

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology

SOC 1200 A08
INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY
September 2015 - April 2016

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Office Hours: By appointment – please email or see me after class to arrange a meeting.
Classroom: Room 118 St. John's College
Credit Hours: 6
Required Text: Robert Brym, Lance Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, and John Lie. (2016). *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World* (Fifth Canadian Edition). Toronto: Nelson Canada.

Important Note: You must obtain the "bundled" 5th edition of the textbook. "Bundled" means that the textbook includes a special card and code that gives you access to the online study guide, called MindTap. If there is any doubt, here is the technical information used by the bookstore to order the properly bundled textbook.

- **KIT: SOC YOUR COMPASS 5E + MINDTAP**
- **ISBN 0176706402**

You must get both the 5th edition of the book and the MindTap (online study guide access). Earlier editions of the book are *not acceptable* and you will need to access the MindTap materials every week.

Course Website: I regularly place relevant course information on the UM Learn (UML) website. Posted materials include class announcements, homework exercises, etc. *It is your responsibility to consult the UM Learn site regularly to keep current.* You can access the UM Learn website through either the University of Manitoba homepage, or the following link:
<https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/d2l/login>

Overview

This course is designed to introduce you to the diversity of concepts, principles, and procedures that comprise an introduction to the discipline of sociology. A quick perusal of the textbook's table of contents demonstrates that the course takes us through a wide range of topics, from micro-level considerations of everyday interaction to macro-level processes of globalization.

Learning sociology is like learning the lessons of any other discipline; it requires work. Our goal is to make this work both meaningful and interesting. Based on over three decades of helping students master the fundamentals of the discipline, I am confident telling you that, if you are willing to put in the time and effort, this course will move you along the liberal education path.

Objectives

The course aims to help you learn the lessons of Introductory Sociology in three ways. First, this course contains a body of fundamental concepts, principles, procedures, and facts that you must know. Learning this *basic information* is the primary objective of this course. The second course objective builds upon the first one and requires you to move beyond understanding the contents of the textbook and lectures. This second objective requires you to be able to *comprehend and apply* sociological concepts and principles. The final course objective requires you to *display analytical skills*. Analysis is a higher order ability that requires taking something whole, breaking it down into constituent parts, and showing the relationship among the components. All the activities and assessments in the course are designed to advance your learning in one or more of these three ways.

Course Organization

Preparation: The schedule identifies one textbook chapter per week, which will act as our theme. Your job is read the chapter and master its contents through independent study. Enter MindTap, the online study guide for the textbook. MindTap includes a variety of materials to assist your mastery of the chapters. I encourage you to use them. The end of this outline includes some direction about using MindTap resources.

Class Time: Outside of test weeks, our class time is organized as follows. Each chapter/theme involves three class periods. In the first two meetings I will present material different from, but related to, the assigned chapter. I will not be reviewing the textbook material in class. Instead, I will be giving lectures, video illustrations, current events examples, etc. The third meeting is devoted to application. Early in the year, the application time will be spent on the data analysis exercises.

Course Requirements

Your grade in this course will be based on your mastery of the contents of the readings, class presentations, homework, course participation, and sociological applications. Although you are personally responsible for mastering the course contents, I firmly believe that learning is a *social enterprise*. Therefore, I strongly encourage students to help one another both inside and outside of class.

The components of your final grade in this course include the following:

- *Unit Tests –75 percent.*

There are five unit tests in the course, each of which takes two class periods. Each test centres on the course content covered since the previous test. Each test is equally weighted (15%) toward your final grade.

The unit tests occur across two class periods. The tests are composed of multiple choice questions. Day 1 is devoted to the textbook readings. Day 2 covers all non-textbook material in the unit, including lectures, videos, data analysis demonstrations, homework applications, etc.

- *Sociological Analysis – 15 percent.*

Sociological analysis assessments occur one class period following the unit test. This assessment is composed of questions requiring written answers. The questions on the sociological analysis assessment will be similar to (but not the same as) the ones you worked on in the application exercises during the unit.

- *Course Participation – 10 Percent.*

Active learning is a key to success. To master anything challenging you need to be engaged. Participation is important. In addition, this class is filled with all kinds of talented, interesting people. We can learn from one another. For both these reasons, there is a participation component to your final grade. Here are the components included in your participation assessment.

Component 1: MindTap On-Line Study Guide: This component relates to your successful use of the textbook's on-line study guide (MindTap). Specifically, I attend to the reliability, timeliness, and quality of your completion of the Think About, Practice: Guided Learning, and Chapter Review Quiz sections. In particular, I attend to whether you are participating in a consistent manner.

Component 2: MindTap Postings on UM Learn: Most weeks, MindTap includes one or more exercises that ask you to think about some topic or question. These questions relate to Sociology in Film and Explore Social Policy exercises. Since it is useful for students to learn from one another, I will occasionally announce on UM Learn News an opportunity to post your answer to one of the week's

MindTap exercises. Both the quantity and quality of your written postings on these opportunities will be included in your course participation assessment.

Component 3: Extra Homework Exercises

Some weeks I announce an additional homework opportunity on UM Learn News. These opportunities allow you to post written answers on the UM Learn site. Both the quantity and quality of your postings on these opportunities will be included in your course participation assessment.

Note that course participation scores are computed at the completion of the course. You will not know your course participation score before the final unit test is completed.

Schedule

The course is divided into 5 units. Each unit (except the last one) covers four textbook chapters and associated materials (lectures, homework assignments, applications, etc.) At the end of each unit is a test period that includes both the unit test (2 classes) and the sociological analysis assessment (1 class).

Here is this year's schedule:

September	11	Orientation
	14	Unit 1.1 Read Chapter 1; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	16	
	18	
	21	
	23	Unit 1.2 Read Chapter 2; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	25	
	28	Unit 1.3 Read Chapter 3; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	30	
October	2	
	5	Unit 1.4 Read Chapter 6; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	7	
	9	
	12	No Class (Thanksgiving)
	14	Unit Test 1 & Sociological Analysis Assessment 1
	16	
	19	
	21	Unit 2.1 Read Chapter 4; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	23	
	26	
	28	Unit 2.2 Read Chapter 5; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	30	
November	2	
	4	Unit 2.3 Read Chapter 7; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	6	
	9	
	11	No class (Remembrance Day)

November	13	Unit 2.4 Read Chapter 8; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	16	
	18	
	20	Unit Test 2 & Sociological Analysis Assessment 2
	23	
	25	
December	27	Unit 3.1 Read Chapter 9; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	30	
	2	
	4	Unit 3.2 Read Chapter 10; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	7	
	9	
January	6	Unit 3.3 Read Chapter 11; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	8	
	11	
	13	Unit 3.4 Read Chapter 13; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	15	
	18	
	20	Unit Test 3 & Sociological Analysis Assessment 3
	22	
	25	
February	27	Unit 4.1 Read Chapter 14; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	29	
	1	
	3	Unit 4.2 Read Chapter 15; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	5	
	8	
	10	Unit 4.3 Read Chapter 16; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	12	
	15-19	No classes (Mid-term break)
	22	Unit 4.3 (continued)
	24	Unit 4.4 Read Chapter 17; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	26	
	29	

March	2	Unit Test 4 & Sociological Analysis Assessment 4
	4	
	7	
	9	Unit 5.1 Read Chapter 19; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	11	
	14	
	16	Unit 5.2 Read Chapter 20; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
	18	
	21	
	23	Unit 5.3 Read Chapter 21; Complete MindTap; CheckUML
25	No class (Good Friday)	
28	Unit 5.3 (continued)	
30		
April	1	Unit Test 5 & Sociological Analysis Assessment 5
	4	
	6	

Some Final Notes:

- 1) *Consequences & Requests:* Only documented reasons (medical, emergency, or grief) are acceptable for not meeting course requirements, which includes class attendance (see the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar). For consideration of accommodation for late assignments, missed tests, or religious holy days, you need to *submit a paper-copy written request and provide appropriate documentation. Besides the documentation, your request must include your name, student number, and UM email address.* I will review your request and supply an email response (usually within 24 hours).

Re: Missed Tests or Assessments: Any student who misses a test or assessment must provide a doctor's note (or appropriate equivalent). This requirement will be strictly enforced. No student will be allowed to write a make-up test without a doctor's note (or some other appropriate form of written documentation). *Any student who does not inform me by phone/voice mail, email, or in-person prior to test time **prior to their absence** will not be allowed to write a make-up.* This requirement will also be strictly enforced.

Students who provide appropriate documentation for missing a unit test or assessment will be given **ONLY ONE** opportunity to write a make-up. For the first term, the make-up test is scheduled for *Thursday, December 10th at 9:00 a.m.* For the second term, the make-up test is scheduled for *Friday, April 8th at 9:00 a.m.* **NOTE:** If you are granted a make-up test, you are responsible for making whatever adjustments are necessary to write at the scheduled dates and times. *No exceptions will be accommodated.*

Re: Religious Holy Days: The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith which fall within the academic year. I will make the necessary arrangements to ensure that your studies will not be jeopardized. To do so, I need to be notified in writing of your intended absence *at least a week in advance.*

Re: Special Learning Needs: Students with documented special learning needs should identify themselves at the beginning of the term to arrange suitable accommodation.

- 2) *Voluntary Withdrawal:* Voluntary withdrawal deadline date: March 18, 2016.

- 3) *Academic Integrity:* As a cautionary note, students should know that the University of Manitoba strictly enforces its policy with respect to 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://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. 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.
- 4) *Personal Technology:* Students are required to **silence all electronic devices** (cellular/smart phones, iPhones, etc.) when in the classroom. If there is a reason that you require your device to remain on 'ring' mode (i.e., sick child at daycare), please inform me at the start of the class. Students are **not permitted to send or receive text messages** during class. A student found texting during class would be asked to leave. Students are welcome to bring **laptop computers to class for note-taking purposes only**. Students found using social networking sites or surfing the Internet during class will be asked to leave. Finally, please **remove earphones** during class lectures.
- 5) *Making the Grade:* Students often ask how I translate the percentage grades received on tests, projects, and other course requirements into the letter grades awarded at the end of the year. My procedure is straightforward. I weight each course component according to its contribution toward your final grade and add these weighted products. Then I use the following key:

Percentage	Letter Grade	Descriptive Scale	GPA
90 to 100	A+	Exceptional	4.5
80 to 89	A	Excellent	4.0
76 to 79	B+	Very Good	3.5
70 to 75	B	Good	3.0
66 to 69	C+	Satisfactory	2.5
60 to 65	C	Adequate	2.0
50 to 59	D	Marginal	1.0
0 to 49	F	Failure	0.0

Please note, however, that Introductory Sociology is a multi-sectioned course. The University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307 requires "a post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will ensure an equitable correspondence between grades and levels of performance in all sections." Accordingly, your final grade in this course may be raised or lowered to achieve this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

- 6) *Civility:* Disruptions due to excessive talking, use of personal technology, late arrivals or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to our class. Please be considerate 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.
- 7) *Other Notes:*
- Email:
 - You must use your University of Manitoba email account.** Inquiries from any other email accounts will not be answered. No exceptions.

- To receive an answer, email correspondence with instructors or the teaching assistants must (i) *list SOC1200 in the subject line*, and (ii) *use proper English sentence structure and vocabulary*. Email that does not meet these conditions will NOT be answered.
 - I strive to answer your email inquiries within 24 hours (*weekends excluded*). So *please plan accordingly and be patient*. If you have not received a reply within 48 hours, please resubmit your request because the delay indicates it was not received.
2. Copyright notice: The lectures, displays, and materials delivered or provided in this course, including any visual or audio recording of the same, are subject to copyright owned by the instructor. Without the expressed written permission of Dr. Lance Roberts, it is prohibited to record or copy by any means, in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, any of the lectures or materials provided or published in any form during or from this course.
 3. 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 the property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

Using *MindTap* – The Online Study Guide

MindTap is the on-line study guide associated with our textbook. It contains both additional materials you are required to learn as well as tools to help you study.

Here are some points about using *MindTap* to best advantage.

Study Materials *MindTap* includes a variety on online study guide materials, including the following:

1. Reading – a digital version of the textbook chapter.
2. Think About – a set of applied questions related to the textbook reading.
NOTE: Think About states “This problem set doesn’t count as part of your course’s grade”; this is not exactly correct. Your completion of this material is a component of your Course Participation grade.
3. Practice: Guided Learning Questions – another set of questions related to the textbook readings.
NOTE: Practice states “Counts toward your grade”. Specifically, your completion of this material counts toward your Course Participation grade.
4. Chapter Review Quiz – includes a set of multiple choice questions (which are graded) allowing you to test your mastery of the chapter contents.
NOTE: Your timely completion of the review quizzes counts toward your Course Participation grade.

Additional Materials: The course includes material besides the textbook readings. Some of these materials are posted on the UM Learn course website. Other materials are included on the *MindTap* site. The additional course content on *MindTap* may vary from week to week, but includes some selection of the following.

1. Mini-Lecture: These are short presentations I have created to expand on some topic(s) related to the weekly readings. These appear infrequently; specifically, they only appear when I am going to miss class because I am on a research trip or attending a conference.
2. Access Sociology in Film: These are short video clips and associated sociological questions.
3. Explore Social Policy: These are short scenarios of real world situations. They include critical thinking questions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Explore Social Policy and Access Sociology in Film questions include a “Submit Assignment for Grading” function. This function will NOT be used in our course. Instead, your understanding of this material will be assessed on the unit tests. When I make an announcement on the UM Learn News, you will have an opportunity to post your answers to selected questions as part of your Course Participation grade.