SOC 100 (B1): Introductory Sociology

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Office: 4-12 HM Tory Building
Office Hours: by appointment

Class Time: M W 1:00-3:50PM
Class Location: Tory Lecture B-38

“… it is by the means of the sociological imagination that men now hope to grasp what is going on in the world, and to understand what is happening in themselves as minute points of the intersections of biography and history within society” (Mills, 1959: 7).

Course Description

Everything we do in SOC 100 is relevant to the real world. Throughout this course, we will question: What is society? How do individuals’ lives relate to the groups that they belong to? How to cultures, morals, and values influence the social world? SOC 100 offers an introduction to the theory, methods, and substance of sociology. We will address various topics related to how societies are shaped and how they change. Specifically, this course samples a variety of sociological topics, including the economy, culture, socialization, deviance, stratification, and social groups.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Describe the general framework within which sociologists work.
2. Demonstrate extensive knowledge of the topics that we address throughout the semester.
3. Question taken-for-granted assumptions of social life.
4. Critically reflect on the social problems and theoretical models of society.

Required Course Readings


*One copy is on reserve at Rutherford Library (HM 586 S84 2017)

Other required materials are posted on eClass are available free online or through the University of Alberta library.

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SSESSMENT

Your final grade will be based on two assignments and two exams. The exam dates and assignment due dates are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal (Max 400 words)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>July 19\textsuperscript{th} (start of class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper (3-4 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>August 14\textsuperscript{th} (start of class)</td>
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Exams

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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>August 1\textsuperscript{st}</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Tentatively August 18\textsuperscript{th} (8 AM)</td>
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Each exam will consist of \textbf{multiple-choice questions and is non-cumulative}. That said, you need to maintain your knowledge of concepts that we continue using throughout the semester. We will do \textbf{practice exam questions during class and exam review periods}.

The assignments are connected projects. You will write a short proposal in which you will outline the paper. The \textbf{rubric for these assignments will be available on eClass and reviewed in detail during class}.

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\textbf{WHAT TO EXPECT}

Sociology is a broad discipline. As such, this is a fast-paced introductory course that surveys a huge amount of material. It is important that you complete the assigned readings prior to each lecture, because lectures include content and approaches to each topic beyond what each reading contains. You are tasked with integrating materials from the lecture and text into your own perspective of each topic. You will have the opportunity to explore one topic that peaks your interest in a short paper (3-4 pages).
Exams will include questions from both the lecture and the text. We will cover practice questions during class.

PowerPoint slides include a small portion of the content that we cover in class, so note taking is highly recommended. Slides will be available on eClass within the week following each lecture. But, **I will not post slides if attendance falls below 75% for two consecutive classes.**

**MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOU:** As university students, you are responsible for your own learning. But, if you have questions that you cannot answer from reviewing the course materials, then let me know.

You are welcome to discuss your assignments with me. I encourage you to have someone read your assignment for clarity prior to the deadline because I cannot edit or read assignments prior to grading. Lastly, I will only take grade disputes seriously if you can provide evidence as to why your grade should be higher. If you want me to re-grade your assignment, then the result could be lower or higher than the original grade.

I am rarely on campus on the dates that I do not teach, but I can schedule appointments. Please **email me well in advance to schedule appointments** or to inquire about graded material because I may take a couple business days to respond.

**COURSE POLICIES AND ATMOSPHERE**

**RESPECT AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR:** You are encouraged to debate controversial topics, but must demonstrate respect. Any disrespectful behaviour on eClass or in class could impact your grade or result in penalties from the Student Code of Conduct. **Please do not disrupt the class** by engaging in activities that are noisy or otherwise distracting. Of course, feel free to ask questions and share your perspectives with the class. Your questions and comments may help other students learn.

**TECHNOLOGY & CLASS ENGAGEMENT:** You are expected to refrain from using the internet, email, social media, or text messaging during class. Regardless of whether you believe these activities impact your learning, they disrupt other students in the classroom.

**PROBLEMS WITH THE COURSE:** If you face challenges with this course, it is easier to find a solution if you **notify me sooner than later.** You do not have to tell me the details of any personal issues that come up.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS**

When possible, contact me in advance if you are unable to complete your assignment in time or make it to an exam. If you are unable to speak with me prior an absence, then you must contact me as soon as possible and no more than two days after the missed exam or assignment (assuming circumstances permit). I do not transfer assignment or exam weight and **it is your responsibility to schedule a deferred exam with me.** With some exceptions, I **deduct 10% per day** on late assignments.
You must provide documentation pertaining to the absence unless the reason is incapacitating illness, in which case a medical note is not required. In absence of other documentation, you may provide me with a statutory declaration form, which can be obtained from your Faculty office or the Office of the Registrar.

**Absence from the Final Exam:** I cannot grant excused absences for the final examination. You must apply to your Faculty office within two working days should you fail to write the final exam. Your department will only approve applications involving an incapacitating illness or other extreme circumstances.

**Unacceptable Absences:** Instructors and Faculties use discretion to determine whether absence from an exam is acceptable. The University Calendar in the Attendance section lists examples of unacceptable reasons, such as “personal events such as vacations, weddings, or travel arrangements.” In addition, this section also states, “When a student is absent from a term or final exam without acceptable excuse, a final grade will be computed using a raw score of zero for the exam missed.”

**Resources Available on Campus:**

**Learning Support:** There are many services available for you on campus. The Student Success Centre offers various workshops about effective study and exam strategies (http://www.studentsuccess.ualberta.ca/en.aspx). Likewise, The Centre 4 Writing offers a variety of resources and guidance (http://www.c4w.ualberta.ca/).

**Specialized Support:** Students registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) should provide me with a “Letter of Introduction” as soon as possible. If you need accommodations, then arrange to discuss them with me.

If you have yet to register with Student Accessibility Services, then contact them immediately (1-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; Website: www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

**Other Services:** Various services on campus to help with any big or small challenges you experience throughout your degree. For instance, the Student Counselling Service (http://www.uhc.ualberta.ca/StudentCounsellingServices.aspx) and the Peer Support Centre (https://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/psc/) can help with many challenges. Protective Services can help in circumstances where you are concerned on behalf of a friend (780-492-5050, http://www.protectiveservices.ualberta.ca). Finally, the Sexual Assault Centre provides support as well (780-492-9771, https://uofa.ualberta.ca/current-students/sexual-assault-centre).

**Important Dates**

- Course Drop/Add Deadline: July 13th (add); August 3rd (delete)
- Course Withdrawal Deadline (50% refund): August 8th
- Course Withdrawal Deadline (no refund): August 11th
REQUIRED NOTICES

**Required Note:** Policy about course outlines can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](http://www.ualberta.ca) of the University Calendar.

**RECORDING OF 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).”

**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 behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice: [http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/](http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, section 44 available at [http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/](http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/).

**ACADEMIC HONESTY: PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behavior, which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Additional information about Academic Integrity and access to the Academic Integrity Handbook for students is available on the Student Conduct and Accountability website [http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/](http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/)

COURSE SCHEDULE

We will follow the below schedule as closely as possible. The dates of guest speakers/lecturers are subject to change.

Required readings include the textbook chapters and short articles that are listed on eClass.

July 10: Course Overview; Introduction to Sociology
Chapter 1

July 12: Research Methods; Culture
Chapter 2 & 3

July 17: Culture; “Race” and Ethnicity
Guest lecture by Prof. James Dempsey
Chapter 3 & 8

July 19: “Race” and Ethnicity; Socialization
Midterm Review
Chapter 8 & 4

Paper Proposal due (see rubric on eClass)

July 24: Social Roles, Interaction, and Organization; Deviance
Chapter 5 & 6

July 26: Midterm; Presentation by the Sexual Assault Centre
* The midterm includes materials from July 10-24th.

July 31: Social Inequality; Gender & Sexuality
Chapter 7 & 9

August 2: Family; Religion
Chapter 10 & 11

August 7: Victoria Day, no class!

August 9: Religion; Education
Guest lecture by Dr. Robin Willey
Chapter 11 & 12

August 14: Health and Medicine; The Environment
Final Exam Review
Chapter 13 & 14

Paper due (see rubric on eClass)

August 16: The Environment; Social Change
Chapter 14 & 15

Final Exam (30% of grade): Check Bear Tracks for the finalized date (August 17-18th).
*The final includes materials from July 26-August 16th.