

The University of Manitoba  
**Sociology 1200, “Introduction to Sociology”**  
September 2017 - April 2018  
Section A08 • 6 credit hours

**Instructors**

Fall Term                    Dr. Susan Prentice  
Winter Term                Dr. Christopher J. Fries

**Office & Coordinates**

Dr. Prentice                329 Isbister Building • 204-474-6726 (with voice mail)  
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**Office Hours**             Announced in-class & posted on the UM Learn website – varies weekly.  
**Meeting Times**         Monday – Wednesday – Friday, 2:30 – 3:20, Armes 205  
**Teaching Assistant**     \_\_\_\_\_

**Required Textbook**

• Ravelli, Bruce and Michelle Webber. 2017. *Exploring Sociology: A Canadian Perspective*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Pearson: Toronto. ISBN: 9780134479286.

Please note you will need the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this text - earlier editions will be out of date. Cost at the University of Manitoba Bookstore: Looseleaf (unbound) version retails currently at \$95; bound version at \$139. Whether you opt for the bound or unbound text, you will also need access to MySocLab, the textbook’s website, which is included in the price of both versions.

**Other Required Teaching Supports**

• iClicker: You will need to have an iClicker (new or used, or via your phone or other device). The iClicker is used in assigning participation marks and to support class discussions, and should be brought to every class.

**Required Readings**

You may need to download and/or print supplementary readings or related materials to bring to class. This way, you avoid the estimated charge for a custom reader, although it may create some work for you. Other readings may be distributed in class. These materials will make up an integral part of the course.

**Course Objectives**

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 Grades**

Your grade in this course will be based on your mastery of the content of readings, presentations, exercises and participation assignments as well as your ability to use and apply theory, methods, and content. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Tests - 70% (provisionally planned for October 4, November 8, and December 6 in Fall term; January 29, March 5, and April 6 in Winter term)
- Sociological Exercise – 15% (due March 16, 2018)
- Course participation – 15% (September-April)

### **Tests**

There will be six equally weighted in-class tests, worth a total of 70% of your final grade. There is no final exam. Tests may consist of multiple-choice and/or short-answer questions, and may include short essays. They 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. You are welcome to review your test results during office hours with the instructor or the Teaching Assistant (TA).

More details about the tests will be provided in-class and posted to the website. Note that the provisional test dates may be subject to change.

### **The sociological exercise**

Working in small groups, students will produce a short (4 minute) video plus supporting documents that apply sociological concepts and findings to a selected issue. 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 in 2016 or 2017;
- 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 in 2016 or 2017.

The sociological exercise, worth 15% of your final grade, is a small group assignment and each student in the small group will (usually) earn the same grade: students will evaluate each other's work, and students who do not fully participate will receive a reduced grade. The video and supporting documents must be submitted through the course website. Details about the assignment will be provided in-class. A portion of the exercise must be completed in the fall term. More details will be provided in class.

### **Course participation:**

Course participation is worth 15% of your final grade. Participation grades will be assigned based on your performance on an open-ended number of unannounced in-class exercises and quizzes (paper and/or iClicker) and your performance on an open-ended number of other assignments, including ones that may be online. Each term, the lowest grade you earn on one piece of participation work will be dropped. Students who attend on the day when unscheduled events occur, who have done their readings, who have been attentive during classes, and who are up-to-date with the website are very likely to get full marks for in-class work. A student who is absent, for any reason, cannot make up that day's in-class work. Further details about the participation grade will be discussed in-class.

Some participation work will be completed in pairs, triads or small groups. You will often be asked to work with your neighbour(s) to discuss course material. We would like to maximize the chances of each student meeting a range of different classmates. Accordingly, we will formally ask you to move seats at least twice each term. We realize this is an unusual request, and we will discuss its sociological implications 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.

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>GPA</b>	<b>Description</b>
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.

Students with special learning needs should introduce themselves during the first two weeks of the course, in-person or by sending an email. The instructors will be pleased to make accommodation, including suitable testing arrangements, to assist you. Student Accessibility Services (204-474-7423) is a resource to help students with learning or other special needs. If you are uncertain if you can or should take advantage this opportunity, please feel free to consult the instructors.

### **Unclaimed Term Work Disposal**

As per Faculty of Arts policy, “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 will be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.”

### **Student and Instructor Responsibility**

Our responsibility as instructors begins with the University policy (see the University of Manitoba’s *Undergraduate Calendar*) and extends to creating a safe, cooperative and stimulating learning environment for you and all the other students. We encourage a participatory and dialogic classroom. As instructors, we have selected materials and organized classroom time to meet the objectives of this course. We comply fully with all University of Manitoba policies regarding teaching.

Students have responsibilities, too:

- (1) Students are responsible for their own learning. You are expected to do readings *in advance* of class and to come to class prepared. You will need to independently cover assigned readings (note that much of the content in the textbook will not be addressed in class). You will be tested on all aspects of required and supplementary readings – including theory and empirical data – as well as on lectures & discussions, videos and other classroom activities. Please participate actively in class discussions and in small-group work.
- (2) It is in your personal and collective best interest to attend class. Note that the *Undergraduate Calendar* stipulates that “regular attendance is expected of all students in all courses,” and that “an instructor may initiate procedures to debar a student where unexcused absences exceed those permitted. Students so disbarred will have failed the course. Announcements may be made in class during lectures that may affect student performance, course schedule, or other aspects of the course’s organization: all students will be governed by the new information, irrespective of whether they were in attendance when the new policy/ information was announced.
- (3) If you are unclear about material or have any academic concerns or questions, it is your responsibility to ask for help. The best way to do this is to visit the instructor or the TA during office hours. The instructors will be happy to schedule extra time with you outside of class to help you succeed in this course, but you must make the request. It is also your responsibility to track your success in the course, and to take action if you discover you are not earning the grades you hope for.
- (4) If you miss a video, you may be able to arrange to view it at an alternate time. Making this

arrangement is a student responsibility.

(5) You are responsible for complying with the all course policies. You will find all course policies in this syllabus – please review it regularly. If you misplace this syllabus or a term schedule, you can download a copy from the course website.

(6) We are collectively responsible for creating a civil environment that promotes learning. Disruptions due to excessive talking, use of personal technology, eating, engaging in non-course activity, as well as late arrivals and early departures from the classroom, are especially distracting. Please be considerate of the needs and rights of others in the class. We reserve the right to ask you to sit elsewhere, if we believe this will improve the classroom experience for other students. You should be aware that persistent disruption may result in you being disbarred from the course.

### **Academic Integrity**

The University of Manitoba highly values academic integrity. You must acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam impersonation and other offences. You can find out more at about academic integrity at

[http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/student-discipline.html#academic-integrity](http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/student-discipline.html#academic-integrity). Students should know that ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is never a valid excuse for violating the policy. Please be aware that group projects are also subject to the rules of academic dishonesty and that group members must ensure that a group project adheres to the principles of academic integrity.

Note that using another student's iclicker to 'click in' for him/her is considered academic dishonesty.

### **Voluntary Withdrawal**

Last day for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty is January 16, 2018. You will have received test and participation grade results before this date.

### **Website**

This course has a UM Learn website. The website helps you in a variety of other tasks: for example, communicating with other classmates, contributing to discussion of issues, using web-based learning resources, and downloading syllabi and schedules. Some of your participation mark may come from work you do on the course website. You will need to upload your sociological exercise materials to the website. The only place grades will be posted is to the course website. Brief summaries of lecture materials may sometimes be posted to the website. To review more detailed lecture notes, students are warmly invited to visit the instructor during office hours.

### **Office Hours**

Office hours are a time we set aside to visit with students. You can use the office visit to discuss the course and your academic progress, to ask questions or clarifications, to talk about your career intentions, and to raise any concerns you may have. During TA office hours, you may review and discuss your test results and discuss the course. We enjoy visiting with students – you do not need to have a 'reason' to stop by. Our office hours vary to accommodate our research and administrative commitments: office hours will be posted to the website, to our office doors, and will be announced in-class. We are happy to make special office hours to

accommodate students who cannot attend during scheduled times; to arrange a special appointment, please send an email.

**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.