

Instructor: Karen Kampen
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Credit hours: 6
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*Office Hours: 12:00-2:00 Mon.,Wed.

* These are merely my "official" hours, so please consider my door open - as long as I am there, feel free to stop in. I can also make appointments to meet with you.

Required Materials

Macionis, J, and Gerber, L. (2008). *Sociology* (Sixth Canadian edition). Toronto: Prentice Hall. (Students may feel free to use an earlier edition at their own risk.)

Course Objectives and Description

"May you live in interesting times."

Dubious references to this phrase as an "ancient Chinese curse" have been made for decades, but they may have roots in a Chinese proverb that bemoans the difficulties of living in a period of chaos and change rather than the peace and stability valued by Confucians. These are indeed interesting and changing times for our world. Perhaps some of these changes are for the better, while others are for the worse.

Sociology is the systematic study of human society. This means that sociologists study various aspects of social life, such as groups, institutions, cultures, and relationships. In order to give you a broad familiarity with sociology, various disciplinary fields will be covered, such as the family, deviance, and social class. Because sociology involves systematic observation and thought, students will be introduced to the core concepts, theories and methods of the discipline, and shown how these can be used to gain an understanding of the major issues facing societies and individuals.

Studying sociology helps us to acquire critical thinking skills and a broadened intellectual horizon that are not only useful in any career, but enhance our lives in general. I believe that we can study it in an enjoyable manner that is scientifically grounded yet free of pretension. I had an enormous amount of fun creating our course material. I really look forward to this year, and I hope that you do too.

Class Format (tentative)

- A thematic lecture based upon on the relevant material, or occasional films
- During some weeks, we will gather into groups and conduct a small exercise to apply knowledge of that week's topic, based upon readings and lectures
- During some weeks, will set aside 2-3 classes to work on your major assignment

Evaluation

1) Textbook Quizzes (25%): There will be four multiple-choice quizzes based upon the textbook readings for the preceding five chapters. Because many of us find multiple choice questions rather difficult at times, please make sure to try to "practice quizzes" that will posted on Angel.

Textbook Quiz #1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (6.25%) - *October 19*

Textbook Quiz #2: Chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 (6.25%) - *November 30*

Textbook Quiz #3: Chapters 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 (6.25%) - *February 3*

Textbook Quiz #4: Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 (6.25%) - *April 5*

2) Term Tests (50%): Students will write four tests based upon the lectures for the previous five chapters' worth of in-class material. I have tried to schedule them during times when they are less likely to coincide with tests in your other courses. The tests are not cumulative, although you will need to retain and utilize your knowledge of core sociological concepts, theories, and methods throughout the course. They will be comprised of multiple-choice and/or short-answer questions.

Term Test # 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (12.5%) - *October 21*

Term Test # 2: Chapters 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 (12.5%) - *December 2*

Term Test # 3: Chapters 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 (12.5%) - *February 5*

Term Test # 4: Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 (12.5%) - *April 7*

3) Assignment: Applying your Sociological Knowledge (25%): Many students like to have the opportunity to do something creative and original. You will get this chance via a 12-15 page written assignment based on the "Up Series" of videos from renowned director Michael Apted. Movie critic Roger Ebert has declared them to be "On my list of the ten greatest films of all time." Details of the assignment will be provided in class. The assignment is due during the last day of classes, but you will work on it via discussions with fellow classmates throughout the year. Marks are contingent upon participation in these discussion groups and film viewings.

I have designed the above evaluative approach with two goals in mind: (1) To provide you with a variety of ways of being evaluated, so that if your strengths tend to lie in written assignments rather than tests, or vice versa, you are not subject to a single means of evaluation; and (2) To take the pressure off you so that an inordinate amount of weight is not riding on just four tests (i.e. everyone can have a relatively "bad day" at least once, without it destroying their mark in the course.)

Policy on Missed Tests or Late Assignments

Students who miss any of the tests for documented medical or compassionate reasons will have the option of answering a series of essay questions in lieu of their missed test. The dates, times, and locations are TBA. To be eligible for a make-up test, students must contact me in writing within 24 hours of the missed test. Special accommodations will be made for religious observances (please contact me at least one week beforehand). Please note that vacations or automobile problems will not be considered reasonable justifications for absences of any sort. ☺

Late assignments are happily accepted, but in fairness to fellow classmates, they are subject to a 10% (i.e. 2.5% of course mark) per day penalty. Students who request extensions for documented medical or compassionate reasons must submit their current assignment draft along with a written request for an extension, and may be required to apply to the Faculty of Arts for an Incomplete in the course.

Grade Distribution

90-100%	A+
80-89%	A
76-79%	B+
70-75%	B
66-69%	C+
60-65%	C
50-59%	D
<50%	F

Please note that 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 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.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Examinations: Personations" (Section 4.2.8) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 7.1) found in the *Undergraduate Calendar*. While consulting one another about your assignments is acceptable conduct, please bear in mind that you must submit original work. On the other hand, students are strongly encouraged to study together for tests; it makes all of this more enjoyable! 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, including ringing/talking on cell phones. 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 start of class.

Other than these standard policies, students should be aware that the primary thing they need to do to make our collective experience enjoyable is to read the relevant textbook chapter before coming to class. I always make great efforts to show up prepared, and all I ask is that students do the same.

Companion Website

Skeleton notes will be on Angel (<http://angel.cc.umanitoba.ca>), as will the posting of test and assignment marks, and final grades

Communication

If you wish to receive email communication from me such as reminders of important dates and announcements of cancelled classes, an email sign-up list will be distributed. I can correspond with all types of accounts, but if you are using a non-university account (e.g. Hotmail) and my messages to you get rejected, your address might be deleted from the mailing list.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2009-2010

Term 1

September 14-18: The Sociological Perspective (Chapter 1)

September 21-25: Sociological Investigation (Chapter 2)

September 28-October 2: Culture (Chapter 3)

October 5-9: Society (Chapter 4)

October 12-16: Socialization (Chapter 5)

* October 12: *Thanksgiving holiday (no classes)*

October 19-23: **Textbook Quiz (Oct. 19); Test #1 (Oct. 21);** Assig. intro (Oct. 23)

October 26-30: Work on "Seven Up" Assignment

November 2-6: Social Interaction in Everyday Life (Ch. 6)

November 9-13: *Groups and Organizations (Chapter 7)*

* November 11: *Remembrance Day (no classes)*

November 16-20: Deviance (Chapter 9)

November 23-27: Social Stratification (Chapter 10) & Social Class in Canada (Ch. 11)

November 30-Dec. 4: **Textbook Quiz #2 (Nov. 30); Test #2 (Dec. 2)** Work on
"Seven Up" Assignment (Dec. 4)

December 7 & 9: Work on "Seven Up" Assignment

Term 2

January 6 & 8: Global Stratification (Chapter 12)

January 11-15: Gender Stratification (Chapter 13)

January 18-22: Race and Ethnicity (Chapter 14)

January 25-29: The Economy and Work (Chapter 16)

February 1-5: Politics/Gov't. (Ch. 17)(Feb. 1); **Quiz #3 (Feb. 3); Test #3 (Feb. 5)**

February 8-12: Work on "Seven Up" Assignment: Part 3

* February 15-19: *READING WEEK (No classes)*

February 22-26: Family (Chapter 18)

March 1-5: Religion (Chapter 19)

March 8-12: Education (Chapter 20)

March 15-19: Work on "Seven Up" Assignment: Part 4

March 22-26: Health and Medicine (Chapter 21)

March 29-April 2: Population, Urbanization, and Environment (Chapter 22)

* April 2: *Good Friday (no classes)*

April 5-9: **Quiz #4 (April 5); Test #4 (April 7); Assignment DUE (April 9)**

*** Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline: **March 19, 2010** ***