

Sociology 1010 [A3]
CANADIAN SOCIETY

Winter Semester, 2006
Grande Prairie Regional College
Tuesday; Thursday 10:00 – 11:20 hrs.

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COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to provide a critical understanding and appreciation of the issues, debates and controversies surrounding the origins, nature, and dynamics of Canadian society and culture. A range of explanations and analyses of Quebec nationalism, Aboriginal self-determination, ethnic revitalization and diversity, North-South and East-West regionalism, etc., will be presented with specific reference to Canada's historical development, our country's modernization and industrialization, and our experience with contemporary globalization. This course is organized around a historical macro-sociological approach, with a focus on inter-group dynamics and human rights within a highly charged and uncertain context of diversity and structural transformations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Term Exam #1 (20%).....	February 9
Term Exam #2 (20%).....	March 16
Term Exam #3 (20%).....	TBA
Assignment (40%) ⇒ Proposal & Annotated Biblio. (20%)..	February 9
⇒ Presentation & Class Handout (20%)..	starts March 7

REQUIRED TEXTS

[other materials will be distributed on an as-needed basis]

Trevor Harrison and John W. Friesen, 2004, Canadian Society in the Twenty-First Century: A Historical Sociological Approach. Pearson/Prentice Hall: Toronto.

You are of course encouraged to read beyond the assigned course book(s). Check out popular magazines, academic books and journals and other sources for coverage of topics discussed in this course: such materials are available in the GPRC library, on the world wide web, through inter-library loans, and elsewhere.

SEMESTER TESTS, EXAMS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Exams may consist of a combination of multiple choice questions, true/false, glossary terms/concepts to define, and/or short answer questions -- based on all lecture and text materials.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ☛ **Missed Exams (3 @ 20% = 60% of your course grade) unfortunately will not be accommodated - *unless* the situation is an unexpected personal or family emergency. No make-up exams unless it's an emergency.**
- ⇒ **What the course assignment(s) entails (40% of your course grade) will be discussed in detail as classes get underway and as the course progresses. *You will be provided with instructions and relevant information with plenty of lead time.***
- ♥ **For the course assignment(s), students will work in teams of 2, and both students will share the mark for their work.**

The **PROPOSAL** and **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY** should be a clear statement (2 pages) of a topic of your own choice [*suggested topics will be discussed in class*] and its related issue(s), drawing from your text. The bibliography will consist of up to 15 *current* books and/or articles that you intend to use to research your chosen topic. Many references can be obtained by searching the Web (with the usual *caveats*) and/or using full-text library subscription services.

You may follow *any* standard style format for essays, papers and articles -- in regards to layout, punctuation, referencing and source citations, footnotes, use of headings, etc.

The **PRESENTATION** and **CLASS HANDOUT** involves a 20-30 minute formal class presentation based on your chosen issue or topic. You will also be required to prepare a 1-2 page sheet summarizing your presented topic, to be distributed to your classmates. The sheet should include relevant facts, statistics (if applicable), and several 'recommended' readings.

Please note that plagiarism detection software may be used in this course, and students may be required, individually or collectively, to submit key assignments/components in electronic form.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all your work is at a level appropriate to your year in college/university studies. Always spell- and grammar-check your work; always keep a hard copy or disk copy of your work as back-up. There is writing help on campus, and if in doubt you are always welcome to ask me, your instructor, for clarification. Poor

spelling, grammar and organization always interferes with the clear communication of ideas and you *will* lose marks if your over-all communication is ineffective.

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged; the same applies to your participation in class discussions. ***Be an active participant in your education!***

Late assignments (or any assignment/course components) will result in an automatic loss of 5 marks (of the value of the work) PER DAY, up to and including the day of a late submission, unless immediate or prior arrangements, based on exceptional circumstances, have been made. Documented personal or family emergencies, of course, will be accommodated.

WEEKLY TEXT/LECTURE SCHEDULE

We will refer to the table of contents of the Text for the chapter title and chapter content for the topic(s) for each week in the semester. Lectures may not strictly follow the book sequence, but you will still be responsible for the contents of the chapters for each particular week: specific chapter(s) will be announced each week. Also, the chapters and weeks will overlap, giving you the chance to get ‘caught up’ or to read ahead, as the case may be.

Important dates:

Classes begin January 4, 2006

Reading Break February 20 – 24, 2006

Classes end April 13, 2006

April 14, 2006 (Good Friday)

April 15+ (Final exams)

Six Ways To Make This Course More Valuable:

- 1. Participate, to engage your learning**
- 2. Question, to enhance your learning**
- 3. Read, to expand your learning**
- 4. Reflect, to measure your learning**
- 5. Apply, to transfer your learning**
- 6. Innovate, to adapt your learning**