

The University of Manitoba
SOC 1200 Introduction to Sociology
Tues/Thur 10:00-11:15 a.m. Fall/Winter 2015-2016

Department of Sociology
Section A09, CRN 10644
Rm. 408 Tier

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Credit hours: 6
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Office Hours: 12-1 Mondays & Thursdays*

* Hours apply to the weeks during which we have class. Please consider my door open at any time. Given my sizable teaching load (time in the classroom), appointments are also very useful.

Required Materials

Macionis, J., and Gerber, L. (2014). *Sociology* (Eighth Canadian edition). Toronto: Prentice Hall. (Students may feel free to use an earlier edition at their own risk.) The online supplement can be purchased separately and is recommended but not required.

Course Objectives and Description

"May you live in interesting times."

Dubious references to this phrase as an "ancient Chinese curse" have been made for decades, but they may have roots in a Chinese proverb that bemoans the difficulties of living in a period of chaos and change rather than the peace and stability valued by Confucians. These are indeed interesting and changing times for our world. Perhaps some of these changes are for the better, while others are for the worse.

Sociology is the systematic study of human society. This means that sociologists study various aspects of social life, such as groups, institutions, cultures, and relationships. In order to give you a broad familiarity with sociology, various disciplinary fields will be covered, such as the family and deviance. Students will be introduced to the core concepts, theories and methods of the discipline, and shown how these can be used to gain an understanding of the major issues facing societies and individuals today. Class format will include *thematic lectures* based upon key sociological concepts in your readings, occasional *films*, small group *exercises*, and work on a major *assignment*.

Studying sociology helps us to acquire critical thinking skills and a broadened intellectual horizon that are not only useful in any career, but enhance our lives in general. I believe that we can study it in an enjoyable manner that is scientifically grounded yet free of pretension. I had an enormous amount of fun creating our course material, and I hope that you look forward to this year as much as I do.

Evaluation

1) Term Tests (80%): There are five tests based upon your textbook and in-class material (lectures, exercises, films, etc.) Approximately half of each test will be based upon textbook readings and half upon in-class material. Each test is marked on a points system and is worth 20% of your course grade. The lowest mark of the five tests (including absences for any reason) will be dropped, so in effect your course grade will be based on your best four out of five test marks. Please note that the last test (Test #5) must be written; see further details under Absences/Lates policy below. The tests are not cumulative, although you will need to retain and utilize your knowledge of core sociological concepts, theories, and methods throughout the course. They will be comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions. I normally provide practice questions and further details prior to each test.

- Test # 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 - October 8
- Test # 2: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 - November 5
- Test # 3: Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12 - December 8
- Test # 4: Chapters 13, 14, 16, 17 - March 3
- Test # 5: Chapters 18, 19, 21, 22 - April 7

2) Assignment: Applying your Sociological Knowledge (20%): Many students like the opportunity to do something creative. You will get this chance via an approximately 5-7 page written assignment based on a documentary that has been hailed as one of the greatest films of all time. It is due by **midnight on UMLearn on March 24, 2016**. **Assignment marks will be contingent upon in-class participation in discussion groups (if any) and film viewings.** Online sources of these films have no relevance to this assignment; classroom participation is required for credit. Assignments will be given letter grades rather than a points system.

Grade Distribution

90-100%	A+
80-89%	A
76-79%	B+
70-75%	B
66-69%	C+
60-65%	C
50-59%	D
<50%	F

In accordance with University and Faculty of Arts policies and the *University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307*, departments 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 that there may also be a review and approval of proposed final grades of other undergraduate courses.

Absences/Lates Policy

Tests: There will be five (5) tests in this course. Of these tests, the lowest test mark will be dropped, regardless of reason (including tests not written due to absences for any reason.) This method ensures that every student has an equal chance to make up for a "bad day". Therefore, make-up tests will not normally be required. However, the last test must be written. Students who miss the last test on April 7, or miss a second test, for *documented medical or compassionate reasons only* will have the option of answering a series of essay and/or multiple choice questions, to be scheduled near the end of the course in April. I will arrange the dates, times and locations as necessary.

Assignments: Late assignments are accepted, but in fairness to fellow classmates, they are subject to a letter grade penalty per calendar day (i.e. the equivalent of 10% per day). Students who request extensions for documented medical or compassionate reasons must submit to me their current assignment draft to me along with a written request for an extension by the assignment's due date. If you miss class during one of our film viewing and group discussions for documented medical or compassionate reasons, you are eligible to receive marks for that portion provided that you do the following within one week of the missed film: (1) make arrangements with me to view the film on campus, and (2) submit appropriate documentation covering your absence.

Classes: Please make arrangements with a fellow student to acquire notes if you miss class for any reason. Handouts are normally provided just once in class, but hard copies will be available outside of class time at my office and/or our t.a. (if applicable.) The responsibility to catch up on missed material lies solely with each student.

- 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.
- 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 or contact Student Accessibility Services. Please note that being registered with Student Accessibility Services does not provide students with open-ended extensions; students still need to make suitable arrangements with their instructor in terms of specific dates and times that assignments will be submitted and/or tests written.

- 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.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

*** Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, or 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. Please see the attached section on Academic Honesty Guidelines for information on plagiarism and appropriate collaboration. If you use outside sources (e.g. journal articles, books) please cite your source using one of the common academic referencing formats (CSA, APA, etc.)

- Your assignment may involve some group work, in the form of group discussions about the characters in the film. However, it is not a group project per se; your write-up should be original and written by you alone. Please be careful to explicitly refer to which aspects of your write-up originate in group discussions.

*** Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes, including the use of cell phones.** 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 start of class.

*** Electronic recording of any classroom activities (e.g. taking photographs of the board or the use of other recording devices) in the classroom is strictly prohibited.** Such recordings are a violation of an instructor's copyright of classroom materials as well as the privacy of other students.

Companion Website

I will try to make practice test questions (from textbook readings) and skeleton lecture notes available on UMLearn. Final grades will be posted there as well.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2015-2016

Term 1

September 10: Introduction to the Course
September 15/17: The Sociological Perspective (Chapter 1)
September 22/24: Sociological Investigation (Chapter 2)
September 29/Oct. 1: Culture (Chapter 3)
October 6/8: Society (Chapter 4) and **Test #1**
October 13/15: Socialization (Chapter 5) and Sexuality (Chapter 8)
October 20/22: Social Interaction in Everyday Life (Chapter 6)
October 27/29: Groups and Organizations (Chapter 7)
November 3/5: Review/catch up (as needed) and **Test #2**
November 10/12: Deviance (Chapter 9)
November 17/19: Social Stratification (Chapter 10)
November 24/26: Social Class in Canada (Ch. 11)
December 1/3: Global Stratification (Chapter 12)
December 8: **Test #3**

Term 2

January 7: In-class work on Assignment, Part 1
January 12/14: In-class work on Assignment, Part 2
January 19/21: In-class work on Assignment, Part 3
January 26/28: In-class work on Assignment, Part 4
February 2/4: Gender Stratification (Chapter 13)
February 9/11: Race and ethnicity (Chapter 14)
February 16/18: **No class** (MID-TERM BREAK)
February 23/25: The Economy and Work (Chapter 16)
March 1/3: Politics/Government (Ch. 17) and **Test #4**
March 8/10: Family (Chapter 18)
March 15/17: Religion (Chapter 19)
March 22/24: Health and Medicine (Chapter 21); **Assignment DUE**
March 29/31: Population, Urbanization, and Environment (Chapter 22)
April 5/7: **Test #5**

*** Fee refund deadline: **September 23, 2015** ***

*** Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline: **March 18, 2016** ***