

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
SOC 3730 A01
SOCIETY and EDUCATION
Winter 2010 (3 Credit Hours)

Instructor: Jason Edgerton
Telephone: 474-8192
E-mail: j_edgerton@umanitoba.ca (include "3730" in the subject header)
Office: 323 Isbister Building
Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:30 AM – 2:30 PM, or by appointment
Classroom: Room 301, Tier Building
Timeslot: Mon, Wed, & Fri 10:30 -11:20 AM

Required Textbook:

Wotherspoon, T. (2009). *The Sociology of Education in Canada* (3rd ed.). Don Mills: Oxford University Press Canada Ltd.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will provide an introduction to the sociology of education. The general emphasis will be on a critical sociological consideration of the various roles and impacts of education in society. The first part of this course will offer an overview of the various theoretical perspectives informing the sociological study of education; this includes classical sociological theories of education as well as critical and emerging perspectives. In the second part of this course, a number of contemporary educational issues will be critically considered, including: the changing structure and process of schooling, trends in teaching and curriculum, the multiple dimensions of educational inequality, the relationship between schooling and work, education in the era of globalization, and the balance of public/private interests in shaping the future of schooling.

TENTATIVE THEMATIC OUTLINE

What is the Sociology of Education?

Thinking Sociologically about Education

Sociological Theories of Education

The Uses of Theory

The Purposes of Education

Theoretical Perspectives

Structural-Functionalism and Liberal Theory

Conflict and Critical Theories

Interaction and Interpretive Theories

Transformations in the structure and process of schooling
-stratification, accommodation, competition

Teaching and curriculum
-status of teaching profession, social influences on curriculum, assessment and testing

Dimensions of educational inequality
-gender, class, and 'race'

The relationship between schooling and work
-credentials and the transition from-school-to-work, education and occupational attainment

The balance of public/private interests in shaping the future of schooling
school choice and market reforms in education, corporatization in post-secondary education

COURSE EVALUATION

Component	% of final grade	Tentative date
Issue response paper #1	7.5%	Week 4 (Jan 25)
Test #1	15%	Week 5 (Feb 1-5)
Group Presentation	15%	Weeks 8-10 (Feb 24-Mar 12)
Issue response paper #2	7.5%	Week 11 (Mar 19)
Test #2	15%	Week 13 (Mar 29-Apr 2)
Term paper	30%	April 16
In class participation	10%	

Tests

Both tests are open book format (students are allowed to refer to the course text and to their lecture notes) and will be divided into two parts, over two days.

Group Presentation

Groups will be expected to present on a topic (assigned at the beginning of the term). One entire class (50 minutes) is allotted for each group presentation.

Papers

Papers (issue response papers and final term paper) must be typed, double-spaced, with normal margins and numbered pages, and use the standard sociological referencing format. (See articles published in the *Canadian Journal of Sociology* or the *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology* for examples of this format).

Issue response papers (topics will be presented in class) are to be between 1 and 2 pages (including references) in length and are to be submitted to me at the beginning of class on the due date.

Final term papers are to be between 12 and 15 pages in length (including references) and are to be submitted to me in my office on **April 16th** (one week after the last scheduled class) between 10:00 am and 12 pm. If I am not in the office, papers should be submitted to the main Sociology office on the 3rd floor of Isbister (room 318).

Grade Key:

Total Percentage	Letter Grade
90+	A+
80-89	A
75-79	B+
70-74	B
65-69	C+
60-64	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Policy Regarding Absence on Test days or Late Assignments:

Students who are absent on test days due to ill health, or for reasons of compassion or other exceptional circumstances (requiring a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation clearly indicating that you were unable to attend class) will be allowed to write make-up tests. However, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor as early as possible if there will be a need for such deferrals. With prior approval from the instructor, late submissions of written assignments due to exceptional circumstances will be marked without penalty.

Without prior approval, all late papers will be strictly subject to a penalty of a half-grade per day (e.g., from B+ to B, or B to C+). Students who are unable to complete and submit their final papers by the due date because of such circumstances will be required to submit their 'work in progress,' since it is expected that everyone will be working on their papers long before the due date.

Academic Integrity:

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examinations' (Section 4.2.8 p. 25) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1 p. 26) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Conduct in Class:

Excessive talking, late arrivals, or early departures are impolite and distracting for both the instructor and classmates. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students are required to silence all electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc.). Persistent disruption will result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving the class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.

Accommodations:

Special Needs: Special needs services are provided through Disability Services (474-6213). Students with special needs (who require aids, other supports, or require extra time to write a test) should introduce themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable testing times.

Holy Days: The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance. At least three weeks notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Class will not be held on the following dates:

February 15-19 – Mid term break; April 2 – Good Friday

Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline Date:

March 19, 2010