

SOC 100 (B3): Introductory Sociology
Winter 2017
Instructor: Dr. Zohréh Bayatrizi

Class meeting times: MW 3:30-4:50 TL (Tory Lecture Theatres) B 1

Office hours: MW 1-2pm or by appointment

Contact: bayatrizi@ualberta.ca

Course description

In this course you will acquire the basic concepts and necessary skills to think sociologically (commonly referred to as the 'sociological imagination'). You will learn how sociologists look at the world as compared to psychologists or economists or philosophers. In the meantime, you will develop writing, analytical, and research skills that will be valuable throughout your education and beyond.

Course objectives

By the end of the term, you should be able to

- Describe and apply the 'sociological imagination'
- Apply fundamental sociological concepts and major theoretical orientations to a critical analysis of various social phenomena and issues
- Evaluate social issues in terms of their relevance to your own social context and the larger society
- Describe major social groups, organizations, and institutions

Course content

The course will cover several chapters from Karen Anderson's *Thinking about Sociology*, 2nd edition. Through this textbook we will explore the following five themes:

1. The Sociological Perspective or "Imagination"
 - The distinction between sociology and other social sciences
 - Sociological theories
2. Society and the individual
 - The social construction of reality
 - Socialization and social interaction
3. Core sociological topics
 - Inequality, crime, gender, media

Skills

Students who pass this course will be able to

- evaluate and apply abstract concepts and theoretical perspectives to particular cases
- synthesize text materials with personal observations and experiences
- organize and summarize information and textual material
- use computers to conduct research
- write short essays
- understand, critically analyze, and review information presented in multi-media
- express informed views on national and international issues

Required Textbook

Karen Anderson, *Thinking about Sociology*, 2nd edition

Class activities

Class activities will involve lectures, presentations, and class discussions. Lectures will cover key themes from the textbook AND will sometimes involve information not in the textbook. Everything discussed in class, including video clips and material not covered in the textbook, is fair game for the exams.

Course evaluation

	Date	Weight	Considerations
Midterm exam	March 1	45%	Multiple choice, true or false, fill the blank
Final exam	TBA	45%	Non-cumulative. Multiple choice, true or false, fill the blank Date of deferred final exam: Saturday, May 6, 9:00am
Group research reports and presentations	March 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12	10%	Guidelines, topics and sign up on February 27

Department of Sociology's Grading Guide

Percentage	Letter grade	Grade point value
90-100	A+	4.0
86-89	A	4.0
82-85	A-	3.7
78-81	B+	3.3
74-77	B	3.0
70-73	B-	2.7
66-69	C+	2.3
62-65	C	2.0
58-61	C-	1.7
54-57	D+	1.3
50-53	D	1.0

Missed tests and late assignments: Taking all the exams and submitting the assignments is mandatory. You cannot skip any of them and hope to transfer the grade to another test or assignment. You are allowed to make up an exam if you miss it due to a medical problem. In that case you must coordinate with me in advance. Late exams and presentation reports will be marked down (5% per day) unless there is a medical reason.

Contacting the instructor: You may contact me using the email address listed above. I aim to respond to all emails within one **business** day (no weekends or holidays). You are encouraged to make use of my office hours listed above.

Use of electronic devices:

Occasionally, you will be encouraged (optional) to use your electronic devices for research purposes in class. You are NOT allowed to record the lecture (video or sound) and you are NOT allowed to take pictures in class of my slides, myself, or your classmates. Playing or browsing on your phone is disrespectful.

Lecture topics and readings

Note: This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

January 9-11 Chapter 1 The Sociological Perspective

January 16-18 Chapter 5 The Beginnings of Sociology

January 23-25 Chapter 6 Karl Marx and Max Weber

January 30-Feb 1 Chapter 7 The Social-Interactionist Perspective

February 6-8 Chapter 8 Socialization, Chapter 9 Interaction Rituals

February 13-15 Chapter 9 Interaction Rituals, Chapter 10 Culture

February 20-22 NO CLASS

February 27-March 1 Midterm Exam prep./guidelines for research/ midterm exam

March 6-8 Chapter 11 Social Structure and Social Agency

March 13-15 Chapter 12 Social Inequality

March 20-22 Chapter 14 Gender

March 27-29 Chapter 16 Deviance and Crime

April 3-5 Chapter 17 Culture and Media, Chapter 18 The Internet

April 10-12 Chapter 18 The Internet/exam prep.

Policies and Procedure

“**Policy about course outlines** can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#) of the University Calendar.”

Academic honesty: “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 <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that 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.”

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/>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, available at <http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca/>.

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).”

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

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. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult [Attendance](#) 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. Students with an excused absence from an exam will be given an opportunity to make up the exam.

In this course, attendance is not required. However, regular attendance has shown to dramatically improve a student’s learning and performance.

Policy for Missed or Late Assignments:

Students will be penalized one point per day for late submissions unless previously authorized by the instructor. Any student missing any assignments, the mid-term exam, or the take home exam will receive a remark of 1 next to their final grade, indicating missed term work.

You may bring a doctor's note if you miss an exam due to illness, however this cannot be required. If you do not have a doctor’s note, you can do one of the following:

- “**University of Alberta Medical Statement**” signed by a doctor (*this cannot be required, but must be accepted if provided in lieu of other documents*). http://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/en/Online-Services/~media/registrar/Forms/2010_Medical_Statement.pdf
- "**Medical Declaration Form for Students**" (*for Faculty of Arts students, can also be obtained in the Sociology Office*)
- "**Statutory Declaration**" (*for students in Faculties other than Arts, to be obtained from the Office of the Registrar*)

For other acceptable absences, such as domestic afflictions or religious convictions, the student should submit appropriate documentation. This could include the following:

- For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
- For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
- For a car accident – a copy of the accident report

Student Accessibility Services (SAS):

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 SAS, contact their office immediately (1-800 SUB; Email ssdsrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).