



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE - FALL 2015

SO1000 (D2): INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY - 3(3-0-0) 45 hours

Instructor: Laurie Nock, PhD Phone: 780-539-2830 (office)
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Office hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, 1-2:30 p.m.

PREREQUISITE(S) / COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT / RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Nock, Laurie (Ed.) (2015). *Introductory sociology: Sociology 1000 D2*. Pearson Custom Library. ISBN 1-269-82334-5; 978-1-269-32334-0

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the theory, methods, and substance of sociology. How societies and individuals are shaped and modified by culture, socialization, deviance, stratification, group processes, industrialization and social movements will be covered.

CREDIT / CONTACT HOURS: 3 credits / 3 hours per week

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and Discussion

COUSE OBJECTIVES:

To demonstrate that:

- Sociology helps us to analyze the social forces that shape our lives, in contrast to the largely individualistic perspective we are generally encouraged to adopt.
- We belong to cultures that shape and are shaped by the social groups to which we belong. Cultures are material and mental, including behavior and communication.
- We develop the shared skills, knowledge and norms associated with these cultures through social interaction.
- Social relationships and social groups are built through processes of social interaction, in which actors' behavior and communication defines social reality.

- By definition, those who belong to one culture are at least somewhat deviant according to the rules of another. Deviance is the violation of cultural norms recognized by a social group.
- Social (economic and political) inequality is a feature of all modern societies.
- A number of criteria, achieved and ascribed, are used to allocate and withhold privilege.
- Race and gender are categorization systems socially created and designed to rationalize the uneven distribution of privilege.
- The main purpose of the family is to ensure the social and biological reproduction of the society. Although many different arrangements could achieve this outcome, our society tends to favor the nuclear family.
- International economic and political institutions and relationships shape our lives.
- Personal decisions and actions, taken in a social context, accumulate to shape global demographic and settlement patterns.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

- Identify social forces that shape their lives, constraining their choices;
- Identify the role of culture in the organization of space, time, people and activities;
- Describe the process of socialization, how skills, norms and values are learned;
- Analyze the behavior and communication of social actors in instances of social interaction;
- Demonstrate that definitions of behavior as deviant or normal are relative, strongly shaped by social groups and hierarchies, and change through time;
- Demonstrate that deviance is socially defined and socially (as opposed to individually) generated;
- Analyze social inequality as a social, rather than an individual, phenomenon;
- Identify ethnicity and race as important dimensions of inequality in Canadian social history;
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of all family types as child-rearing arrangements;
- Interpret Statistics Canada report on household types through history;
- Describe gender roles as a mutually reinforcing construct of the society and the family;
- Describe the role of elected governments in facilitating the success of corporations;
- Trace population trends through childbearing patterns in their own families.

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, CU, CUC, KUC, GMU

Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability

GRADING CRITERIA: FOR IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS ONLY

| ALPHA GRADE | 4-POINT EQUIVALENT | PERCENTAGE |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| A+ | 4.3 | 80-100 |
| A | 4.0 | 76-79 |
| A- | 3.7 | 73-75 |
| B+ | 3.3 | 70-72 |
| B | 3.0 | 67-69 |
| B- | 2.7 | 64-66 |
| C+ | 2.3 | 60-63 |
| C | 2.0 | 55-59 |
| C- | 1.7 | 50-54 |
| D+ | 1.3 | 45-49 |
| D | 1.0 | 40-44 |
| F | 0.0 | <40 |

All other assignments are marked on the alpha system.

| Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Designation |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| A⁺ | 4.0 | EXCELLENT |
| A | 4.0 | |
| A⁻ | 3.7 | FIRST CLASS STANDING |
| B⁺ | 3.3 | |
| B | 3.0 | GOOD |
| B⁻ | 2.7 | |
| C⁺ | 2.3 | SATISFACTORY |
| C | 2.0 | |
| C⁻ | 1.7 | |
| D⁺ | 1.3 | MINIMAL PASS |
| D | 1.0 | |
| F | 0.0 | FAIL |
| WF | 0.0 | FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline |

EVALUATIONS:

There will be two principal kinds of assignments which will determine course grades: Reading Reflections and responses to Take-Home questions. Questions are distributed at the beginning of term, numbered according to the week they are due. Reading reflections are to focus on the readings assigned for the week they are submitted. (For further description of Reading Reflections, see Course Details.) Students will submit three of each, at a rate of not more than one a week, at my office by 2 p.m. on Mondays (including holidays). Only one assignment may be submitted for each week. **Only one late assignment** may be handed in, during the scheduled final examination. Each will be worth 12.5% of the final course grade (75% in total). If more than the required number of assignments is submitted, the lowest marks will be dropped from calculation of the course grade. Excessive grammatical or spelling errors may result in the loss of points. Double-space all assignments. Only paper copies of assignments are accepted, except for students who are video-conferencing. Students are expected to meet with me for an in-depth writing tutorial on their assignments or to discuss any topic related to the course.

Twenty-five percent of the course grade will be based on in-class assignments throughout the term. Many opportunities to earn points will be provided, so there will be no make-ups for these. For in-class assignments **ONLY**, calculate your mark as a percentage of total points obtainable. (See the scale below.)

In compliance with the Examination Policy, students must sign in for the final examination scheduled by the Registrar's Office. At that time, three assignments (Take-Home Questions or Reading Reflections) must be submitted. One of these may be your late assignment. The other two (or all three) must have been submitted and graded previously, when they were due. To improve your grade, you may correct the assignments as suggested in comments on your work; the original must accompany the corrected version.

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| In-class Assignments | | 25.0% |
| Reading reflections | 3x12.5% each | 37.5% |
| Answers to questions | 3x12.5% each | 37.5% |
| (Final examination) | | 37.5% |

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Links to all Academic and Administrative policies can be found at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM:

For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

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|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Introduction to sociology Reading: The sociological perspective |
| Week 2 | Culture Reading: Culture |
| Week 3 | Socialization Reading: Socialization |
| Weeks 4 | Social interaction Reading: Social interaction in everyday life |
| Weeks 5-6 | Deviance and social control Reading: Deviance |
| Week 7 | Social inequality: Canada Reading: Social class in Canada |
| Week 8 | Ethnic and race relations Reading: Race & ethnicity |
| Week 9-10 | Marriage and family Reading: Family |
| Week 11 | Gender and sexuality Reading: Sexuality and society Gender stratification |
| Week 12 | Economics and politics Reading: The economy and work Politics and government |
| Week 13 | Population Reading: Population |