

Sociology 3630 (A2)
THE SOCIOLOGY OF WORK AND INDUSTRY

Fall Semester, 2009
Grande Prairie Regional College
Monday, 13:00-14:20 hrs; Friday, 11:30-12:50 hrs.

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This course examines the significant influence work has on our personal lives and our society. Work shapes our standard of living, our identity, health, happiness, relationships, and the way we spend our time. This course explores debates and contemporary research in the sociology of work and industry, work and work organizations, and such topics as organizational design and development, labour relations, industrial psychology, and labour market economics. Beyond the worksite, the course explores the varieties of human experiences in the world of work (for example, the connections between a person's paid work and his/her family responsibilities, and the society-wide value systems that influence employers and employees), as well as the meaning and future of work/industry in a global economy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Mid-Term Exam (25 pts).....	October 19
`Exit` Exam (25 pts).....	TBA
Term Work (130 pts):	
Daily media presentation (30 pts).....	starts Sept. 14
Daily text chapter presentation and discussion (40 pts)...	starts Sept. 14
Project* proposal & annotated bibliography (30 pts).....	October 2
[* the project involves workplace 'field research']	
Presentation of project & class handout (30 pts).....	starts Nov. 16

[**Total points are 180**; your total points will be converted to a percent (%) grade to determine your letter grade, for example, 130/180 = 72% = B-]

REQUIRED TEXTS

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

Tracey Adams and Sandy Welsh, 2008, The Organization and Experience of Work.
Thomson Nelson: Toronto.

RELATED BOOKS OF INTEREST

Harvey Krahn, Graham Lowe, and Karen Hughes, 2007 (5th ed.), Work, Industry and Canadian Society. ITP Nelson: Scarborough.

Jeremy Rifkin, 2004, The End of Work. Tarcher/Penguin: New York.

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 EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

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

PLEASE NOTE:

☛ A missed exam 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 (xxx points 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 *proposed field research on a workplace* (e.g. business office, oil patch, retail, warehouse, industrial, IT firm, etc) and *your choice of issue/topic* you wish to examine in the context of that particular workplace. The bibliography will consist of up to 15 [minimum of 10] *current* books and/or peer-reviewed journal 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 40-50 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 applicable 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

Please Note: Lectures will not always follow the book sequence but you will still be responsible for the contents of the chapters for each particular week – especially in light of the daily chapter presentation and discussion! The chapters and weeks will overlap, giving you the chance to get 'caught up' or to read ahead, as the case may be. Also please note that lecture content will necessarily include material that does not appear in the texts – so this is a 'heads up' on why it's important to attend class on a regular basis!

Sept. 4 -- Introduction to the course and discussion of the requirements; *begin reading* Adams and Welsh, Chapter 1: what is work; the sociology of work; work under industrial capitalism.

Sept. (7), 11-- Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 2 – organizations and organizational forms

Sept. 14, 18 -- Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 3 – skills, work, and trends in the labor market **Media article presentations begin Sept. 14; Text chapter section presentations begin Sept. 14**

Sept. 21, 25 – Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 4 – job satisfaction; work and workplace health

Sept. 28, Oct. 2 – Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 5 – unions and organized labor
Project proposals and annotated biblios due October 2

Oct. 5, 9 – Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 6 – division of labor; occupational segregation; Chapter 7 – discrimination and harassment; Chapter 8 – younger and older workers; issues of age, transitions from school to work to retirement

Oct. (12), 16 – Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapters 6, 7, and 8 continued...

Oct. 19, 23 -- Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 9 – work/family conflict; family friendly workplace policies **Mid-Term Test October 19**

Oct. 26, 30 -- Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 10 – the labor market and employment trends; role of technology

Nov. 2, 6 -- Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 11 – ‘blue collar work’; the crafts, trades, manufacturing

Nov. 9, 13 -- Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 12 – ‘white collar work’; managerial and administrative work; Chapter 14 – ‘professional work’; what is a profession?

Nov. 16, 20 -- Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapters 12 and 14 continued...
Project presentations begin November 16

Nov. 23, 27 -- Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 13 – service work; Chapter 15 – ‘non-standard work’;

Nov. 30, Dec. 4 – Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 16 – unpaid domestic work and volunteer work; Chapter 17 – ‘criminal’ or illegal work

Dec. 7 – Cont'd; Adams and Welsh, Chapter 18 – employment and unemployment; job searching; the future of work...

[classes end December 7, 2009)

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage Range	Description
A+	4.0	95 - 100	<i>Outstanding</i>
A	4.0	85 - 94	<i>Excellent</i>
A-	3.7	80- 84	
B+	3.3	76 - 79	
B	3.0	73 - 75	<i>Good</i>
B-	2.7	70 - 72	
C+	2.3	67 - 69	
C	2.0	64 - 66	<i>Satisfactory</i>
C-	1.7	60 - 63	
D+	1.3	55 - 59	
D	1.0	50 - 54	<i>Minimal Pass</i>
F	0.0	0 - 49	<i>Fail</i>

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**