



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Introduction to Sociology SOCI 100 A (001)

Winter 2013 Term I, Tues. & Thurs. 9:30am – 11:00am

Room: Chemistry D300

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Office Hours: T/TH 2:00 – 3:00 and by appointment **Office:** ANSO 000

Teaching Assistants:

Course Description

Sociology is the systematic study of human society and social interaction. The discipline of Sociology enables us to look beyond our limited view of the world to society as a whole, where we can examine the values, beliefs, ideas and institutions that comprise it, and the forces that change it.

In this class, we will explore some of the topics that make Sociology an exciting and fascinating field of study. We will examine various aspects of the social structure and the basic processes of social interaction which contribute towards shaping societal behavior in a Canadian context. A particular focus will be placed on examining life in capitalist society; including globalization and neoliberalism; structured inequality, particularly race, class, gender, and sexuality; and struggles against injustice in the form of social movements. A variety of perspectives will be presented with which to explore these issues, but specific emphasis will be placed on 'change' and 'critical' perspectives or theories. We will apply these perspectives to "every-day" phenomena within our lives to develop a 'sociological lens' with which to view the world.

In addition to the required text, we will be analyzing readings from various prominent scholars that leaves their own writing intact. Students will be required to keep up with the readings, attend all lectures, participate in classroom activities, and actively participate in all discussion seminars.

Course Objectives

- Describe and understand the major methods, perspectives, and theories in sociology.
- Analyze social phenomena by applying a sociological perspective to real world and hypothetical situations.
- Understand the dynamics of ethnicity, race, class, gender and sexuality in a Canadian context.
- Develop awareness of the interrelationship between the individual and socio-historical forces.
- Develop verbal and written skills to constructively challenge your own and other's ideas leading towards a deeper understanding of ourselves and our world.

Required Readings

Text: *How Societies Work: Class, Power, and Change*, Joanne Naiman (Fifth Edition).
Fernwood Publishing.

Articles: Additional readings will be available from the UBC on-line LMS, *Connect*

Course Information

Classroom Participation & Policies

The goal of this course is to foster your own learning of the material. Periodic in-class discussions and small group work are necessary for this to occur. Thus, your attendance is required. Every effort should be made to arrive to class on time. Please turn off your cell phone and any other audio equipment before class begins. **The use of laptops/I-Pads, etc. are not allowed during classes or seminars.** If, for whatever reason, you need to use a laptop during class then you must ask me in writing for permission.

Exam Policy

Rescheduling of an exam or midterm will be allowed only in the instances of **documented** medical problems or other officially **documented** emergencies (travel plans do not constitute a valid reason for rescheduling an exam and will not be considered). Makeup exams may have a different format than the original exam. Please note that late essays will NOT be accepted.

Academic Integrity

Please make sure that you acknowledge and cite the oral and written work of others in all assignments. Citation guidelines will be discussed in class. Not citing sources is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are taken very seriously at UBC, whether committed by faculty, staff or students. You should be aware of the sections of the University Calendar that address academic misconduct: www.students.ubc.ca/calendar. The UBC library also has a webpage on plagiarism and how to avoid it: www.library.ubc.ca/home/plagiarism/. Please note, that at the discretion of the instructor and in accordance with the UBC calendar, you may be asked to submit your research paper electronically so that it can be examined via TurnItIn.com (an electronic service that can monitor plagiarism.) Please check <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/arts-students/plagiarism-avoided.html> for writing of papers in the Faculty of Arts.

Citations

For all written assignments we will be using American Psychological Association citation style. You are only responsible for citing the source in the text (state the author(s) and year of publication) and including a reference list at the end of your paper. Please refer to this site from the UBC library web site for more information: <http://help.library.ubc.ca/evaluating-and-citing-sources/how-to-cite/>

Accommodations for Students with (Dis)abilities

I will attempt to accommodate your needs in the classroom as much as is reasonably possible. If you have a letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) indicating that you require specific accommodations, please present the letter to me before the second class so that we can make any necessary arrangements. To request academic accommodations due to disability, first meet with a DRC advisor to determine what accommodations you are eligible for. You can find more information at: <http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/drc.cfm>

Please consult with me or the TAs if there are aspects of this course, these policies, or related matters that you do not understand or find confusing, or if you need academic support. You can contact us by

e-mail or come to our office hours to raise your concerns.

Course Requirements and Assessment Criteria

1. Midterm and Final Exam

There is 1 midterm and 1 final exam in this course. The midterm exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. The multiple choice questions are designed to test basic knowledge of key concepts, theories, and research whereas the short answer questions are designed to test your application and use of concepts and theories.

Midterm: Tues, Oct. 22

Weight: 15%

2. The final exam will be cumulative and will contain additional essay questions. They are an opportunity for you to demonstrate how you have integrated and made sense of what you've learned in class by testing your ability to formulate an argument and provide support for that argument by drawing upon what you've read and learned in class.

Final Exam: TBA

Weight: 25%

3. Discussion Seminar Participation

Discussion seminars are designed to allow students the opportunity to have more in-depth and engaging discussion about the required readings and lecture material. Seminars require your *active* participation in order to create a supportive learning environment. Students are expected to come to seminars prepared with required readings, lecture material notes, etc. in hand.

Due: Ongoing

Weight: 15%

4. Analytical Essay: Applying the Sociological Imagination to Your Own Life

In *The Sociological Imagination* (1959), C. Wright Mills suggests that there is an important distinction between personal troubles and public issues. The purpose of this essay is to use Mills' conception of the sociological imagination to analyze your own life. In 4-5 pages double spaced (not including the reference page) please address the following: First, introduce your topic and major point(s) in a paragraph or two. Second, explain what Mills means by the "sociological imagination" and explain his distinction between "personal troubles" and "public issues". This should be done in a page or two. Third, use your sociological imagination to reflect on your own biography. Taking something from your own experience, demonstrate how it could be understood as a product of social or historical forces.

Due Date: Thurs. Sept. 26

Weight: 20%

Guidelines for Written Assignments

Essays should be typed, double spaced, font size no larger than 12, 1 inch margins. On the first page of your paper, type a heading (single spaced) in the upper left hand corner that includes the following:

Your First and Last Name

Student #

Your discussion group instructor's name

(*The Date*)

Put a title at the top of the page. The title should be the same font size as the text, centered, NOT in bold but underlined. Please **do not** include folders or a cover sheet.

Submission:

The analytical essay must be submitted as a hard copy **in class** and is due at the beginning of class on the due date. Any of the following—leaving your paper under my office door, giving it to your discussion seminar instructor, leaving it in my mailbox—constitutes a missed assignment.

Again, late essays will NOT be accepted.

5. Final Group Research Project

The objective of this assignment is to analyze social phenomena by applying a sociological perspective to real world situations. In groups of 4-5 (groups will be arranged in the discussion group) you are to investigate a social problem of your choosing from a sociological perspective. From a sociological perspective, why is this issue a “social problem?” Second, how might you go about addressing the social problem given what you now know about social processes? Library research will be necessary (a minimum of 4 academic references). Your group will prepare a presentation in response to these questions that will be presented in your discussion group during the last two weeks of the term. More detailed instructions and assessment guidelines will be distributed in class.

Due Date: Week of Nov. 19 or Nov. 26 in your discussion seminar

Weight: 25%

Assessment Breakdown

	Due Date	Percent of Final Grade
Analytical Essay (4-5 pages)	9/26	20%
Midterm Exam	10/22	15%
Group Research Project	11/19 or 11/26	25%
Final Exam	TBA	25%
Seminar Participation	ongoing	15%

Note: This syllabus is a guide, not a document written in stone. Changes may be made if necessary to aid our learning. You will be notified of any changes.

Schedule of Topics and Required Readings

An * refers to readings from the Naiman text. The other readings are available from *Connect*

Week 1	9/3 – 9/5	What is Sociology?
The <i>Sociological Imagination</i> , C. Wright Mills		
Week 2	9/10 – 9/12	The Sociological Perspective / Theory
⊕ Chapter 1: Sociology and the Study of Society		
Week 3	9/17 – 9/19	Understanding Culture
⊕ Chapter 3: Culture, Society, and History		
Week 4	9/24 – 9/26	Capitalist Society
⊕ Chapter 4: The Basis of Modern Society → Analytical Essay Due 9/26		
Week 5	10/1 – 10/3	Understanding Social Class
⊕ Chapter 5		
Week 6	10/8 – 10/10	Ethnicity and Racialization
⊕ Chapter 11		
Week 7	10/15 – 10/17	Doing Gender
⊕ Chapter 12		
Week 8	10/22 – 10/24	Economic Inequality
Chapter 10 → Midterm Exam 10/22		
Week 9	10/29 – 10/31	Knowledge and Power
⊕ Chapter 7		
Week 10	11/5 – 11/7	The State
⊕ Chapter 8		
Week 11	11/12 – 11/14	Post-industrial Capitalism
⊕ Chapter 6		
Week 12	11/19 – 11/21	Globalization
⊕ Chapter 9: Neoliberalism and Globalization		
Week 13	11/26 – 11/28	Making Change
⊕ Chapter 13		