



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Introduction to Sociology SOCI 100 B (001)

Winter 2013 Term I, Tues. & Thurs. 12:30pm – 2:00pm

Room: West Mall Swing 221

Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Skourtes

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

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 human behavior. We will focus on the Canadian context with cross-cultural comparisons. A particular focus will be placed on examining how these processes contribute to structural inequality and identity formation by examining in-depth some of the primary social institutions. The class will provide an introduction to the various sociological perspectives and theories about societal behavior. Particular emphasis will be placed on applying these perspectives to “every-day” phenomena within our lives to develop a ‘sociological lens’ with which to view the world.

Rather than a straightforward lecture class with a single text book (filtered through a single author), we will be analyzing readings from various prominent scholars that leaves their own writing intact. This will allow us to examine a variety of viewpoints, including our own. 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

1. Describe and understand the major methods, perspectives, and theories in sociology.
2. Analyze social phenomena by applying a sociological perspective to real world and hypothetical situations.
3. Understand the dynamics of ethnicity, race, class, gender and sexuality in a Canadian context.
4. Understand that science and knowledge production are social processes embedded within culturally and historically specific institutions.
5. 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: *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, John Macionis, Nijole Benokrat, Peter Urmetzer. (Fourth Canadian Edition). Pearson.

Articles: Additional readings will be available from the UBC on-line LMS, *Connect*
<http://elearning.ubc.ca/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 research papers 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 purpose of this assignment is to develop an understanding of sociological research as a form of knowledge production by giving you the opportunity to produce original, sociological research. Working in groups of 4-5 you will conduct your own research project centered around a social institution of your choice. Your group will collect data using participant observation research methods at a public venue that is representative of the institution you chose (i.e. a church, shopping mall, sporting event, dance performance, fast food restaurant, hospital). Your group will then analyze the data and develop a final written analysis that will be presented to your discussion seminar during the last two weeks of the term. Work on this project will primarily take place during your discussion seminar, where you will participate in preliminary assignments that will equip you with the skills and knowledge you need before you “go into the field.” Further details and assessment criteria will be provided in class.

Due Date: Final presentation: 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

A * refers to readings from the Macionis, Benokraitis, and Urmetzger reader. The other readings are available on *Connect*

Week 1 **9/3 – 9/5** **What is Sociology?**

The Sociological Imagination, C. Wright Mills

- *The Promise of a Sociology Degree in Canadian Higher Education*, Antony Puddephatt and Randle W. Nelsen

Week 2 **9/10 – 9/12** **The Sociological Perspective**

- *Manifesto of the Communist Party* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
- *The Case for Value-Free Sociology* by Max Weber
- *The Presentation of Self* by Erving Goffman

Week 3 **9/17 – 9/19** **Understanding Culture**

- *India's Sacred Cow* by Marvin Harris
- *Sk8er Girls: Skateboards, Girlhood, and Feminism in Motion* by Shauna Pomerantz, Dawn Currie, and Deidre M. Kelly

Week 4 **9/24 – 9/26** **Doing Sociological Research**

- *Defining Features of Canadian Sociology* by Bruce Ravelli
 - *Arab Women in the Field* by Soraya Altorki
- **Analytical Essay Due 9/26**

Week 5 **10/1 – 10/3** **Social Structure & Socialization**

- *Parents' Socialization of Children in Global Perspective* by D. Terri Heath

Week 6 **10/8 – 10/10** **Stratification / Racialization**

- *The Vertical Mosaic: An Analysis of Social Class and Power in Canada* by John Porter

Week 7 **10/15 – 10/17** **Gender and Sexuality**

- *I'll Scratch Your Back If You'll Scratch Mine: The Role of Reciprocity, Power and Autonomy in the Strip Club* by Jacqueline Lewis
- *Understanding Sexual Orientation* by Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, and Clyde E. Martin

Week 8 **10/22 – 10/24** **Media and Globalization**

- *The Price of Modernization: The Case of Brazil's Kaiapo Indians* by Marlise Simons
- **Midterm Exam 10/22**

Week 9 **10/29 – 10/31** **Education**

- *Stubborn Disparities: Explaining Class Inequalities in Schooling* by Scott Davies
- *Why is Our Educational System Still Guilty of Whiteness?* by Patrina Duhaney

Week 10 **11/5 – 11/7** **The Family**

- *Canadian Families Today: 'Bringing Up' and 'Growing Up': Parents, Children, and Family Life* by Gillian Ranson
- *Domestic Violence: A Cross-Cultural View* by Elaine Leeder

Week 11 **11/12 – 11/14** **Work / Economy**

- *Experiences of Social Class: Learning from Occupational Therapy Students* by Brenda Beagan
- *Introduction to The Canadian Fact Book on Poverty* by David P. Ross, Katherine J. Scott, and Peter J. Smith

Week 12 **11/19 – 11/21** **Cities & Urbanization**

- *The Metropolis and Mental Life* by Georg Simmel
- *No Place for Home* by Sean Condon

Week 13 **11/26 – 11/28** **Social Change**

- *The Disenchantment of Modern Life* by Max Weber
- *Facebook: Friend or Foe* by Daniel Trottier
- *On the Origins of Social Movements* by Jo Freeman