

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology

SOC 2200: Sociology through Film (A01)

Fall Term/2012 (3 Credit Hours)

Instructor: Evan Bowness, MA

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Class: Wednesdays, 7:00 to 10:00 pm (160 Elizabeth Dafoe Library)

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 5:00 – 6:30pm or by appointment

Course Objectives and Organization:

This course will explore sociological themes through film, focusing on issues relating to social inequality and social justice. It will begin with an introduction to the “sociological imagination”—making the connection between personal troubles and public issues—and the use film as a method for the study of the social world. Students will develop an understanding of the sociological perspective at the same time that they become versed in a number of pressing social issues. The course is organized around key films and documentaries, accompanied by lectures and class discussions.

Required Readings:

Sutherland, Jean-Anne and Kathryn Feltey. 2012. *Cinematic Sociology: Social Life in Film*. Second Edition. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, Inc .

In addition, selected readings will be placed on library reserve.

Assignments and Grading:

Evaluation for this course consists of two Critical Reflection Assignments, a midterm test, an in-depth essay and course participation. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day late (including weekends). In the event of a medical emergency or other serious problem, extensions to the term paper may be granted. If you require an extension, please inform me about your situation as soon as possible. The voluntary withdrawal date for the Fall, 2012 academic term is November 14th, 2012 – you will have received evaluation feedback on one Critical Reflection Assignment and the mid-term exam prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline.

Critical Reflection Assignments (2 X 15%)**30%**

For each Critical Reflection Assignment (CRA), write two short entries (max. 2 pages total, double spaced) that considers an 'idea' from the course that you find interesting/engaging. The main point of the CRAs is to *critically* explore themes from the course and to expand on the analysis presented in the lectures and readings. This is a very flexible assignment – for each entry, you can choose to focus on a social issue, a theory, a concept, an in-class presentation from a guest lecturer, an assigned reading, a film, a character from a film, an author, etc. You will problematize some aspect of the social world by drawing on course material. At least one 'idea' from each CRA has to be situated *reflexively* (as it relates to you), which is an opportunity to exercise your 'sociological imagination.' Both entries for each CRA should make a connection between personal troubles and public issues, between biography and history. More detail about the Critical Reflection Assignments will be distributed in class. Submit a hard copy of the CRA at the beginning of class the day it is due.

First CRA Due: Wednesday October 17th, 2012

Second CRA Due: Wednesday, November 14th, 2012

Mid-Term Exam**25 %**

A one-hour multiple-choice (and possibly short-answer) test, covering material from the first six lectures, assigned readings and films. Questions will focus on sociological and historical course content rather than details regarding film plots and production. Testable material includes textbook and other required readings, handouts, presentations/lectures and group discussions.

Date: First hour of class, October 31st

Term Paper: Intersectionality through Film**30%**

Write an in-depth sociological analysis essay, no longer than 1400 words, that explores social inequality as a result of multiple interacting social forces of marginalization, such as class, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, age, location, and ability. Select two major themes or issues and at least one film (from a list of options that will be provided in class) that serves as an example of intersectionality. A description of the essay structure with a list of possible film choices will be distributed in class. If you wish to use a film not listed, you will have to check with me to confirm your selected a) topics and b) film (s).

Term Paper Due: Monday, December 10th

Participation: Class Discussions (5 x 3%)**15%**

Each class will end with a group discussion where you will form small groups and collectively work to complete an assigned task. Three times during the term, each group will be asked to provide a brief written summary of the group discussion. A group mark will be given for each assignment. Every student in each group must write their names and student numbers on submitted written summaries to receive participation marks. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a group discussion and would like to arrange for alternative means of earning participation grades, please contact me.

Final Grades:

A= 90-100%
A = 80-89.5%
B+ = 75-79.5%
B = 70-74.5%
C+ = 65-69.5%
C = 60-64.5%
D = 50-59.5%
F = Below 50%

Conduct: Come to class *having read the assigned readings* and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Be respectful to classmates and the instructor -- Continual disruption by a student may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify the instructor at the onset of class if you need to leave early or if you have to come late to the next class.

Special 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 identify themselves to the instructor 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. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance and at least three-weeks' notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

NOTE: Students should acquaint themselves with the online University of Manitoba Academic Calendar and Catalog: <http://umanitoba.ca/calendar> and refer to the section on General Academic Regulation: Section 5 - Academic Evaluation: Personation at Examinations (Section 5.2.9) and Section 8 - Academic Integrity - Plagiarism and Cheating (Section 8.1)

Course Content and Schedule*

Week One – September 12: Introduction to the Course

Readings: None

Week Two – September 19: Sociology Through Film

Clips: From *The Simpsons*

Readings: Textbook: “Chapter 1. Introduction”

Course Reserve: “The Promise” (pp. 3-24) from Mills, C. Wright (1959) *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week Three – September 26: Society, Theory and Film

Clips: TBD

Readings: Textbook: “Chapter 2. Sociological Theory”
(2.1, 2.2 and Outtake 2)

Week 4 – October 3: Social Class and Poverty

Film: *Things I Cannot Change* (1966). Duration: 55 mins.

Readings: Textbook: “Chapter 3. Social Class”
(3.1, 3.2 and Outtake 3)

Week Five – October 10: Law and Social Justice

Film: *The Corporation* (2003). 145 mins.

Readings: Textbook: “Chapter 7. Deviance, Crime and Law”
(7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and Outtake 7).

* NOTE: The film selections are subject to change. Canadian copyright legislation could change during the term, which would allow more flexibility in what can be shown in class. If this happens, we will have an in class discussion about what changes to make to the film schedule.

Week Six – October 17: Gender, Sexuality and the Family

- Films: *Chore Wars* (1995). 48 mins.
Killing Us Softly 4: Advertising's Image of Women. (2010). 45 mins.
- Readings: Textbook: "Chapter 5. Gender and Sexuality" (5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and Outtake 5)
Textbook: "Chapter 6 . Public and Private Social Worlds" (6.2 and Outtake 6)
- Assignment: Critical Reflection Assignment #1
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Week Seven – October 24: Social Institutions

- Film(s): TBD
- Readings: Textbook: "Chapter 9. Social Institutions" (9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4 and Outtake 9)
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Week Eight – October 31: Midterm / Overview of 2nd Half of Course

- Film/Readings: None
- Assignment: Midterm Exam
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Week Nine – November 7: Race and Racialization

- Film: *Two Worlds Colliding* (2004). 49 mins.
- Readings: Textbook: "Chapter 4. Race and Ethnicity" (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and Outtake 4) and "Chapter 8. Sociology and the Life Course" (8.1)
Course Reserve: Comack, Elizabeth (2012). "Starlight Tours" (pp. 115-151) from *Racialized Policing: Aboriginal People's Encounters with the Police*. Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing.
- Guest Presenter: Dr. Elizabeth Comack
- Assignment: Deadline to Confirm Term Paper Topics/Films

Week Ten – November 14: Othering and Genocide

- Film: *The Mission* (1986). 125 mins.
- Readings: Textbook: “Chapter 10. Global Connections” (10.1, 10.2 and Outtake 10)
- Course Reserve: Powell, Christopher (2009). “The Wound at the Heart of the World” (pp. 11-17) from *Evoking Genocide: Scholars and Activists Describe the Works that Shaped Their Lives*. Jones, Adam ed. Toronto: The Key Publishing House.
- Guest Presenter: Dr. Chris Powell
- Assignment: Critical Writing Assignment #2
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Week Eleven – November 21: Inequality and the Global Economy

- Film: *The Inside Job* (2010). 120 mins.
- Readings: Textbook: “Chapter 10. Global Connections” (10.1, 10.2 and Outtake 10)
- Course Reserve: Domhoff, G. William (2006). “Class and Power in America” (pp. 1 -19) from *Who Rules America? Power, Politics, & Social Change*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Guest Presenter: Dr. Mark Hudson
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Week Twelve – November 28: Social and Ecological Sustainability

- Film: *In Transition 2.0* (2012). 66 mins.
- Readings: Textbook: “Chapter 11. Social Change” (11.1, 11.2, 11.3 and Outtake 11)
- Selection TBD from <http://transitionculture.org/>
- Guest Presenter: Dr. Rodney Kueneman

Week Thirteen – December 5: The Future of Social Justice

Film: *Prosecutor: Law. No Order* (2010). 94 mins.

Readings: Textbook: “Chapter 11. Social Change”
(11.1, 11.2, 11.3 and Outtake 11)

Course Reserve: Nerlich, Volker (2011). The International Criminal Court 2002 – 2010 – A View from the Inside. *Criminal Law Forum* 22: 199-214.

Guest Presenter: Dr. Russell Smandych

Assignment: Essay Due: December 10th