

Sociology 1200 (Introduction to Sociology: 6.0 credit hours) Section A08

September 2012 – April 2013

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Isbister 235 (Fall Term); St. Paul's College 229 (Winter Term)

Dr. Laura Funk: Laura.Funk@ad.umanitoba.ca

Office Hours (307 Isbister): Mondays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. or by appointment

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Robert Brym (Ed.) *New Society* (6th edition). Nelson.

ResponseCard RF "Clicker" (sold with the textbook or as an application for smartphones).

OVERVIEW

After completing this course (i.e., active participation in and outside of class), you will be familiar with the foundations of sociology as a social science discipline, its key concepts, and will be able to demonstrate and apply the ability to "think sociologically." You will also be able to compare and contrast different theoretical perspectives and apply basic sociological concepts to analyze real world issues, phenomena and behaviours. You will be able to explain how the 'building blocks' of social structure influence our lives through socialization, social control, and hierarchies based on social class, race, gender, and age. You will also be able to describe how broad-level social changes (such as globalization) shape our everyday lives.

OUTLINE, DUE DATES and READINGS

Sociological Thinking and Theories

Sep 7: Introductory Class

Sep 10, 12, and 14: **Thinking Sociologically** READ Chapter 1 (additional readings to be distributed)

Sep 17, 19, 21: **Structural Functionalist Approaches**

Sept 24, 26, 28: **Social Conflict and Political Economy Approaches**

Oct 1, 3, 5: **Symbolic Interactionist Approaches**

(no class Oct 8: Thanksgiving holiday)

***Oct 10: In-class test**

***Oct 12: Field work for observational study**

Building Blocks of Social Structure

Oct 15, 17, 19: **Culture** READ Chapter 2

Oct 22, 24, 26: **Socialization and Mass Media** READ Chapter 3 AND 5

***October 29th: Observational Project Due**

Oct 29, 31, Nov 2: **Social Interaction and Groups** READ online chapter 21

Nov 5, 7, 9, 14, 16: **Formal Organizations and Corporations** (no class Nov 12 – Remembrance)

Nov 19, 21, 23: **Industrialization, modernization and globalization** READ: Chapter 19

Nov 26, 28, 30, Dec 3: **Social Control and Deviance** READ Chapter 14

***Dec 5: Op-ed final pieces due.**

***Dec 5: In-class test**

Dimensions of Inequality

Jan 7, 9, 11: **Social Stratification and Social Class** READ Chapter 6
Jan 14, 16, 18: **Gender and Sexuality** READ Chapters 4 (p.83-88) and 7
Jan 21, 23, 25: **Race and Ethnicity** READ Chapter 8
Jan 28, 30, Feb 1: **Age and Disability** READ Chapter 17 (up until p.420)
Feb 4, 6, 8: **Global Inequality and Development** READ Chapters 9

***Feb 11: In-Class Test**

Selected Sociological Topics

***Feb 13: Popular Culture Assignments Due**

Feb 13, 15: **Work and Occupations** READ Chapter 11

---No class week of Feb 18-22---

Feb 25, 27, Mar 1: **Politics and Social Movements** READ Chapter 18

Mar 4, 6, 8: **Families** READ Chapter 10

Mar 11, 13, 15, 18: **Health and Medicine** READ Chapter 17 (pp.420-426)

***March 20: Voluntary Withdrawal Date**

Mar 20, 22, 25: **Religion** READ Chapter 13

Mar 27, 29, Apr 1: **Education** READ Chapter 12

***April 3: "My Life" assignment due**

Apr 3, 5, 8: **Urbanization** Chapter 15

***April 10: In-class test**

GRADING

"OBSERVATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT" (10%) IN GROUPS OF THREE. Spend at least two hours of time outside of class unobtrusively observing social behaviour in a public space, such as in a library or coffee shop. Record your observations during this time or as soon as you can afterwards, in point form. 5-6 pages. Summarize your observations, analysis and sociological interpretations. *Additional guidelines will be distributed in-class.*

"OP-ED PIECE" (15%). ON YOUR OWN. Write and hand in an "op-ed" article that takes a sociological perspective on a public issue of local or provincial importance. No more than 800 words. Write concisely, persuasively, and drawing on what you've learned in the course (e.g. based in fact). *Additional guidelines will be distributed in-class.*

"POP CULTURE" (15%). IN GROUPS OF THREE. Pick a television show or movie that you will all watch. Assess the extent to which (and how) it uses a sociological perspective, or not. Apply your own sociological perspective to analyze the content of the show as an example of mass media socialization (e.g., what ideas and values are reinforced?). Critically assess the content. 4-5 pages. *Additional guidelines will be distributed in-class.*

"YOUR LIFE IN SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE" (15%). ON YOUR OWN. 5-6 pages. Write about and analyze your own life (or aspects of it, such as decisions or aspects of your identity) from a sociological perspective, drawing on concepts you've been introduced to in the course and within text readings. *Additional guidelines will be distributed in-class.*

IN-CLASS TESTS, 4 @ 10% each = 40%. Tests are based on both chapter readings and in-class material and activities, and will be a combination of multiple choice and long answer.

PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE = 5%. This will be based on data from each in-class registration of your clicker.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grade Distribution: 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 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.

Grading Scheme: This course follows the common grading scheme for all introductory sociology courses: A+=90% and above; A=80-89%; B+=76-79%; B=70-75%; C+=66-69%; C=60-65%; D=50-59%; F=under 50%.

Disruptions: Disruptions due to excessive or persistent **talking/whispering**, late arrivals or early departures are especially distracting in large classes. **Respect your classmates, and your instructor.** If you prefer to talk with your classmates during lectures, please leave the class for its duration (or I will ask you to do so). Persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student with a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform me at the beginning of class.

Statement of Consequences of Missed Tests: Failure to complete a test will result in a mark of zero for that test. Except under exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical issues accompanied by a valid doctor’s note) missed tests **cannot** be re-taken at a later date. If a make-up test is approved (and this will be a *different* test), you must attend at the scheduled time.

Statement of Consequences of Late Assignments: Late assignments will receive a penalty of a 15% deduction from your total mark. In **exceptional** circumstances an extension may be granted if you receive my permission **in advance** and provide documentation (e.g. medical note).

Campus and Disability Services: If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, or have a disability or illness which may affect your learning or assessment, you should discuss these issues with me and one of the following offices: Disability Services; Student Counselling and Career Centre; University 1; Learning Assistance Centre.

Faith Holidays: I should be notified of your intended absence at least **three** weeks in advance, where special arrangements are needed to avoid jeopardizing your studies.

Academic Integrity: Acquaint yourself with our University’s policies on “Personation at Examinations” and “Plagiarism and Cheating” found online under “Section 8” in “University Policies” at the University of Manitoba’s Academic Calendar and Catalog (www.umanitoba.ca/calendar). Also see the “Academic Integrity and Student Conduct” tutorials at <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>. The Faculty of Arts reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.