

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology
Sociology 1200, Section A02 CRN 11104
Introduction to Sociology: “Sociology as a Martial Art”
September 2010 - April 2011, 6 credit hours

“Sociology is about challenging commonsense... I often say sociology is a martial art, a means of self-defense. Basically, you use it to defend yourself, without having the right to use it for unfair attacks.” - Pierre Bourdieu, 1930-2002 -

Instructor: Dr. Christopher J. Fries, PhD
Time & Place: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays: 9:30am - 10:20am, 231 Isbister
Websites & Email: <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/departments/sociology/facstaff/2357.htm>
CJ_Fries@umanitoba.ca
<http://angel.cc.umanitoba.ca>
Office: 317 Isbister Building
Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays: 10:30am to 11:20am or by appointment
(There are no scheduled office hours on test and video days.)
Telephone: 474-7871 (with voice mail)
Teaching Assistants: _____

(Announced by second week of September, and posted to Angel)

1. Nature and Scope of the Course

Sociology is a social science which adopts as its focus the systematic, structured, and eclectic study of people in society. This course will introduce students to the discipline of sociology, its basic concepts and perspectives, and the sociological approach to understanding human beings and our behaviour. The course is centered around the concept of “the sociological imagination”, with an emphasis on developing your abilities to critically examine and understand the world in which you live and its relevance for your own life: This is what it means where we say, “Sociology as a Martial Art”.

2. Objectives of the Course

- ✓ Students will develop their sociological imaginations which will help them critically examine and understand the world in which they live and aspects of their own lives.
- ✓ Students will become familiar with sociology as a social science discipline.
- ✓ Students will become familiar with introductory aspects of sociological theory.
- ✓ Students will learn about basic sociological concepts, methods of sociological inquiry, and some of the substantive topics studied by sociologists.

3. Required Texts

- ✓ Berger, Peter L. (1963). *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective*. New York: Anchor Books. (Available at the University of Manitoba Bookstore.)
- ✓ Steckley, John and Guy Kirby Letts. (2010). *Elements of Sociology: A Critical Canadian Introduction*, Second Edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press. (Available at the University of Manitoba Bookstore.). Please also go to the companion website for the textbook. Here you will find study questions for each chapter, which are automatically graded. There are also annotated links to other useful Web resources, applied exercises, and other material designed to enhance your learning.
- ✓ Additional readings posted on Angel or placed on reserve in the library.

4. Organization of the Course

The course will consist of informal lectures - consequently, students are encouraged to participate in classes by making points and asking questions. From time to time, there may be guest lecturers, videos will be shown, and we may do some group work.

5. Professor Expectations

♣**Collegiality:** Together, we can create and maintain a collegial learning environment; one in which we all develop as individuals and scholars and in which the free and respectful exchange of ideas occurs. Please be polite and respectful of your fellow students and myself!

♣**Participation:** Questions and discussion are as much a part of the class as are the lectures. Please feel free to participate.

♣**Independent Scholarship:** You will be held responsible for all required readings and course materials, such as videos and study guides, whether discussed further in class or not. Please keep up with your homework!

♣**Attendance and Missed Tests / Assignments:** Tests and assignments missed due to unexcused absences will result in a grade of zero, except under documented reasons for missing a test or assignment, i.e., a doctor's note. 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.

♣**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will not be graded. In exceptional circumstances (documented illness, etc.) an extension may be granted, provided you receive the instructor's permission **BEFOREHAND**. If an extension is granted, a new due date will be set. Work missing this date will not be graded.

♣**Personal Copies:** Students are instructed to always keep a personal copy of any submitted work in the case that they are required to submit another copy.

♣**Academic Integrity:** I encourage collaborative and cooperative work ethics. Feel free to discuss your thoughts with other members of the class and thereby develop your comprehension and critical analysis. But remember, when it is time to prepare your tests and assignments, do your own work. Please don't cheat! When in doubt about any practice, ask your professor.

♣**Instructor Availability:** I appreciate that sociology may be a relatively new area of study for you and you may feel overwhelmed by the material. Anxiety over one's performance on, and preparation for, lectures and tests is normal. If you are unclear about the material, my lectures, or my expectations, please ask for clarification during class, or if you prefer, make an appointment to meet with me individually.

♣**Sociological Engagement:** As the central learning objective of this course is the development of your sociological imagination, I expect you to think about and discuss course material with others outside class. That is, you are to be a "sociologist of life"!

♣**Roadmap:** Read and use this outline as your roadmap for the course: It will be your course reference throughout the term. Many of the organizational questions students ask are answered on it. Further copies are downloadable through Angel.

♣**Angel:** An abundance of course and supplementary material is made available to you through Angel. For example, here you will find lecture notes containing basic terms and concepts that form the basis of my course slides and video study guides. Please check the course website regularly for newly posted material: <http://angel.cc.umanitoba.ca>

6. Student Expectations

♣Students are encouraged to review the University of Manitoba's "Responsibilities of Academic Staff with regard to Students" document, which can be found online at:

http://www.umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/278.htm

I comply fully with all University of Manitoba policies regarding teaching.

♣As supplement to the above policies, by the second full week of classes I will collect, summarize, and attach as an addendum to this syllabus your expectations of your professor.

7. Policies and Resources

♣**Required Prerequisite:** Sociology 1200: Introduction to Sociology is a prerequisite for all other sociology courses, which means students must complete Sociology 1200 with a minimum grade of C if they intend to enroll in more advanced sociology courses.

♣**Postexamination Review of Final Grades:** University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307 requires "a postexamination review of final grades in multisectioned 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 this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

♣**Religious Holidays:** 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 in writing 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.

♣**Missed Videos:** If you miss a video, you will need to arrange to view it at an alternate time. Making this arrangement is a student responsibility, and must be undertaken in ways that do not inconvenience Information Services and Technology or the instructor. To view a missed video, you will need a form which is available from 123 Fletcher Argue and which requires the instructor's signature. It is your job to bring the form to the instructor for signing.

♣**Disruptions:** Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are distracting. 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 and sit near the exit.

♣**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:** I won't text or chat when you are talking to me. Please extend me the same courtesy. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off prior to the class. If, for any reason, you need to leave your cell phone on, you should obtain permission from the instructor.

♣**Copyright / Intellectual Property:** The lectures and displays (and all material) delivered or provided in this course including any visual or audio recording thereof, are subject to copyright owned by Christopher J. Fries. It is prohibited to record or copy any means, in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, in the absence of express written permission from Christopher J. Fries any of the lectures, materials provided or published in any form during or from this course.

♣**Voluntary Withdrawal:** Last day for voluntary withdrawal from the course without academic penalty is **March 18, 2011**.

♣**Academic Integrity:** Acts of academic dishonesty or plagiarism are serious offenses and are subject to academic discipline. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personation at Examinations' (Section 4.2.8) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar. (For Graduate level courses see (Sections 7.1 and 7.2) in the Graduate 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.

♣**Student Counselling and Career Centre:** The Student Counselling and Career Centre is staffed by professional counsellors whose primary goal is to facilitate the personal, social, academic, and

vocational development of university students. Located at: 474 University Centre. Phone: 474-8592.

♣**Aboriginal Student Centre:** Providing student support in a manner consistent with the culture and values of Aboriginal Peoples for the purpose of increasing/enhancing the accessibility and retention of Aboriginal students. Located at: Aboriginal House, 45 Curry Place. Phone: 474-8850. Email: asc@umanitoba.ca

♣**Special Learning Needs:** 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. Disability Services is located at: 155 University Centre. Phone: 204 474-6213. TTY: 204 474-9790. Fax: 261-7732. Email: disability_services@umanitoba.ca

♣**Safewalk:** The Safewalk Program was created by utilizing the theory that there is safety in numbers. It is available on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses. The Student Patrols, under the supervision of the Security Services, walk/escort individuals to any destination within the campus boundaries. The Safewalk service is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, all year round. A Safewalk escort can be initiated by calling 474-9312 or an individual may want to approach the Student Patrol when seeing them on campus to request an escort.

8. Evaluation

✓**Five Tests:** Evaluation is based upon five tests consisting of a possible combination of multiple choice, true and false, and short answer questions. Each test will cover readings, lectures, videos, video study guides, and class discussions. The tests are non-cumulative, covering course material since the previous test. A large part of the course will be based on independent study of the course readings. It is your responsibility to read all of the assigned material for each test, even if the content was not covered in class. **Purpose:** To encourage you keep up with lecture and reading material (so please come to class prepared) and to provide you with ongoing feedback as to your performance in class.

9. Composition of Final Grade

Requirement	Mark	Date Due
Test 1	20%	October 4, 2010
Test 2	20%	December 8, 2010
Test 3	20%	January 28, 2011
Test 4	20%	March 16, 2011
Test 5	20%	April 8, 2011

10. Letter Grade Assignment

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

90 – 100	A+	(4.5)	Exceptional	66 – 69	C+	(2.5)	Satisfactory
80 – 89	A	(4.0)	Excellent	60 – 65	C	(2.0)	Adequate
76 – 79	B+	(3.5)	Very Good	50 – 59	D	(1.0)	Marginal
70 – 75	B	(3.0)	Good	0 – 49	F	(0.0)	Failure

11. Proposed Course Topics and Readings

NOTE: This proposed outline is subject to change. Changes announced in class will take precedence over the written schedule.

- Additional readings may be assigned for topics. I will provide you with plenty of advanced warning.

PART ONE: SOCIOLOGY AS AN INDIVIDUAL PASTIME, A FORM OF CONSCIOUSNESS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Introduction to Sociology

- ✓ Berger - Preface, Chapter 1
- ✓ Steckley and Letts - From the Publisher, From the Authors, Chapter 1, pp. 1-9

The Sociological Imagination

- ✓ Berger - Chapters 2, 3

Sociology as Social Science: Research and Practice

- ✓ Steckley and Letts - Chapter 2

TEST # 1 October 4, 2010

PART TWO: SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS, PERSPECTIVES, AND DEBATES

Culture and Society

- ✓ Berger - Chapter 4
- ✓ Steckley and Letts - Chapter 4

What does it mean to be human?: Socialization and the Nature / Nurture Debate

- ✓ Berger - Chapter 5
- ✓ Steckley and Letts - Chapters 4 and 5

Sociological Theory

- ✓ Berger - Chapter 6
- ✓ Steckley and Letts - Chapter 1, pp. 10-30, Chapter 11 and 14

TEST # 2 December 8, 2010

PART THREE: APPLIED SOCIOLOGY: USING SOCIOLOGY TO UNDERSTAND YOUR WORLD

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Crime and Deviance

- ✓ Steckley and Letts - Chapter 6

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Education

- ✓ Steckley and Letts - Chapter 9

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Health, Medicine, and the Body

- ✓ Steckley and Letts - Chapter 10
- ✓ Miner, H. (1956). "Body Ritual among the Nacirema", *American Anthropologist*, 58(3), pp. 503-507.
- ✓ Wright, C.J. (2009). "Too Much Health Care: We Can't Afford Life's Creeping Medicalization", *Literary Review of Canada*, 17, pp. 3-5.

TEST # 3 January 28, 2011

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Race, Ethnicity, and Multiculturalism

- ✓ Steckley and Letts - Chapter 12

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Gender and Sexuality

- ✓ Steckley and Letts - Chapter 13

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Aging and the Elderly

- ✓ Macionis and Gerber - Chapter 15

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment

- ✓ Macionis and Gerber - Chapter 22

Test # 4 March 16, 2011

Understanding Aspects of Canadian Society: Collective Behaviour and Social Movements

- ✓ Macionis and Gerber - Chapter 23

PART FOUR: SOCIOLOGY AS A HUMANISTIC DISCIPLINE

Review, Conclusion, and Further Study: "Why should I give a Damn?"

- ✓ Berger - Chapters 7 and 8

Test # 5 April 8, 2011