

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
Introduction to Sociology: Soc.1200
Fall/Winter, 2009-2010, AO3-Slot 2

Instructor: Dr. Ray Foui

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Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10:30-11:20 or by appointment

Class Location: 231 Isbister

Meeting Times: Mon., Wed., and Fri. 9:30 – 10:20

Term/Credit Hours: Fall/Winter; 6 Credit Hours

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Textbook

Macionis, J. J., & Gerber, L. M. (2008). *Sociology*. Sixth Canadian Edition.
Toronto: Pearson: Prentice Hall.

Compilation of Selected Readings in Sociology: University of Manitoba: CanCopy.

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the concept of the “sociological imagination” and to show how the sociological imagination helps students to understand recurring features of social organization and social relations. This objective will be accomplished through introducing students to some of the major theoretical perspectives, concepts and methods of the discipline of sociology, and demonstrating how they illuminate central aspects of society.

The focus of this course is Canadian. The material we cover will range from the family and socialization practices to the economy and the labor market covering what sociologists term the “social construction of reality”.

Grading Scheme

Four tests will be given throughout the course. They will be composed of multiple choice and true/false questions. Tests will cover lecture material and assigned readings. Each test is worth 20% of the final grade. The four tests combined are worth 80% of the final grade. The final test will be held in-class. In addition to these tests, students are expected to contribute to the writing of two group projects. In groups of three, each student is responsible for completing two related academic essays on topics central to this course. Due dates are specified in this syllabus. Each essay is worth 10% of the student’s final grade; therefore, the two essays combined are worth 20% of the student’s final grade. The four tests and two essays combined comprise 100% of the final grade.

Policy On Grades And Tests

The following percentage/letter/GPA/descriptive scale will be used:

90 – 100	A+	(4.5)	Exceptional
80 – 89	A	(4.0)	Excellent
76 – 79	B+	(3.5)	Very Good
70 – 75	B	(3.0)	Good
66 – 69	C+	(2.5)	Satisfactory
60 – 65	C	(2.0)	Adequate
50 – 59	D	(1.0)	Marginal
0 – 49	F	(0)	Failure

If a test is missed for a health- related reason, the student must get in touch with the professor as soon as possible to present his/her signed medical certificate in order to arrange a make-up test. Ordinarily, tests must be made-up within one week. Failure to

request a make-up test within the expected time frame may result in ineligibility for a make-up test and a mark of zero for the missed test.

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 and at least three weeks notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

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.

Note: Make-up tests may be short answer and long answer format.

Senate Policy #1307 requires a "post-examination 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 change.

Student Responsibility And Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence, with grave consequences. "Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personations 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 student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

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 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.

Last day for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty is March 19/2010.

Assigned Readings and Requirement Due Dates

Sept 11-25	Chapters 1& 4	Sociological Perspective 1-25: Society 82-105
Sept 28-Oct 12	Chapter 2	Sociological Investigation 26-53
Oct 14-26	Chapter 3	Culture 54-81
	(Articles: "Culture of the Nacirema" and "The Amish")	
Oct 28	TEST #1	
Oct 30- Nov 6	Chapter 5 & 6	Socialization 106-129: Social Interaction 130-151
Nov 9-23	Chapter 9	Deviance 208-237
	(Article: "On Being Sane in Insane Places")	
Nov 13	Due Date: Written Assignment #1	
Nov 25- Dec 7	Chapter 10& 13	Social Stratification 238-263: Gender Stratification 316-347
Dec 9	TEST #2	
Jan 6- 15	Chapter 14	Race and Ethnicity 348-377
Jan 18- 29	Chapter 18	Families 462-489
Feb 1- 12	Chapter 19	Religion 490-515
Feb 15 - 19	MID-TERM BREAK	
Feb 22- 26	Chapter 20	Education 516-539
Mar 1	TEST #3	
Mar 3 -10	Chapter 7	Groups and Organizations 152-181
	(Article: "McJobs")	
Mar 10	Due Date: Written Assignment #2	
Mar 12-19	Chapter 23	Collective Behaviour and Social Movements 598-623
Mar 22- 31	Chapter 17	Politics and Government 430-461
Apr 2- 7	Chapter 22 & 24	Population 566-576: Social Change 624-644
Apr 9	TEST #4	

Written Assignment #1

In groups of three (identified by a group name), students are required to write an academic essay. Students will identify a specific social problem and a local organization (or branch) designed to address the problem. Offer biographical information on the organization. Examine the scope of the problem. Is it a local, provincial, national or international problem? Is the problem growing? Offer examples of evidence of this, i.e. statistical and/or qualitative evidence. Generally, what measures does the organization take in meeting the problem? Demonstrate its relative success indicating the three most salient aspects of how the organization addresses the problem. Conclude the paper offering implications as to what more needs to be done or addressed in the future.

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Written Assignment #2

In the same group, students will relate the social experience of those targeted by the organization to an identifiable social problem. Students will address the question: To what extent is this not simply an individual problem? Utilize one of the critical theoretical approaches discussed in this course and apply it to the analysis of this problem. In the introduction, indicate how this is a social problem from the perspective used indicating three distinct areas of analysis. In each of the three parts of the body of the paper, elaborate on the three areas selected. Conclude the paper while again, offering implications on what needs to be done or addressed in the future

Referencing and Grading:

Students are not limited in the number of references used in these essays. The format for referencing is left to the group's discretion, i.e., A.P.A., M.L.A., and Chicago Style.

Grading for both papers will be based on the content of the argument: a clearly defined thesis statement, identifiable supporting points, a plausible conclusion and implications and the use of credible references. Remember, these are a group activities; students within each group will all receive the same grade for each paper.