

**University of British Columbia - SOCI 100C-007 - Introduction to  
Sociology [6 credits]  
Winter Session 2013/14 Terms 1 and 2  
Course Outline**

<https://sites.google.com/site/soci100introductiontosociology/>

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**Instructor**

Dr. Evan Keith Preston [kpreston@mail.ubc.ca]

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**Classes**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:00-3:00. West Mall Swing Space Room 222.

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**Office Time**

By appointment

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**Overview and Learning Outcomes**

This course is an introduction to the main concepts, theories and methods used by sociologists to study society, examine the nature of social life, and to understand social differences, inequalities, institutions and change in society. By acquainting ourselves with sociology we will be better able to understand our own actions and the actions of others and so identify and perhaps change those social conditions which constrain human potential and help build conditions which allow it to develop.

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**Learning Objectives**

After completing this course the student will be able to: explain the sociological perspective; explain the major theoretical perspectives within sociology; analyze the nature of social life using basic sociological concepts; analyze social differences and inequalities using basic sociological concepts; analyze a number of the institutions of Canadian society using the major theoretical perspectives within sociology.

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**Organization**

The course will be organized as a mix of individual directed study, lectures, and in-class individual and team activities. Through individual directed study students will read required and recommended course material. Lectures will provide disciplinary and social context for this reading material and introduce concepts which may not be included in the required reading. Ongoing in-class individual and team activities such as quizzes, discussions, informal presentations, video viewing, problem solving... will reinforce and assess understanding of both reading and lecture material.

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## **Required and Recommended Reading**

The required reading for the course is from: Tepperman, Lorne. 2011. *Starting Points: A Sociological Journey*. Don Mills: Oxford. Throughout the course the instructor will recommend reading material available in the classroom or the library.

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## **Grading**

The grade for the course will be determined by performance on **4 in-class tests and 2 exams**. The tests are each worth 15% of the course grade. The exams are each worth 20% of the course grade. Each test will require responses to 4 out of 8 short-answer questions. Each exam will require a response to 1 out of 4 essay questions. **Test 1** - This will be held in the last class of week 4 of Term 1. It will consist of questions based on reading and class [lecture, video, class discussion...] material from weeks 1-4 of Term 1. **Test 2** - This will be held in the last class of week 8 of Term 1. It will consist of questions based on reading and class [lecture, video, class discussion...] material from weeks 5-8 of Term 1. **Exam 1** - This will be held in the formal exam period of Term 1. It will consist of questions based on reading and class [lecture, video, class discussion...] material from weeks 9-13 of Term 1. **Test 3** - This will be held in week 4 of Term 2. It will consist of questions based on reading and class [lecture, video, class discussion...] material from weeks 1-4 of Term 2. **Test 4** - This will be held in week 8 of Term 2. It will consist of questions based on reading and class [lecture, video, class discussion...] material from weeks 5-8 of Term 2. **Exam 2** - This will be held in the formal exam period of Term 2. It will consist of questions based on reading and class [lecture, video, class discussion...] material from weeks 9-13 of Term 2.

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## **Marking Criteria for Responses to Short-answer Questions**

Appearance - name and student number; legibility; organization; consistent formatting; double-spacing; numbered pages; word count; clean paper. Breadth - inclusion of key points. Clarity - correct disciplinary terminology used; meaning of sentences clear; correct grammar, spelling and punctuation; logical arrangement of points.

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## **Marking Criteria for Responses to Essay Questions**

Appearance - name and student number; legibility; organization; consistent formatting; double-spacing; numbered pages; word count; clean paper. Breadth - inclusion of introductory, key, context [social and/or academic], example, critical and concluding points. Clarity - correct

disciplinary terminology used; meaning of sentences clear; correct grammar, spelling and punctuation; logical arrangement of points.

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### **Grades**

An 'A' grade [80%-84% = A-, 85%-89% = A, 90%-100%] will be awarded for exceptional performance.

A 'B' grade [68%-71% = B-, 72%-75% = B, 76%-79% = B+] will be awarded for competent performance.

A 'C' grade [55%-59% = C-, 60%-63% = C, 64%-67% = C+] will be awarded for adequate performance.

A 'D' grade [50%-54%] will be awarded for just-adequate performance.

An 'F' grade [0%-49%] will be awarded for an inadequate performance.

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**Academic Integrity** - please be familiar with University policies on this.

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### **Course Topics - Term 1**

**Introducing Sociology.** Introduction. Functional Theory. Critical Theory. Symbolic Interactionism. Feminist Theories. Postmodern Theories. *Emile Durkheim* and *Suicide*. Modern Functionalism. Functions of Deviance and Conformity. The Functional of Conflict. Critical Theory. Conflicts over Power and Authority. John Porter and *The Vertical Mosaic*. Modern Critical Theories. Goffman and *Stigma*. Key Ideas of Symbolic Interactionism. Social Constructionism. Anthony Giddens. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 1 and lecture notes]

**Material Settings.** Introduction. Functionalism and Population. Critical Theory's Approach to Malthus. Functionalism and Urban Life. Critical Theory. Symbolic Interactionism. Functionalism and the Environment. Critical Theory. Symbolic Interactionism. Feminist Theory. Meadows et al. *The Limits to Growth*. Why Demography? Population Trends and Society. World Population. Ulrich Beck and *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*. The Natural Environment. Human Geography. Buildings and Cityscapes. Urbanization. Built Environments. Manuel Castells. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 2 and lecture notes]

**Social Structures.** Introduction. Howard Becker and *Outsiders*. Identity, Roles and Role Sets. Role Conflict and Role Strains. Georg Simmel and *The Sociology of Secrecy and of Secret Societies*. Dyads, Triads, and Small Groups. Teams, Bands and Gangs. Cliques, Networks, and Small Worlds. Michel Foucault. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 3 and lecture notes]

**Culture.** Introduction. Functionalism and Culture. Critical Theory. Symbolic Interactionism. Cultural Studies Perspective. Production of Culture

Perspective. Language. Max Weber and *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. The Importance of Values: The Case of Religion. Cultural Integration, Ethnocentrism, and the Mass Media. Thorstein Veblen and *Theory of the Leisure Class*. Pierre Bourdieu. Cultural Variation. Cultural Change. Canadian Culture. A Global Culture? Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 4 and lecture notes]

**Gender Relations.** Introduction. Functionalism and Gender. Critical Theories. Symbolic Interactionism. Social Constructionist Approaches. Types of Feminist Sociology. Ann Oakley and *The Sociology of Housework*. Gendered Socialization. Mass Media. The Beauty Standard. Conflict between the Sexes. The Gendering of Crime. Rosabeth Kanter and *Men and Women of the Corporation*. Gender Influences in the Workplace. The Earnings Gap. Gender and Immigration. Pat and Hugh Armstrong and *The Double Ghetto*. At Home: Women's Second Shift. Gender Influences on Health. Gender and Abuse. Dorothy Smith. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 5 and lecture notes]

**Sexuality.** Introduction. Functionalism and Sexuality. Critical Theory. Symbolic Interactionism. Feminism. Postmodernism. Lauman et al. *The Social Organization of Sexuality*. The Sexual Double Standard. Marital Infidelity. Kingsley Davis and *The Sociology of Prostitution*. Pornography. Stephen Murray and *American Gay*. Homosexuality and Heteronormativity. Homophobia. Paraphilia. Judith Butler. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 6 and lecture notes]

**Racial and Ethnic Groups.** Introduction. Functionalism and Racial and Ethnic Groups. Critical Theory. Symbolic Interactionism. Structural Theory. Emory Bogardus and *Social Distance*. The History of Racial and Ethnic Relations. The History of Immigration Policy. Immigration in the Twenty-first Century. Thomas and Znaniecki and *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America*. Inter-ethnic Interaction. Multiculturalism. Multiculturalism and Aboriginal Peoples. Multiculturalism and French Canadians. Myrdal and *An American Dilemma*. Racialization. Prejudice and Discrimination. Abuse and Violence. Edward Said. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 7 and lecture notes]

**Age Groups.** Introduction. Functionalism and Age Groups. Critical Theory. Symbolic Interactionism. Feminist Theories. Aries and *Centuries of Childhood*. Youth. Age Group Relations. Changing Age Relations. Elder and *Children of the Great Depression*. Relations Between Young and Old. Age in School and the Workplace. Hagan and McCarthy and *Mean Streets: Youth Crime and Homelessness*. Age and Crime. Age and Mental Health. Age and Physical Health. Abuse and Violence. Karl Mannheim. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 8 and lecture

notes]

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## **Course Topics - Term 2**

**Classes and Workplaces.** Introduction. Functionalism and Class and Work. Critical Theory. Feminist Theories. Symbolic Interactionism. Social Constructionism. Braverman and *Labor and Monopoly Capital*. Labour and Classes. The Organization of Work Today. Durkheim and *The Division of Labour in Society*. Alienation and Collective Action. Unions. The Culture of Poverty. Sutherland and *White-Collar Crime*. Modern Forms of Capitalism. The Relationship Between Class and Health. Social Class and Crime. Gerhard Lenski. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 9 and lecture notes]

**Regions, Nations, and Empires.** Introduction. Ways of Looking at Regions, Nations, and Empires. Wallerstein and *The Modern World System*. Networks of Dependency. Differentiating Between Nations, Regions, and Empires. A Global Economy. Blurring Social Distance Through Technology. Marx and Engels and *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Conflict in Society. International Politics and Discrimination. International Violence and War. Terrorism. Immanuel Wallerstein. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 10 and lecture notes]

**Families and Socialization.** Introduction. Functionalism and Family Life. Critical Theories. Symbolic Interactionism. Goode and *World Revolution and Family Patterns*. The Idea of 'Family'. Socialization. Adorno and *The Authoritarian Personality*. Gender Socialization. Racial and Ethnic Socialization. Class Socialization. Arlie Hochschild. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 11 and lecture notes]

**Schools and Formal Education.** Introduction. Ways of looking at Education. Jencks and Riesman and *The Academic Revolution*. Educational Inequalities. Coleman and *The Adolescent Society*. Ability Grouping or Streaming. Segregation or Distance in Schools. Seeley and *Crestwood Heights*. Abuse or Violence in Schools. The Integrating Power of Schools. James Coleman. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 12 and lecture notes]

**Churches and Religion.** Introduction. Ways of Looking at Religion. Durkheim and *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Definitional Problems. Religion in Canada Today. Religion versus Science. Freud and *Civilization and Its Discontents*. The Idea of Secularization. Civil Religion. New Religious Movements. Religion in Schools? Robert Bellah. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 13 and lecture notes]

**Media and Mass Communication.** Introduction. Ways of Looking at Mass

Media. Gans and *Deciding What's News*. Media Ownership. Canadian Content. Media and Politics. Global Media. Walters and *Material Girls: Making Sense of Feminist Cultural Theory*. The Cultural Studies Perspective. Media Representation of Disadvantaged Groups. Media Portrayal of Women and Gender. Homogenization and Niche Marketing. Media, Conflict, and Crime. Media and the Construction of Social Problems. Jean Baudrillard. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 14 and lecture notes]

**Politics and Ideologies.** Introduction. Ways of Looking at Politics. Lipset and *The First New Nation*. Political Science and Political Sociology. Political Authority. The State. Gender and the State. Politics in Canada. Foucault and *Discipline and Punish*. *The Political Role of Ideology: The Birth of the Prison*. The Political Role of Ideology. Ideologies and Publics. Ideologies and Action. Jurgen Habermas. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 15 and lecture notes]

**Social Movements and Voluntary Associations.** Introduction. Interdependence: The Real State of Nature. Shibutani and *Improvised News: A Sociological Study of Rumour*. Voluntary Associations and Sociability. The Benefits of Voluntary Associations. People Control One Another Informally. Elias and *The Civilizing Process*. Ways of Looking at Social Movements and Voluntary Associations. Gusfield and *Symbolic Crusade*. Changing Causes of Social Movement Formation. Social Movements in a Globalized World. Charles Tilly. Contemporary Sociology. [Reading: course text chapter 16 and lecture notes]

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