

**University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology  
Introduction to Sociology  
SOC 1200, A06  
6 credit hours**

**2014/15 Session  
408 Tier- Fall  
137 Isbister- Winter**

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**TEXTS**

Human Societies: An Introduction to Macrosociology, 11<sup>th</sup> edition. Patrick Nolan and Gerhard Lenski

How Societies Work: Class, Power, and Change in a Canadian Context, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Joanne Naiman

Required Readings for Introduction to Sociology, Section A04/A06 (Photocopy available at the U of M Bookstore)

"Toward a Sociology of Community Syntality: Building Social Solidarity, Self-Reliance, and Local Resilience to Face the Coming Crises," Kueneman, Rodney and Evan Bowness

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the unique nature of the human species as it contrasts with other forms of animal life. We have evolved away from a reliance on instincts to guide our behaviour and have become creatures of culture. As this type of animal, language and ideas become the vehicles for providing society with its form and content. We will study the crucial role of knowledge, how it empowers and limits human potential, and how it ties members to their social groups. We will reflect upon how human beings are both producers and products of society.

We will compare and contrast the very different social structures that have been socially constructed by human beings during the past 200,000 years and we will devote some attention to Canadian society. It will quickly become obvious that I am quite alarmed by the consequences of current social arrangements on this planet both with respect to the low quality of life that is possible for the bulk of humanity as well as with respect to the larger ecosystem which we are undermining at an ever accelerating rate. I am a critical theorist. I am committed to knowing as a

vehicle for social criticism and social reconstruction. The life of this planet is threatened by the human species and major social change will be required if there is to be any chance of reversing this process. We will be examining the basis for social order which is, to a certain extent, based on agreement and cooperation. But to an alarming extent this order is based on power, domination, and the manipulation of human consciousness. We need to look at the evidence that has been gathered by the social sciences in order for you to make a preliminary assessment of the social structure of Canadian society within a global and an ecological context. You will have an opportunity to get acquainted with various initiatives from around the globe which show local communities spearheading efforts for a major social reorientation. We will be exploring some very troubling as well as inspiring forms of social action.

The course will provide you with a good introduction to the potential for understanding that is made possible by a sociological perspective. But I am also anxious for you to think from a multi-disciplinary perspective in order to see the human being holistically. There are no firm boundaries between sociology and the other social sciences and humanity disciplines. Each sheds a little more light on a very complex creature in a very complex world.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There will be no final exam.

Each term, there will be two ways by which I can evaluate your grasp of the course material. All information regarding evaluations (including their type, dates, and weighting) are outlined below in the section on reading assignments and critical dates.

- There will be two in class tests, one each term. They will consist of multiple choice questions, T/F, matching, etc.
- There will also be two **take-home assignments**. Their due dates are published below. You will be given the assignment instructions well in advance of discussion in class so that you can prepare. They will be completed on an electronic fillable form and submitted to the course Dropbox. You will receive instructions on how to do this.

Students who fail to write tests on assigned dates will receive a grade of F for that part of the course grade unless an alternative date has been agreed to by the instructor. Such arrangements should be made in advance whenever possible. Missed tests must be rescheduled within 7 days of the above published dates. I will arrange a time and place for the make up exam and students must write it at that time if they wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. Rescheduled tests will only be permitted for good reasons. If the take home assignment is not handed in on time, and prior arrangements for late submission have not been made, I will not accept it and you will receive a grade of F for that part of the course grade. Students are to complete all evaluation activities for this course. In the event that a test or the assignment is not received, the final grade will be calculated on the basis of the completed work and one letter grade will be deducted from that calculation of the final grade.

**Note:** Students will be responsible for lecture material, assigned readings from the texts, readings posted on the course website, and course pack readings, assigned web pages, and assigned video presentations for both tests and assignments.

The university acknowledges the right of all students to observe recognized Holy Days of their faith which fall within the academic year. The instructor should be notified **in writing** of a student's intended absence in advance, and at least three weeks notice should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

Students with special learning needs (who, for legitimate reasons, require extra time to write a quiz or in-class essay, or who require aids or other supports) should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable testing arrangements.

Students always ask how the percentage grades you receive on the quizzes and assignments are translated into the letter grades assigned at the end of the year. The procedure is straightforward. Each course component is weighted according to what it's worth toward your final grade and these weighted products are added together. Then the following key is applied:

Total Percentage	Letter Grade	
95-100	A+	Exceptional
85-94	A	Excellent
80-84	B+	Very Good
75-79	B	Good
70-74	C+	Satisfactory
60-69	C	Adequate
50-59	D	Marginal
0-49	F	Failure

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

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND 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 submit your assignments, do your own work. The written material of your colleagues is the fruit of their labour and under no circumstances should you avail yourself of it when preparing your own answers. Likewise the printed work of other scholars must be properly recognized. 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 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://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.

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.

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting in 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 debarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.

### **READING ASSIGNMENTS AND CRITICAL DATES**

You will have reading assignments from both the textbooks as well as the course package reader. The assignments below are identified with an **NL** for the chapters from Nolan/Lenski, **N** for chapters from Naiman, and an **R** for the reader selections.

DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT	QUIZZES, IN-CLASS ESSAYS, KEY DATES
Sept 5	welcome and orientation		
Sept 8	sociological imagination	R1, R (Giddens)	
Sept 10	sociological viewpoint	N1, NL 1	
Sept 12	instability-crisis-restore	syntality pages	end of revision period
Sept 15	“End of Suburbia”	video	
Sept 17	“Turning Point”	video	
Sept 19	overview of course topics		
Sept 22	placing humans in nature	N2, NL 2	
Sept 24	culture , mind, language	handouts	
Sept 26	self		
Sept 29	socialization		

Oct 1	social constructionism		
Oct 3	scientific method		
Oct 6 - 10	foraging societies	N3, NL 4,5	
Oct 13			THANKSGIVING no class
Oct 15			Test # 1 (20%)
Oct 17 - 20	the end of foraging	NL 3	
Oct 22	horticultural societies	NL 6	
Oct 24 - 31	agrarian societies	NL 7	
Nov 3	fishing/herding/maritime	NL 8	
Nov 5 - 7	population & ecology	web pages	
Nov 10			first assignment due (10%)
Nov 10 - 14	religion	handout	
Nov 17	state (part 1)		
Nov 19 - 21	industrial revolution	NL 9	
Nov 24 - Dec 1	market/capitalism	NL 10,11 N 4	
Dec 3			Test # 2 (20%)
*****	*****	*****	HOLIDAY BREAK
Jan 5 - 9	social stratification&class	NL 12, N 5,6	
Jan 12	ideology/state (part 2)	N 7,8	
Jan 14	Walmart	video	
Jan 16 -19	globalization	N 9	
Jan 21 - 23	social inequality	N 10	
Jan 26			second assignment due (10%)
Jan 26 - 28	racism	N 11	
Jan 30 - Feb 2	gender	N 12	
Feb 4 - 9	crime and deviance	R 9,16, 26, 27	
Feb 11	family	NL 13	
Feb 13	industrializing hybrids	NL 14	
Feb 16 - 20	*****	*****	<b>STUDY WEEK</b>

Feb 23			Test # 3 (20%)
Feb 25 -27	Prospects	N 13 NL 15	
Mar 2	re-framing our approach		
Mar 4	energy		
Mar 6	“Power of Community”	video	
Mar 9	food		
Mar 9	“And This is my Garden”	trailer	
Mar 11	sustainable impact		
Mar 13	ecocities		
Mar 16	cohousing	video	
Mar 18	community land trusts		
Mar 19			voluntary withdrawal date
Mar 20	Evangeline, P.E.I.	video	
Mar 23	Gaviotas - Marandua	web pages	
Mar 25	Emilio Romagna	web page	
Mar 27	Mondragon - parecon		
Mar 30	transition initiatives	video	
Apr 1	commons trusts		
Apr 3			GOOD FRIDAY no class
Apr 6	Fourth World War	video	
Apr 8	social movements		SEEQ evaluations
Apr 10			test # 4 (20%)