

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology, 3 Credit Hours

## **SOC 2200: Sociology through Film (A01)**

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Instructor: Evan Bowness, MA  
Class Location: 160 Dafoe Library  
Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM  
Course Website: UMLearn  
Email: [evan.bowness@umanitoba.ca](mailto:evan.bowness@umanitoba.ca)  
Office: 301-B Isbister Building  
Office Hours: by appointment only  
Teaching Assistant: Abdul-Bari Abdul-Karim  
abdulkaa@myumanitoba.ca

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

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### **Course Overview and Objectives:**

Welcome to *Sociology through Film*. This course has two main objectives: To offer an engaging format for learning to think sociologically, and to teach concepts through popular television. We'll draw on the first season of four serialized dramas as a way of illustrating 49 key concepts in the discipline, and you'll leave the course with a solid foundation in applying these concepts to a range of social contexts. Best of all, this all happens in front of the 'big screen' while quietly snacking. This may be the only course you take that *encourages* 'binge-watching' Netflix and talking about popular TV 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 3%).
  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, and you get grades in return. How do you demonstrate understanding of sociological concepts? Every time, it's the same three-step process called a Sociological Illustration (an "illustration"):

1. **Define** the concept, then
2. Use content from the show as (an) **example(s)** of the concept, then
3. **Critique** the concept to the show.

## Evaluation of Illustrations:

A detailed description handout will be made available on the first class that explains how to build an illustration is available. It includes a grading rubric. Illustrations are evaluated out of 10 marks for:

- quality,
- coherence and
- mechanics.

These criteria are defined the description handout.

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

1. Home Viewing Journal (10%). Six illustrations from episodes not watched in class. Note: Cannot use the same episode or concept twice.
  - 3 illustrations **May 11** (feedback May 18)
  - 3 Illustrations **June 1** – including a list of episodes/concepts previously used. (feedback June 6)
2. Exam 1 (30%). Viewing & illustrations, pick concepts from list. **May 25**  
1-hour viewing, 1-hour writing w. one 12 pt. font page notes (feedback June 6)
3. Exam 2 (30%). Viewing & illustrations, pick concepts from list. **June 17 \*9 AM\***  
1-hour viewing, 2-hours writing w. one 12 pt. font page notes (feedback June 26)
4. Group Video Assignment (20%). Make a video exploring a selection of illustrations using clips from the show.
  - Team Charter: **May 16** Final Submission: **June 13** (feedback June 26)
5. Group In-Class Discussion Activities (5 x 2.5 =10%, lowest mark dropped).  
Illustration based on in-class viewing. (feedback by June 6)

Note: Assignments or tests not received get a grade of zero.

Note: At the instructor's discretion, standards for group and individual work may differ so as to not let the dynamics of group work negatively affect individual student grades.

## Final Grades

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

### **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 2017).

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### **Other Considerations:**

**Conduct:** Come to class *prepared to participate* in class discussions. Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to 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 disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of 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"*

**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 must make your request *before the deadline*.

**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 5, 2017 is the last day to withdraw and not be assessed a "VW." June 6, 2017 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 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. Note that these regulations apply to group and individual assignments alike. 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.

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**Schedule (subject to change)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>In-Class Viewing</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>	<b>Home Viewing (recommended)</b>
<b>02-May</b>	MM1	Action and Agency (3-7) Institution (90-3) Social Structure (157-160)		
<b>03-May</b>				MM2
<b>04-May</b>	BB1	Deviance (53-6) Kinship, Family and Marriage (93-6) Self and Identity (146-9) Subculture (178-181)		
<b>05-May</b>				BB2
<b>06-May</b>				BB3
<b>07-May</b>				MM3
<b>08-May</b>				
<b>09-May</b>	3%1	Mobility (104-7) Poverty and inequality (123-7) Elites (64-6) Modernisation and development (107-110) Underclass (187-9)		
<b>10-May</b>				3%7
<b>11-May</b>	ONB1	The State (173-5) Bureaucracy (14-5) Surveillance (181-2) Anomie (10-13)	Journal 1	
<b>12-May</b>				ONB2
<b>13-May</b>				ONB3
<b>14-May</b>				ONB4
<b>15-May</b>				MM4
<b>16-May</b>	MM5	Role (144-5) Status (175-8) Rationalization (138-9) McDonaldization (96-7)	Team Charter	
<b>17-May</b>				BB4
<b>18-May</b>	BB5	Power (127-131) Definition of the situation (50-3) Discourse (56-9) Narratives and accounts (113-6)		
<b>19-May</b>				3%2
<b>20-May</b>				ONB5
<b>21-May</b>				3%3
<b>22-May</b>				MM6
<b>23-May</b>	MM7	Gender (72-5) Domestic labour (63-4) Masculinity (97-9) Patriarchy (121-3)		

		Socialization (164-7)		
<b>24-May</b>				3%4
<b>25-May</b>		All concepts so far. MM 1-7; BB 1-5; ONB 1-5; 3% 1-4	Test 1:	
<b>26-May</b>				3%5
<b>27-May</b>				ONB6
<b>28-May</b>				3%6
<b>29-May</b>				ONB7
<b>30-May</b>	ONB8	Community (35-8) Society (167-170) Solidarity (170-2) Race and racialization (131-4) Sex and sexuality (149-152)		
<b>31-May</b>				3%7
<b>01-June</b>	3%8	Change and development (20-3) Civil Society (26-9) Social movements (155-7) Citizenship (25-6)	Journal 2	
<b>02-June</b>			ONB9	
<b>03-June</b>			ONB10	
<b>04-June</b>			ONB11	
<b>05-June</b>			MM8	
<b>06-June</b>	No Viewing	Video Making Session –		
<b>07-June</b>				BB6
<b>08-June</b>	BB7	Alienation (7-10) Capitalism (16-20) Class (29-32)		
<b>09-June</b>				MM9
<b>10-June</b>				MM10
<b>11-June</b>				MM11
<b>12-June</b>				MM12
<b>13-June</b>	MM13	Consumption (38-41) Ideology and Hegemony (85-88) Globalization (76-9) Time and Space (182-4)	Video	
<b>14-June</b>			ONB12	
<b>15-June</b>	ONB 13	Culture (46-51) Cultural capital (45-6) Social capital (152-5) Habitus (79-82)		
<b>June 17</b>		All concepts so far. First season of all shows.	Test 2 9:00 AM 160 Dafoe	