarchy (121-3) Socialization (164-7)		
25-May				ONB7
26-May	ONB8	Community (35-8) Race and racialization (131-4) Sex and sexuality (149-152) Solidarity (170-2) Underclass (187-9)	Journal 1	
27-May				BB5
28-May				ONB9
29-May				N6
30-May				ONB10
31-May	N7	Change and development (20-3) Society (167-170) Social movements (155-7)		
01-June				BB6
02-June	BB7	Conversation (41-5) Cultural capital (45-6) Habitus (79-82) McDonaldization (96-7) Mobility (104-7)	CRA 2	
03-June				MM8
04-June				ONB11
05-June				N8
06-June				N9
07-June	N10	Elite (64-6) Nation (117-9) Poverty and inequality (123-7) World Systems (193-196)		
08-June				ONB12
09-June	ONB 13	Civil Society (26-9) Narratives and accounts (113-6) Religion (140-3) Social capital (152-5)		
10-June				MM9
11-June				MM10
12-June				MM11
13-June				MM12
14-June	MM13	Alienation (7-10) Bureaucracy (14-5) Capitalism (16-20) Consumption (38-41) Ideology and Hegemony (85-88)	Video	
16-June			Journal 2 & Test	