

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology
Sociology 1200, Section A04
Introduction to Sociology: “Sociology as a Martial Art”
September 2008 - April 2009, 6 credit hours

“Sociology is about challenging commonsense... I often say sociology is a martial art, a means of self-defense. Basically, you use it to defend yourself, without having the right to use it for unfair attacks.” - Pierre Bourdieu, 1930-2002 -

Instructor: Dr. Christopher J. Fries, PhD
Time & Place: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays: 9:30am - 10:20am, 231 Isbister
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Office: 317 Isbister Building
Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays: 10:30am to 11:20am or by appointment
(There are no scheduled office hours on test and film days.)
Telephone: 474-7871 (with voice mail)
Teaching Assistants: _____

(Announced by second week of September and posted to website.)

1. Nature and Scope of the Course

Sociology is a social science which adopts as its focus the systematic, structured, and eclectic study of people in society. This course will introduce students to the discipline of sociology, its basic concepts and perspectives, and the sociological approach to understanding human beings and our behaviour. The course is centered around the concept of “the sociological imagination”, with an emphasis on developing your abilities to critically examine and understand the world in which you live and its relevance for your own life: This is what it means where we say, “Sociology as a Martial Art”.

2. Objectives of the Course

- ✓ Students will develop their sociological imaginations which will help them critically examine and understand the world in which they live and aspects of their own lives.
- ✓ Students will become familiar with sociology as a social science discipline.
- ✓ Students will become familiar with introductory aspects of sociological theory.
- ✓ Students will learn about basic sociological concepts, methods of sociological inquiry, and some of the substantive topics studied by sociologists.

3. Required Texts

- ⇒ Berger, Peter L. (1963). *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective*. New York: Anchor Books. (Available at the University of Manitoba Bookstore.)
- ⇒ Macionis, John J. and Linda M. Gerber. (2007). *Sociology*, 6th Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall. (Available at the University of Manitoba Bookstore.)
- ⇒ Scott, John and Gordon Marshall, (2005). *A Dictionary of Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Available at the University of Manitoba Bookstore.)
- ⇒ Additional readings that may be placed on reserve in the library or posted on the course website.

4. Organization of the Course

The course will consist of informal lectures - consequently, students are encouraged to participate in classes by making points and asking questions. From time to time, there may be guest lecturers, films will be shown, and we may do some group work.

5. My Expectations

☛ **Collegiality:** Together, we can create and maintain a collegial learning environment; one in which we all develop as individuals and scholars and in which the free and respectful exchange of ideas occurs. Please be polite and respectful of your fellow students and myself!

☛ **Participation:** This is **YOUR** course so I expect you to take ownership of it through your contribution. Questions and discussion are as much a part of the class as are the lectures. As critical social theorist, Theodor Adorno said, “what is vaguely put is poorly thought”. Your participation will be evaluated on the quality of your research, communication, writing, and presentation skills.

☛ **Independent Scholarship:** You will be held responsible for all required readings and course materials, such as films and study guides, whether discussed further in class or not. Please do your homework!

☛ **Attendance and Missed Tests / Assignments:** Tests and assignments missed due to unexcused absences will result in a grade of zero, except under documented reasons for missing a test or assignment, i.e., a doctor’s note. Ordinarily, tests must be made-up within one week. Failure to request a make-up test within the expected time frame may result in ineligibility for a make-up test and a mark of zero for the missed test.

☛ **Late Assignments:** Late assignments will not be graded. In exceptional circumstances (illness, etc.) an extension may be granted, provided you receive the instructor’s permission **BEFOREHAND**. If an extension is granted, a new due date will be set. Work missing this date will not be graded.

☛ **Personal Copies:** Students are instructed to always keep a personal copy of any submitted work in the case that they are required to submit another copy.

☛ **Academic Integrity:** I encourage collaborative and cooperative work ethics. Feel free to discuss your thoughts with other members of the class and thereby develop your comprehension and critical analysis. But remember, when it is time to prepare your tests and assignments, do your own work. Please don’t be a cheat!

☛ **Instructor Availability:** I appreciate that sociology may be a relatively new area of study for you and you may feel overwhelmed by the material. Anxiety over one’s performance on, and preparation for, lectures and tests is normal. If you are unclear about the material, my lectures, or my expectations, please ask for clarification during class, or if you prefer, make an appointment to meet with me, individually.

☛ **Teaching Assistants as a Resource:** You should find that the teaching assistants for this course are willing to act as a resource for you: They are available to meet with you to discuss course material.

☛ **Sociological Engagement:** As the central learning objective of this course is the development of your sociological imagination, I expect you to think about and discuss course material with others outside class. That is, you are to be a “sociologist of life”!

☛ **Roadmap:** Read and use this outline as your roadmap for the course: It will be your course reference throughout the term. Many of the organizational questions students ask are answered on it. Further copies are downloadable through WebCT.

☛ **WebCT:** An abundance of course and supplementary material is made available to you through WebCT. For example, here you will find lecture notes containing basic terms and concepts that form the basis of my course overheads and film study guides. Please check the course website regularly for newly posted material.

6. Student Expectations

☛ Students are encouraged to review the University of Manitoba's "Responsibilities of Academic Staff with regard to Students" document, which can be found online at:

http://www.umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/278.htm

I comply fully with all University of Manitoba policies regarding teaching.

☛ As supplement to the above policies, by the second full week of classes I will collect, summarize, and attach as an addendum to this syllabus your expectations of myself; your instructor.

7. University Policies and Resources

☛ **Postexamination Review of Final Grades:** University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307 requires "a postexamination review of final grades in multisectioned 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 this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

☛ **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 in writing 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.

☛ **Missed Films:** If you miss a film, you will need to arrange to view it at an alternate time. Making this arrangement is a student responsibility, and must be undertaken in ways that do not inconvenience Information Services and Technology or the instructor. To view a missed film, you will need a form which is available from 123 Fletcher Argue and which requires the instructor's signature. It is your job to bring the form to the instructor for signing.

☛ **Disruptions:** Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are distracting. 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 and sit near the exit.

☛ **Voluntary Withdrawal:** Last day for voluntary withdrawal from the course without academic penalty is **March 19th, 2009**. Students will have received grades amounting to at least 60% of their final grade by this date (except for late assignments).

☛ **Academic Integrity:** Acts of academic dishonesty or plagiarism are serious offenses and are subject to academic discipline. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examinations' (Section 4.2.8) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar. (For Graduate level courses see (Sections 7.1 and 7.2) in the Graduate Calendar.)

☛ **Required Prerequisite:** Sociology 1200: Introduction to Sociology is a prerequisite for all other sociology courses, which means students must complete Sociology 1200 with a minimum grade of C if they intend to enroll in more advanced sociology courses. If you have not completed Sociology 1200 with a minimum grade of C, you cannot enroll in future sociology courses!

☛ **Student Counselling and Career Centre:** The Student Counselling and Career Centre is staffed by professional counsellors whose primary goal is to facilitate the personal, social, academic, and vocational development of university students. Located at: 474 University Centre. Phone: 474-8592.

☛ **Aboriginal Student Centre:** Providing student support in a manner consistent with the culture and values of Aboriginal Peoples for the purpose of increasing/enhancing the accessibility and retention of Aboriginal students. Located at: 537 University Centre. Phone: 474-8850. Email: asc@umanitoba.ca

☛ **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 identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation. Disability Services is located at: 155 University Centre. Phone: 204 474-6213. TTY: 204 474-9790. Fax: 261-7732. Email: disability_services@umanitoba.ca

☛ **Safewalk:** The Safewalk Program was created by utilizing the theory that there is safety in numbers. It is available on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses. The Student Patrols, under the supervision of the Security Services, walk/escort individuals to any destination within the campus boundaries. The Safewalk service is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, all year round. A Safewalk escort can be initiated by calling 474-9312 or an individual may want to approach the Student Patrol when seeing them on campus to request an escort.

8. Evaluation

→ **Five Tests:** Evaluation is based upon five tests consisting of a possible combination of multiple choice, short answer, true and false, and essay questions. Each test will cover readings, lectures, films, film study guides, and class discussions. The tests are non-cumulative, covering course material since the previous test. **Purpose:** To encourage you keep up with lecture and reading material (so please come to class prepared) and to provide you with ongoing feedback as to your performance in class.

9. Composition of Final Grade

Requirement	Mark	Date Due
Test 1	20%	October 3, 2008
Test 2	20%	November 21, 2008
Test 3	20%	January 23, 2009
Test 4	20%	February 27, 2009
Test 5	20%	April 8, 2009

10. Letter Grade Assignment

The following percentage / letter / GPA / descriptive scale will be used:

95 - 100	A+	Exceptional	(4.5)	66 - 69	C+	Satisfactory	(2.5)
85 - 94	A	Excellent	(4.0)	60 - 65	C	Adequate	(2.0)
80 - 84	B+	Very Good	(3.5)	50 - 59	D	Marginal	(1.0)
70 - 79	B	Good	(3.0)	0 - 49	F	Failure	(0.0)

11. Proposed Course Topics and Readings

NOTE: This proposed outline is subject to change. Changes announced in class will take precedence over the written schedule.

- Additional readings may be assigned for topics. I will provide you with plenty of advanced warning.

I. **Sociology as an Individual Pastime and as a Form of Consciousness**

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Reading:</u>
Sept. 1	What Sociologists Do: or "How I spent my summer?"	Berger, Preface, 1
Sept. 8	The Sociological Imagination	Berger, 2&3, M&G, 1(pp.1-14)
Sept. 15, 22	Sociology as Social Science: Research and Practice	M&G, 2

October 3, 2008, Test 1

II. **The Sociological View of Human Nature and the Human Condition: Basic Sociological Perspectives and Concepts**

Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13,	"What does it mean to be human?"	M&G, "Sociobiology" (pp. 77-78) and 5 (pp. 108-110)
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October 13, 2008, No Class - Thanksgiving

Oct. 20, 27	A Question of "Culture" and "Society"	Berger, 4, M&G, 3(pp. 54-69)
Nov. 3, 10	Socialization and Social Interaction	Berger, 5, M&G, 5&6

November 21, 2008, Test 2

Nov. 17	Classical Sociological Theory	M&G, 4&24(pp. 626-640)
Nov. 24, Dec. 1	Contemporary Sociological Theory	M&G, 1(pp. 14-24), 24(pp. 640- 643), Berger, 6

III. **Applied Sociology: "Using Sociology to Understand Your World"**

Jan. 5, 12	Health, Medicine, and the Body	M&G, 21
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January 23, 2009, Test 3

Jan. 19, 26	Sex, Gender, and Sexuality	M&G, 8, 13
Feb. 2	Ageing and the Elderly	M&G, 15
Feb. 9	Race, Ethnicity, and Multiculturalism	M&G, 14, 3(pp. 70-77)

February 16 - 20, 2009, No Class - Mid-Term Break

