

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA • DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 1200, "INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY"
SEPTEMBER 2009 TO APRIL 2010
6 CREDIT HOURS • SECTION A11

FALL TERM INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Christopher Powell
311 Isbister Building
474-8150 (with voice mail)

WINTER TERM INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Susan Prentice
329 Isbister Building
474-6726 (with voice mail)

MEETING TIMES: 10:00-11:15 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays

LOCATION: 229 St. Paul's College

WEBSITE: umanitoba.ca/angel

E-MAIL: Through the Angel website.

Note: This is the only e-mail account that will be accepted for course communication

OFFICE HOURS: Announced in class, posted on the course website and on each instructor's door, and by special appointment – may vary by week. Note that each instructor is available for consultation only in regards to the work of their term.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the "sociological imagination" and to show how thinking sociologically can give insight into both our own everyday lives and large-scale public issues.

Sociology helps us to understand recurring features and patterns of social life – the life that people create by being together, whether in families, peer groups, schools, churches, businesses, nation-states, or in the global society of all human beings. To show these recurring features and patterns, this course will present students with some of the major concepts, debates, findings, and methods of the discipline. Topics we will cover range from the economy and the labour market to the family and childhood, globalization and social movements to media and culture. Students will be also introduced to the ideas and theories of the founders of the discipline (such as Marx, Weber, and Durkheim), as well as contemporary approaches and concerns (including anti-racist, queer, and post-colonial theories). Other topics include socialization, gender, racial/ethnic relations, social inequality, religion, crime, and power and politics, among others.

Overall, the aim of this course is to help students develop a critical and informed approach to social life. Much of our time together will be spent in lectures, or watching and then discussing films, or working together in pairs or small groups. Although this will be a sizeable class, students are expected to get to know other students and to work with them. We will be using technology to assist us in this work. Peer work (pairs and groups) will be a basis both for independent learning and for graded work. Students are encouraged to question the instructors, the texts, the films, and each other.

Students are warmly invited to introduce themselves to the instructors, and to drop by during office hours or by special appointment.

COURSE PEDAGOGY

Introduction to Sociology is a prerequisite for future sociology courses. For some students, Intro will be their only exposure to sociological thinking. Whether this will be your first or your last Sociology course, you should be prepared for a rigorous experience. There is a great deal of material to cover – a full textbook and an accompanying reader. Students are expected to be on-schedule with readings, and to come to class ready to demonstrate their preparation. Frequent 'pop quiz' type questions will be asked about readings, the textbook, and lecture materials.

In addition to learning content, students will also be expected to apply information. This will require course discussion and debate. Some in-class writing exercises will assess students' ability to apply and synthesize the course content. All students should anticipate a participatory classroom: as instructors, we will aim to learn the names of all students, and will call on students to discuss and question course materials.

There will be no final exams during the post-term examination periods in December and April. However, each term will conclude with a final, cumulative test that allows students to demonstrate their mastery of the course material up to that point.

This is a challenging course; by signing up, you are committing to a demanding reading load, class participation, and rigorous testing. Be prepared.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & TECHNOLOGY

- Bruce Ravelli and Michelle Webber. 2010. *Exploring Sociology: A Canadian Perspective*. Pearson Canada: Toronto.
- John J. Macionis, Nijole V. Benokraitis, Peter Urmetzer, and Bruce Ravelli. 2010. *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*. Third Canadian Edition. Pearson Canada: Toronto. *Note: you will need the **Third Canadian Edition**, not any other edition, as the specific readings vary from one edition to another.*
- *I-Clicker* – for sale at the UM Bookstore. These will be required for in-class participation marks. They may be used in other courses, or resold at the end of term
- *Peer Scholar* – Included with the Ravelli and Webber textbook.

COURSE EVALUATION

Assignments and Grading

Term 1

Test 1	20%
Test 2	20%
Peer-evaluated writing assignment	4%
In-class participation and writing	6%

Term 2

Test 3	20%
Test 4	20%
Peer-evaluated writing assignment	4%
<u>In-class participation and writing</u>	<u>6%</u>
Total	100%

COURSE EVALUATION, CONTINUED

Grades will be posted on the course website. Students must consult the course website to learn their grades. Assistance on accessing the website will be provided in-class and by the instructors during office hours.

Students should familiarize themselves with the University policy on appeal of term and final grades, found in University of Manitoba's 2009-10 *Undergraduate Calendar*. Please note that concerns about term work must be discussed with the instructor in the first instance. Grades can be appealed up to ten working days after they have been made available to students. For this purpose, dates will be based on time of posting to the website.

Generally speaking, the following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used. However students should note that *these are guidelines only* and that different percentage cut-offs may be used in the course, depending on final grade distribution.

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	90 - 100%	4.5	Exceptional
A	80 - 89%	4.0	Excellent
B+	75 - 79%	3.5	Very Good
B	70 - 74%	3.0	Good
C+	65 - 69%	2.5	Satisfactory
C	60 - 64%	2.0	Adequate
D	50 - 59%	1.0	Marginal
F	49% or less	0	Failure

Senate Policy 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 such equity, and therefore *your final grade may be changed*.

Tests

Tests will consist of multiple-choice questions and a written component. They will cover theoretical, conceptual and empirical material covered in lectures, readings, films and class exercises. Many questions will be data-specific; others will be theoretical. Tests also will require you to apply concepts and facts learned in class. Tests or test answers will not be posted on the course website or elsewhere, but students will be welcome to review them during office hours. Students can expect to receive test results within seven working days of each test.

In-class Work

Twelve percent of your grade (six percent per term) will be based on an open-ended number of unannounced in-class exercises, which may be solo, pair, triad or group work. The number of these assignments per term may vary.

Occasionally, there may be a quiz covering an assigned reading. On other days, students may be asked to answer questions following a film. On still other days, small group or pair work may be assigned. When collective work is assigned, students will not have the option of working solo, and vice-versa. Each term, the instructor will drop one grade earned by each student on one assignment. The remainder of in-class work will be used for calculation purposes.

In-Class Work, continued

Students who attend on the day when these unscheduled events occur, who have done their readings in advance and who have been attentive during lectures and films are very likely to get good marks for in-class work. A student who is absent, for any reason, cannot make up that day's in-class work. Since the lowest grade will be dropped, students can assume that a perfect grade is still achievable if one assignment per term is missed.

Much in-class work will be conducted using I-clickers. **Students who do not purchase and register their I-clicker should anticipate losing most of their 12% in-class grade.**

Peer-Reviewed Written Assignments

Eight percent of your grade (four percent per term) will be based on written assignments that will be reviewed and graded by your fellow students, and which you will be able to revise and resubmit for an improved grade. There will be two of these assignments, one per term. The review and grading process will be facilitated by *Peer Scholar*, a software package that allows for an anonymous and 'blind' peer-review process. That is, the students who grade your work will not know that it is yours, and you will not know their identities. Two or more reviewers are used to help ensure the reliability of the grades given, and the instructors will oversee the entire process. This process also means that you will review and grade the work of two or more of your fellow students. By repeating this process with the same assignment, you will have the chance to improve your assignment based on the feedback from your anonymous peer reviewers.

The process of writing and revising your own paper, in combination with editing and making suggestion for peer writing, will strengthen your critical reading and writing skills.

Missed Tests and Assignments

Test dates are listed in the Term Schedule, which will be handed out the beginning of each term and posted to the course website. Students must be aware that missing a test is a serious problem and will result in a grade of zero, except under restricted circumstances. Only documented reasons will be accepted for missing a test. Make-up tests *may* be granted for compassionate reasons, at the full discretion of the instructor. If you will absent on test day for reason of vacation or holiday, you will forfeit that test. *In general, do not plan vacation absences on days when classes are scheduled.*

If you would like to communicate about your course performance, you are welcome to speak with the instructor about it before or after class, or during office hours. However, you must also send a written record, by email, as confirmation. For official purposes, such as a grade appeal, the written record will stand as the formal notice.

Make-up Tests

It is a student responsibility to take the initiative to make arrangements for make-up tests with the instructor. To request a make-up, you must send an email (through the course website) to the instructor. Requests must be made as soon as is possible. Ordinarily, arrangements for a make-up test must be initiated no more than one week after the missed test; requests made later than one week will normally be denied. Only one make-up test date will be set per test: students will be required to accommodate their schedules to the make-up test, or will forfeit the opportunity to write a make-up test. Students should be aware that all make-up tests may be short-answer essay-format questions.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Manitoba acknowledges the right of all students to observe recognized holy days of their faith. You will need to send the instructor an email about your intended absence(s) at least two weeks in advance of the test date, so that they can make special arrangements.

Special Learning Needs

Students with special learning needs (who, for legitimate reasons, require extra time to write an exam, or who require aids or other supports to succeed in the course) should introduce themselves to the instructor during the first week of each term, as well as through email. We will be pleased to make accommodations, including suitable testing arrangements, to assist you. Disability Services (474-6213) is a resource to help students with learning or other special needs. If you are uncertain if you can or should avail yourself of this opportunity, please feel free to consult the instructor.

ACCESS TO THE INSTRUCTORS

Office Hours

Office hours are a time the instructors set aside to visit with students. You can use office hours to discuss the course and your academic progress, to ask questions or clarifications, and to raise any concerns you may have. We enjoy meeting with students -- you do not need to have a 'reason' to stop by to visit. Our office hours may vary to accommodate our research and administrative commitments: office hours will be posted to the website and will be announced in-class.

Each of us is responsible for one term of the course, and for all of the material and assignments given in that term: Prof. Powell for the fall (September to December) , and Prof. Prentice for the winter (January to April). Please make a point of consulting the right instructor for the material or assignment you want to talk about.

We are willing to make special office hours to accommodate students who cannot attend during scheduled times. To arrange a special appointment, please send an email through the course website.

Website

The course website helps students in a variety of tasks: for example, sending e-mail to classmates, contributing to a bulletin board discussion of issues, and downloading syllabi and schedules. Importantly, it will also allow you to securely review your grades (which are private, and cannot be accessed by other students.) The only place grades will be posted is to the course website. The course website will be the exclusive way that you communicate with the instructors by email. Please note that lecture materials will not be posted to the website -- to review lecture notes, students are warmly invited to visit during office hours.

No previous experience is required to use the course website; you do not need a personal account or e-mail address to use the course site. Not every student has access to a personal computer and so the University provides free access to over one hundred computers in various labs located around the campus. The instructors will be pleased to help you locate a computer terminal, and to show you how to navigate the website.

TECHNOLOGY POLICIES

Students will be required to use an i-Clicker for the bulk of participatory and in-class work; you will not be able to earn full attendance or in-class grades without it. When PowerPoint slides are used for lectures, and students are invited to visit the instructor during office hours to review notes if they wish. *Lecture notes will not be posted* or otherwise made digitally available.

The course website email will function as the formal channel of communication between the instructors and students. Students should anticipate receiving emails through the course website, and should consult the website regularly. Each instructor will only respond to emails sent through the course website.

STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility as instructors begins with the University ROASS policy (see the University of Manitoba's *Undergraduate Calendar*) and extends to creating a safe, cooperative and stimulating learning environment for students. We encourage a participatory and dialogic classroom environment. As instructors, we have selected texts and organized classroom time to meet the pedagogical objectives of this course. Lectures are designed to help you understand and extend the concepts and ideas discussed in your texts and in the films. We comply fully with all University of Manitoba policies regarding teaching.

Students have responsibilities, too:

- (1) Students are responsible for their own learning. You are expected to do readings in advance of class and to come prepared. You will often need to independently cover material in the textbooks, since not everything in the textbooks will be addressed in class. You will be tested on *all* aspects of assigned readings -- including theory and empirical data -- as well as on lectures, films and other classroom activities. Ideally, you should bring both texts, as well as your 'I-clicker,' to class each day.
- (2) It is in your personal and collective best interest to attend class regularly. Note that the *Undergraduate Calendar* stipulates that "regular attendance is expected of all students in all courses," and that an instructor may initiate procedures to debar a student "where unexcused absences exceed those permitted. Students so disbarred will have failed the course." Announcements may be made in class during lectures that may affect student performance, course schedule, or other aspects of the term organization: all students will be governed by the new information, irrespective of whether they were in attendance when the new policy/information was announced.
- (3) If you are unclear about material or have academic concerns or questions, it is your responsibility to ask for help. The best way to do this is to visit the instructor during office hours. The instructors will be pleased to schedule extra time with you outside of class to help you succeed in this course, but you must make the request. It is also your responsibility to track your success in the course, and to take action if you discover you are failing tests or assignments, or not earning the grades you hope for.
- (4) If you miss a film, you will need to arrange to view it at an alternate time. Making this arrangement is a student responsibility. To view a missed film, you 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.

- (5) You are responsible for complying with all course policies. You will find all course policies in this syllabus -- please review it regularly. If you misplace this syllabus or a term schedule, you can download a copy from the course website.
- (6) You must be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of other students in the class. This is a large course, and classroom management can be an issue. Whispering, talking, taking cell phone calls, or engaging in non-course activity is especially inappropriate, since it bothers other students. Other disruptions include late arrivals, early departures, leaving and returning during class time, and other behaviour deemed inappropriate by the instructor or other students. You should be aware that such disruptions may result in you being asked to leave a lecture or result in you being barred from the course, which results in course failure. The instructors reserve the right to ask students to sit elsewhere, if this could improve the classroom experience for other students. You will be required to comply with University policy on "Inappropriate and Disruptive Student Behaviour." as well as Faculty of Arts policies on student responsibilities (see *Undergraduate Calendar*). Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should let the instructor know at the beginning of the class and should select a seat near the door to minimize disruption.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence, with grave consequences. Students should acquaint themselves with the University of Manitoba's policies in the *Undergraduate Calendar*. The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test or examination is "F" on the assessment and "F" for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in the Faculty. 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.

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

The last day for voluntary withdrawal from the course without academic penalty is Friday, 19 March 2010. Students will have received at least three test grades, as well as half of their in-class grades, before then.

TERM SCHEDULES

A schedule of topics, lectures, readings, films and any guest lectures will be handed out the first day of each term. The schedule is subject to change. Changes announced in-class will take precedence over written or posted notice.