

The University of Manitoba
Sociology 1200, “Introduction to Sociology”
September 2018 - December 2018
Section A13 • 6 credit hours

Instructor Dr. Susan Prentice

Contact

Office: 329 Isbister Building
Tel: 204-474-6726 (with voice mail) – *rarely used*
Email: Susan_Prentice@umanitoba.ca – *preferred mode of contact.*

Office Hours Announced in-class & on course website – varies weekly.

Meeting Times Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:45, 201 Armes Building

Teaching Assistant (TA) Laura Funk

funkl1@myumanitoba.ca

Office: 3219F Isbister Building

Required Textbook

• Brym, Robert, Lance Roberts, and Lisa Strohschein, 2019. *Sociology: Compass for a New World*. Nelson. Sixth edition

Please note you will need the **sixth** edition of this text - earlier editions will be out of date, since social life is constantly changing. Cost at the University of Manitoba Bookstore: print version \$149.95; digital version is \$99.95.

In addition to acquiring the textbook, you will need to register for, and use, Mindtap, the textbook’s website. The website will help you learn in a variety of ways. To register for Mindtap, you need an online access code. More information about registering will be provided in class.

Other Required Teaching Supports

• iClicker: You will need to register and use iClicker. The iClicker is used in assigning participation marks and to support class discussions, and should be brought to every class.

You can buy a new iClicker remote at the bookstore for \$56.50. The Bookstore has a limited stock of used iClickers for \$42.38, and students often sell their unneeded clickers informally. This system of remotes is called the ‘iClicker classic.’

Students also have the option of using iClicker Reef, an app that integrates with a smart phone. *iClicker Reef, however, may open up students to an unknown number of privacy losses, including GPS tracking and marketing.* If you do opt to use the iClicker app, I strongly encourage you to “opt out” of advertising, by writing an email to privacyisimportant@macmillan.com from your UM student email account, with the subject header “Please Do Not Share My Information with Third Parties.”

To earn iClicker grades, students must register their clicker on or before September 18 at 1pm. Information about registering iClickers will be provided in class.

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 approaches, concepts, findings and some of the methods of the discipline of sociology. You will be required to master abstract as well as concrete material.

Overall, the course is organized 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; sometimes we will watch (then discuss) video and digital materials.

This is a compressed course, covering six credits worth of material in one term. The pace will thus be fast, and students will have to manage time well to succeed in the course. There will be a 15-minute break around the half-way point of each class, but its exact time may vary from day to day.

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.

A quick note for those of you who are brand-new to university: it is a big change from high school! It is normal to feel overwhelmed and confused, and to not know the formal and informal rules of a new institution and a new social role. You might find it helpful to read this recent *Globe and Mail* article, “First-year university is hard and that’s okay,” at <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-first-year-university-is-hard-and-thats-okay/>

Course Grades

Your grade in this course will be based your ability to understand, recall, and apply theory, concepts, facts and methods as demonstrated through tests, participation exercises, and a written assignment. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Tests - 70%
- Sociological Exercise – 15%
- Course participation – 15%

Tests

There will be three equally weighted in-class tests, worth a total of 70% of your final grade. There is no final exam. Tests will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions, and may include short essays. Tests will usually use both time blocks on a single day. Tests 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. Where tests include written work, students are assessed on the quality of the writing as well as the content. 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, including dates, will be provided in-class.

Sociological Exercise

Students will have the option of choosing between one of two assignments. They may work alone or in a pair. In pairs, each student will normally each earn the same grade, assuming

work is shared fairly. Where students opt for pair work, each student will also complete an independent assessment of the work process, evaluating their own contribution as well as that of their partner. All assignments will be assessed on the quality of the writing, as well as of the content.

Option A: Newspaper article analysis

Students will select two 2018 newspaper articles covering a Canadian event or issue, each to be written within one week of each other. At least one must be an 'opinion' piece. The task is to critically analyze the newspaper articles, to identify the theoretical perspective and the quality of data, logic and conclusion. Using a sociological imagination, students will evaluate the approach and data. Length: 1,200 words (plus or minus 10 percent, exclusive of bibliography). The analysis must integrate material from two sociology journal articles, in addition to the course text and lectures.

Option B: Opinion Exercise

Students will analyze a contemporary Canadian social issue of their choosing. Students will write a 1,200 word (plus or minus 10 percent, exclusive of bibliography) article, modeled on a newspaper opinion column directed to a general audience. Students must first oppose one approach, then craft an explicit alternative, drawing on a theoretical perspective and supplying data and evidence to propose some social action to address the issue. The analysis must integrate material from two sociology journal articles, in addition to the course text and lectures.

In late October, students will submit an overview of their selected assignment to UMLearn, indicating whether they have selected Option A or B; the event or issue they will analyze; and whether they working solo or in a pair. Students will submit a draft (minimum 500 words) of their Sociological Exercise to UMLearn on or before a date in early November, and will present their work in class in small groups (they will bring a print copy for each student in their small group.) This version must integrate the two sociological journal articles. A student who misses or fails to complete either the first or second deadline will have their grade for their final submission reduced by 50 percent.

Course participation

Course participation is worth 15 percent 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 (including on-line, paper and/or iClicker) as well as an open-ended number of other assignments, including ones that may be online. Submitted participation work will not be returned to students, but can usually be consulted during TA office hours.

The lowest grade you earn on one piece of participation work will be dropped. Students who have are up to date on readings and who attend class regularly are very likely to get full marks for the work. A student who is absent, for any reason, cannot make up that day's participation work. Where course participation includes written work, students are assessed on the quality of the writing as well as the content. 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). I would like to maximize the chances of each student meeting a range of different classmates. Accordingly, you be formally required to move seats at least twice during the term. This is an unusual request, and its sociological implications will be discussed in class.

Grade Management

Grades will be posted on the course's UMLearn 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. You are responsible for tracking your own grade progress.

Generally speaking, the following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used, however these are guidelines only. This is because University of Manitoba 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 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

Policy on Attendance, Late Submissions, Tests, and Accommodation

You are expected to meet class requirements, which include class attendance at all lectures, participation, and tests, unless you have acceptable reasons. To request accommodation for a missed test, you need to submit a written request and provide appropriate documentation or justification. Students who have provided appropriate documentation 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.

Students who do not attend class cannot make up in-class participation work. On the Sociological Exercise: a student who misses or fails to complete the two preliminary steps will have their grade for their final submission reduced by 50 percent.

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

Students with special learning needs should introduce themselves to me during the first two weeks of the course, in-person or by sending an email. I 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 and other special needs. If you are uncertain if you can or should take advantage this opportunity, please feel free to consult me.

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

My responsibility as instructor 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. I encourage a participatory and dialogic classroom. As your instructor, I have selected materials and organized classroom time to meet the objectives of this course. I 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. You will need to independently cover assigned readings (note that much of the content in the textbook may not be discussed in class). You will be tested on all aspects of required and supplementary readings – including theory and empirical data – as well as on lectures and 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. If you miss a lecture, you may visit during office hours to review the lecture notes (which will not be posted). An additional reason to attend class is that announcements may be made in class that alter the 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, and to do so in good time. The best way to do this is to visit me or the TA during office hours. We 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 them in this syllabus – please review it regularly. If you misplace the syllabus or schedule, you can download a copy from the course website.
- (6) We are collectively responsible for creating a curious, engaged, and 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 and may be disallowed. Please be considerate of the needs and rights of your peers. You may be asked you to sit elsewhere, to improve the classroom experience of other students. You should be aware that persistent disruption can 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/academicintegrity/students/what-is-academic-integrity-at-u-of-m.html. 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 pair and group projects are also subject to the rules of academic dishonesty and that each group member must ensure that a group 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

The deadline for Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) for fall courses is November 19, 2018. You will have received test and participation grade results before this date.

Websites

This course has a UM Learn website as well as a textbook website. The course websites enable a variety of tasks: including communicating with other classmates and contributing to discussion, accessing learning resources, and downloading syllabi and schedules, as well as any supplementary readings. The textbook website offers a range of learning options, including earning on-line participation grades.

Lecture notes will not be posted to the course website. To review lecture notes, students are warmly invited to visit me during office hours.

Office Hours

Office hours are a time I set aside to visit with students. You can use the office visit to discuss any aspect of the course and your academic progress, or to raise any academic concerns you may have. I enjoy visiting with students – you do not need to have a 'reason' to stop by. My office hours vary to accommodate my research and administrative commitments: office hours will be posted to the website, to our office doors, and will be announced in-class. I am happy to make special office hours to accommodate students who cannot attend during scheduled times; to arrange a special appointment, please send an email.

During TA office hours, you may review your test results as well as discuss any aspect of the course.

Term Schedule

A schedule will be handed out the first day of class. The schedule is subject to change. Please note that *changes announced in-class will take precedence* over any previously-announced dates or deadlines. There will be a delay in posting dates or other changes to the course website.