

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**SOC 1200 A11**

**231 Isbister**

**M/W/F 2:30 -3:20**

**Sept. 2008-April 2009**

**6 Credit Hours**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Dr. Tannis Peikoff  
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**OFFICE HOURS:**

By appointment

**TA:**

**TA OFFICE:**

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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Kendall, D.; Lothian Murray J.; Linden, R.  
Sociology in our Times:Fourth Canadian Edition.  
Nelson Publishers, 2003.

**REQUIRED READER:**

Macionis, John J.; Nijole V. Benokraitis; Bruce  
Ravelli: Seeing Ourselves Second Canadian  
Edition. Pearson Publishing, 2007.

**OPTIONAL:**

Symbaluk, Diane: Study Guide to accompany  
Sociology in our Times. Fourth Canadian Edition.  
Nelson Thomson Learning.

## OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT:

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the ‘sociological perspective’. Students will develop a critical insight into the central aspects of our society and the ways in which the individual and society are interrelated.

Students will be introduced to the major theoretical perspectives and methods of sociology. Throughout the course, we will explore topics and issues in such areas as culture, socialization, crime, inequality, and social institutions. The general objective of this course is to develop a more critical understanding of our society as well as to introduce students to the various areas of sociology.

## COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be based on the following:

- 1) Five multiple choice tests (80%)
- 2) Two short written assignments (10%)
- 3) Participation (10%)

Tests will be written during regular class times. With the exception of the last test, the lowest test mark will be dropped. Because only four of the tests will be included in your final grade, **NO** provision will be made for missed tests.

Test 1	Oct. 20	20%
Test 2	Nov. 17	20%
Test 3	Jan. 12	20%
Test 4	Feb. 27	20%
Test 5*	April 8	20% <i><b><u>*This test must be written</u></b></i>
2 Written assignments:	by March 9	10%
Participation		10%

\*Note: The above dates are subject to change. In the unlikely event of a date change, students will be informed well ahead in class and also via webct.

Tests are not cumulative. Students are responsible for all assigned readings, lecture material, class discussions and video presentations. The tests will consist of multiple choice questions.

## Written Assignment

The assignment is designed to help students recognize the ways in which sociology can be used to better understand everyday social issues. It involves using a sociological perspective to examine current news articles or issues related to any of the topics that have been covered in class. In other words, over the course of the year, students will choose two news items and discuss them using a sociological perspective. The format of the assignment will be discussed further in class. For this assignment, students may work with one or more other students. This assignment can be handed in at any time during this course. However, the final date for submission is March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Note that only assignments that are submitted in class (and not in my mailbox or under my door or by email) will be accepted.

Late papers will be given a lesser grade of 10% for each day that the paper is late. Papers will not be accepted past one week from the due date.

## Course Participation

Participation grades will be based on exercises performed in class which may be unannounced. The exercises will take the form of flash quizzes, questions on assigned readings, questions on videos shown in class, or short assignments and will be handed in at the end of class that same day. Some of these exercises will be done in pairs or groups. The lowest 2 grades will be dropped. Students who are absent will NOT be able to make up the work. However, since the lowest 2 grades will be dropped, it is possible to miss two exercises without penalty.

## **LETTER GRADES**

The following letter/percentage scale will be used:

A+	= 93-100 %	C+	= 70-75%
A	= 85-92 %	C	= 60-69%
B+	= 80-84 %	D	= 50-59%
B	= 76-79 %	F	= 49% or less

Students should note that these are guidelines only, and that different percentage cut-offs may be used, depending on the final grade distribution. Senate Policy #1307 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.

\*NOTE: The last day for voluntary withdrawal is **March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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”. The faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

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.

### **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 any 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.

### **OTHER**

If you would like to make an appointment with me, you are welcome to do so before or after class. However, you must also confirm the appointment via email.

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

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED READINGS**

- \*NOTE:** 1) Not all of the above topics/readings may be covered.  
2) Additional readings may be assigned in class

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### What is sociology?

Kendal et al: Chapter 1  
Reader: Chapter 1 “The Sociological Imagination”

#### How do we study society?

Kendal et all: Chapter 2  
Reader: Chapter 4: “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema”

### **THE NATURE OF SOCIAL LIFE**

#### Culture

Kendall et al: Chapter 3  
Reader: Chapter 12 “Disaster through Dirty Windsheilds: Law, Order, and Toronto’s Squeegee Kids”

#### Socialization

Kendall et al: Chapter 4  
Reader: Chapter 15 “The Importance of the family as an Agent of Socialization...”

#### Social Structure

Kendall et al: Chapter 5  
Reader: Chapter 17 “The Presentation of Self”

#### Crime and Deviance

Kendall et al: Chapter 7  
Reader: Chapter 37 “The Rebels: A Brotherhood of Outlaw Bikers”

### **SOCIAL DIFFERENCES AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

#### Social Stratification

Kendall et al: Chapter 8  
Reader: Chapter 51: “The Uses of Global Poverty”

Race and Ethnicity

Kendall et al: Chapter 10

Sex and Gender

Kendall et al: Chapter 11

Reader : Chapter 23 “Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies”

Aging

Kendall et al: Chapter 12

Reader: Chapter 44: “Our Aging World”

**SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

The Economy and Work

Kendall et al: Chapter 13

Reader: Chapter 53: “McJobs: McDonaldization and the Workplace”

Power Politics and Government

Kendall et al: Chapter 14

Families and Social Relationships

Kendall et al: Chapter 15

Reader: Chapter 22: “Mate Selection around the World”

Health and Disability

Kendall et al: Chapter 18

Reader: Chapter 45: “The Social Structure of Medicine”