SOC 100 (A3): Introductory Sociology

Jonathan Simmons                             Fall 2018
jssimmon@ualberta.ca                          Tuesday & Thursday (TL 12)
Office Hours: By appointment                  9:30 – 10:50 am

**OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this course, you should be able to:
- Analyze and apply dominant sociological theories in understanding the social world
- Be familiar with some of the classical and contemporary research in the field of sociology
- Identify how culture, socialization, social institutions, and social structure influence personal behaviour, ideas, choices, and social opportunities

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:**
- Introduction to Sociology 2e, OpenStax College
  This book can be downloaded free of charge from the following website: www.openstaxcollege.org. A PDF file of the book will also be available on the course website.
- Other required and readings and media (podcasts, videos, etc.) will be available on the course website (eClass).

**COURSE WEBSITE:** You can access the course website using your normal CCID and password through the University of Alberta’s E-learning portal: https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/portal/. There you will find all materials relevant to the course.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course offers an introduction to the study of sociology. Sociology is the systematic study of human groups and their social interactions. You will learn to think like a sociologist by examining the social nature of some issues and behaviors, many of which may at first appear to be solely the result of strictly individual motives and personal choices. Of course, our choices do matter, but sociology explains the social contexts in which we make those decisions. The class will follow a lecture format.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will be based on three exams. Exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Be advised that anything in your readings, assignments, videos, and in-class discussions can show up on the exams. Bring a pencil and eraser, and your student ID card to each exam.

Exam 1 ................................................................. 30%
Held in-class on Thursday, October 4.

Exam 2 ................................................................. 35%
Held in-class on Tuesday, November 6.

Final Exam ............................................................. 35%
The final exam will not be cumulative. It will include only the information taught from the date of the previous exam until the end of the course. The final is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 19 @ 2:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ETIQUETTE: In-class discussions are an excellent opportunity to present information as well as ask questions. If you disagree with something, make it clear that you disagree with the idea, not the person (who may not even agree with the idea they have presented). In short, treat people and their remarks with respect, even when disagreeing. Raise your hand to speak, don’t interrupt others.

TAKING NOTES: You are responsible for taking your own notes. If you miss class, you may borrow notes from a fellow student. I do not post my notes online. I will post my slides, but they are not a substitute for being in class and taking good notes (they are mostly pictures with brief captions).

GRADING: Final marks will be neither scaled nor put on a bell curve. Individual assignments will be given a percentage grade. The final percentage will be translated to the University of Alberta's 4-point system as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-94.9</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>75-79.9</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-74.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>66-69.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
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<td>62-65.9</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
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Grades will be posted online on the course website. In the eventuality that there is a discrepancy between the communicated grades and the grade listed in the professor’s grade book, the grade book will be taken as authoritative.

**SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS:** I will post on the course website some sample exam questions used in previous years.

**EXAM BEHAVIOUR:** Students may not enter the exam area after the first thirty minutes has elapsed. Students may not leave the exam area until the first thirty minutes has elapsed. I do not answer questions during exams. If an exam question is unclear, answer to the best of your ability. If you think there's a problem with a question, e-mail me following the exam’s completion. For more information, see my grading policy later in the syllabus.

**MISSED MID-TERM EXAM:** If you have an unexcused absence from the midterm exam you will receive a zero for that exam; there will be no exceptions. For an excused exam due to illness or personal emergency, you must complete a statutory declaration form and have it signed by a Commissioner of Oaths. This is a legal document, a copy of which will remain on your permanent record. In cases of potentially excusable absences from a midterm exam due to illness or domestic affliction, notify me by email within two working days (or as soon as possible, given the circumstances underlying the absence).

Students with an excused absence from a midterm must write the missed exam rather than shift the weight of that exam to other course requirements. If you are granted an excused absence from an exam, you will write the make-up on a date of my choosing. I consider myself free to require that you take the same exam as the one missed, create a new exam for you, or require a written project—at my discretion. Further, do not expect that I will give you the same type of make-up exam as I gave another student who missed an exam.

**MISSED FINAL EXAM:** If a student fails to write the final exam, he or she must formally apply to his or her Faculty within two working days following the missed exam, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence, in order to be considered for a deferral. The decision to grant a deferred final exam is not the Instructor’s. Deferred examinations are intended to accommodate students who have experienced an incapacitating illness or severe domestic affliction; applications based on minor or inconsequential ailments will not be approved. Please also note that as stated in Attendance of the University Calendar, “a deferred examination will not be approved if a student (a) has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or, (b) excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work.” There is only
one date for deferred final exams. Students granted a deferred final exam will write the exam on Saturday, January 12 at 9:00am, BUS 1 10.

OTHER: Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar.

TERRITORIAL STATEMENT: “The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (from the beginning of the Calendar).

LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT: The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behavior that undermines that environment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR: The University of Alberta places a very high value on academic integrity. Please visit the Academic Integrity website to familiarize yourself with the University of Alberta’s expectations regarding academic integrity.

RECORDING LECTURES: Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days, or as soon as you are able to, in regards to the circumstances underlying the absence. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult the Attendance section of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACCESSIBILITY: Your life and well-being as a U of A student are interconnected. From feeling financially secure to managing your time, your experiences — positive and negative — impact other areas of your life. U of A student services, resources, and support help you find balance, create growth, and build your success as a student.

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know
during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Accessibility Resources, contact their office immediately (1-80 Students' Union Building).