

Sociology 1200 – Introduction to Sociology
Section A06 - University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology and Criminology
September 2018 – April 2019 – 6 Credit Hours

Lecture:	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:30 – 2:20PM Helen Glass Centre Room 260
Instructor:	Melanie Janelle Murchison Ph.D., MA, BA(Hons)
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 12:00 – 1:00pm
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Welcome to Sociology!

The goals of this course are to introduce you to the “sociological imagination” and to show how it helps us to understand recurring features and patterns of social organization and social relations. As an introductory course, we will range widely over major theoretical perspectives, concepts, findings and methods of the discipline of sociology. Overall, the aim of this course is to help you develop an analytic and informed approach to social life. To accomplish this, class time will be spent in a variety of ways. Much of our time together will be spent in lectures; a significant share will be spent working together in pairs and/or small groups; at other times we will watch (then discuss) video and digital materials. Students will also work together in teams outside of class to complete a major assignment. Although this will be a large class, you will get to know other students and will work with them. Together, we will be learning about, as well as practicing how to apply, a sociological imagination. You are warmly invited to visit during office hours or by appointment.

Course Objectives:

- *Communicate Skillfully:* Sociology students write papers/essays and make oral presentations that build arguments and assess evidence in a clear and effective manner.
- *Critical Thinking about Society and Social Processes:* Sociology students can look beyond the surface of issues to discover the "why" and "how" of social order and structures and consider the underlying social mechanisms that may be creating a situation, identify evidence that may adjudicate between alternate explanations for phenomena, and develop proposed policies or action plans in light of theory and data.
- *See Things from a Global Perspective:* Sociology students learn about different cultures, groups, and societies across both time and place. They are aware of the diversity of backgrounds and experiences among residents of Canada and beyond. They understand the ways events and processes in one country are linked to those in other countries.
- *Work effectively in groups:* Students will improve their skills in understanding group dynamics and working well with people from different backgrounds with different strengths and weaknesses.

Required Reading Materials: Ravelli, B. and Michelle W. (2017) *Exploring Sociology: A Canadian Perspective*. 3rd Edition. Pearson: Toronto. ISBN: 9780134479286.
Please note you will need the 3rd edition of this text - earlier editions will be out of date.

Additional readings will be required and will be provided on the course website.

Voluntary Withdrawal Date: The last day for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty is January 18, 2019. You will have received test and participation grade results before this date.

GRADING:

Tests	60%	October 19, 2018, November 30, 2018, February 22, 2019, March 29, 2019
Sociological Symposium:	15%	Due December 7, 2018
Response Paper	15%	
Participation:	10%	

Class Participation - 10%: The quality of the course increases dramatically with good class participation. Good class participation means coming to class on time and prepared, following the discussion, and giving your best efforts to provide a well considered answer when called upon. Asking questions or offering comments can also reflect good class participation, but you need not volunteer often to participate fruitfully in class.

So that I can avoid giving seating assignments, please bring a nameplate with your name on it to **all** classes. During class, the nameplates will assist me in calling on you. More generally, they are useful so that I can adequately assess your class participation. I expect voluntary contributions and will keep track of participants and use this in making a final determination of your class participation grade.

Tests: 60%

There will be 4 equally weighed tests that will be comprised of multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, short answer and long answer questions. There is no final exam in this course. The tests will cover theoretical, conceptual and empirical material addressed in lectures, readings, videos and class exercises. You will be tested on materials contained in the textbook, any assigned readings, lectures and discussions, video and digital materials, and classroom work. Tests will require you to accurately recall facts as well as independently apply concepts. Study tips and sample questions will be provided in class.

Sociological Symposium: 15%

Working in small groups, students will produce a short (5 minute) video, podcast or powerpoint presentation plus supporting documents (source material including bibliography) that apply sociological concepts and findings to a selected issue. These will be shared with the class during the last week of the winter semester so you have the opportunity to learn from one another!

Briefly, students will analyze one of the following:

- Any two Canadian newspaper opinion articles or editorials that take contrasting approaches on a

controversy or issue;

- Any mainstream movie released since 2016;
- Any current commercial or advertisement: options include a television commercial, a bill-board, a magazine or newspaper ad; or equivalent;
- Any mainstream song and/or music video released since 2016.

Your topic must be sent to and approved by the course instructor. Groups may be assigned if necessary.

The sociological symposium is worth 15% of your final grade and while the end result is produced collaboratively, each student in the small group may not earn the same grade as students will submit peer evaluations on each other's collaboration and final work product. **Students who do not fully participate will receive a reduced grade.** The video and supporting documents must be submitted through the course website. More details will be provided in class.

Academic Response Paper - 15% Due December 7, 2018

This 4-5 page paper is designed to familiarize you with writing in a scholarly way. It will require you to respond to a current issue applying the sociological frameworks you have learned to apply the concepts explored throughout this course. You will need to engage with both the textbook and at least 3 other scholarly sources to present an analysis of the issue. **Please use APA citation style, double spaced, in Times New Roman or equivalent, and with 12 point font.** Papers that are unreasonably over or under the page limit will be penalized. **The Title Page and Bibliography DO NOT COUNT toward the page limit.** This assignment will be discussed more fully in class.

Grade Management: Grades will be posted on the course's UM Learn website. Students must consult the course website to learn their marks for tests, exercises, and course participation. Students should be aware that failing to complete an element of term work will result in a grade of zero for that element. Generally speaking, the following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used, however students should note that these are guidelines only and that different percentage cut-offs may be used in the course, depending on final grade distribution. Senate policy on multi-sectioned courses requires "a post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned 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 such equity, and therefore your final grade may be changed.

Letter	Grade Percentage	GPA	Description
A+	90 -100%	4.5	Exceptional
A	80 -89%	4.0	Excellent
B+	75 -79%	3.5	Very Good
B	70 - 74%	3.0	Good
C+	65 - 69%	2.5	Satisfactory
C	60 - 64%	2.0	Adequate
D	50 - 59%	1.0	Marginal
F	49% or less	0	Failure

Tests, Missed Tests, and Make-up Tests: You are expected to meet class requirements, which include class attendance at lectures, discussions and tests, unless you have acceptable reasons. To request accommodation for a missed tests, you need to submit a written request and provide appropriate documentation or justification. Students who have provided appropriate documentation for missing a test will be given an opportunity to write a make-up test. Please note that if you are granted a make-up test, you are responsible for making whatever adjustments are necessary to write at the scheduled date and time. The test format may vary from the original term test, and makeup tests may vary from student to student.

The University of Manitoba acknowledges the right of all students to observe recognized Holy days of their faith. Please send the instructor an email about your intended absence(s) at least one week in advance.

Late Assignment Penalty: Please take note of due dates for all assignments. All papers are due in person at the beginning of class. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. A late penalty of 5% will be assessed to every assignment grade for each partial day or day that your assignment is late. This means that your assignment will be graded and the penalty will be deducted from that initial grade. A student requiring (not simply desiring) an extension **MUST** discuss and have their request approved **PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE**¹.

Sitting in the Back: Simply put, try not to. Experience tells that students who are closer to the action are more engaged. Being more engaged not only helps you learn, but it helps instructors gauge your understanding.

Laptop Use: Please use your laptops for note-taking purposes only. While you may be an excellent multi-tasker, other uses of your computer are distracting and disrespectful to those around you and to the instructor. Instant messaging, video watching and or online shopping are particularly distracting, and are strictly prohibited. Students caught using their laptops for this purpose may be removed from class.

Accommodations: 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.

Disruptions: 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: Email should be composed in formal, professional language, and with attention to the propriety accorded to the position of the writer, and the addressee. I will not respond to emails

¹ Prior to the due date means a minimum of 48 hours before the assignment is due; except in rare circumstances.

that do not meet this standard. Before sending me an email about logistics or information related to the course, reread your syllabus and check emails you've received related to this course. I can guarantee you the answer is there 9 times out of 10. I will not respond to questions whose answers can be found in any of these places. If your question requires a lengthy and complicated response, I really prefer we talk in person. I can usually talk for a few minutes before or after lecture, but the best time would be during office hours or you can make an appointment to meet with me. A good rule of thumb: if your questions cannot be answered in two sentences or less, or if it is a question that you should solve on your own through the course of your reading, then it is not appropriate for email. Lastly, you can expect a 24 hour turn-around to your email. If more than 48 hours have passed since your email, please resend it.

Feedback: Please let me know how I can make our time together better. Really!

Academic dishonesty: 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.htm

1. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

I take violations of the rules of academic misconduct seriously and will pursue disciplinary sanctions. 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

All tests are closed book. Students must remove and stow away everything from the desk, seat, floor, and area around them. Students must turn off and store cell phones and other electronic devices. If anyone sees papers, notes, readings (or any other materials), a cell phone, or any electronic/communicative device within a student's reach or area during the examination, then the instructor will assume *prima facie* that the student is cheating, and will engage the academic misconduct process.

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.

Term Schedule: A schedule of topics, lectures, readings, videos, exercises and possible guest lectures will be handed out the first day of each term. The schedule is subject to change. Changes announced in class will take precedence over any previously-announced dates or deadlines.