

Sociology 100C-003 (6 credits)

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Winter 2014 – Terms 1 & 2 (September 2014 – April 2015)

Instructor: Dr. Debra Pentecost

Office: ANSO 156

Office hours: Monday, 1:30-3:00 or by appointment

Office telephone: (604) 822-5625 (no voicemail, so please email if phone not answered)

Email: Debra.Pentecost@ubc.ca

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 11:00-12:00

Locations:

Monday: AERL Room 120 (Aquatic Ecosystems Research Lab), 2202 Main Mall

Wednesday: SWNG Room 221 (West Mall Swing Space) 2175 West Mall

Discussion Groups: Fridays (see your own schedule for times & locations)

Course Description

This basic survey course is intended to provide students with an introduction to social issues, controversies, and conflicts that are at the heart of the sociological tradition. We will examine the major theoretical perspectives (both classical and contemporary), key concepts (culture, society, socialization, social interaction, social groups, bureaucracy, deviance), as well as the principal methods of sociological analysis. Equipped with these basic theoretical, conceptual, and methodological tools we will scrutinize how the lives of Canadians are shaped and life chances are determined by:

- A) The various dimensions of social inequality (class, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, (dis)ability, etc.).
- B) The major institutions in Canadian society (media, family, education, politics and government, economy and work).
- C) Social change and conflict arising from crime and deviance, globalization, the new electronic age, and social movements.

Further Information

You may discover that the findings of sociological studies sometimes contradict your “common sense” explanations of social phenomena and challenge your perceptions of society. Some students may find this challenge disturbing and frustrating, while others will find it refreshing and exciting.

Required Readings:

- 1) **Textbook:** Macionis, John J., S. Mikael Jansson, and Cecilia M. Benoit. 2013. *Society: The Basics*. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall. 5th Canadian Edition.
(includes MySocLab, online component of textbook - Course ID for MySocLab: pentecost93642)
- 2) **MySocLibrary:** In MySoclab, under “Student Resources” go to “MySearchLab.” Choose MySocLibrary. Articles are listed alphabetically.
- 3) **Courseware Reading Package:** Available for purchase from “Copiesmart.”
Location: 103-5728 University Boulevard. Telephone: 604-222-3189.

Course Requirements

Midterm (Weeks 1-5 covered)	Wed. Oct. 8 th , 2014	10%
Newspaper Clipping File (Weeks 7-13)	Fri. Nov. 28, 2014	15%
December Exam (Weeks 7-13 covered)	In Final Exam Period	20%
Discussion Group Attendance/Participation	For first term	5%

Term 2:

Midterm (Weeks 1-5 covered)	Wed. Feb. 11 th , 2015	10%
Paper (Media Framing Assignment) (8 pgs)	Fri. April 10 th , 2015	15%
Discussion Group Attendance/Participation	For second term	5%
Final Exam	In Final Exam Period	20%

Discussion Groups

- Regular attendance and active participation in Friday discussion groups is an essential part of this course. Discussion groups are led by your tutorial assistant, and are in place to create a smaller setting for students to engage with course material.
- Attendance will be taken in discussion groups, and this mark will largely be based on your discussion group attendance record and participation in class activities.
- The discussion groups will be part tutorial, where the week's lectures and readings will be discussed and questions responded to by your teaching assistant.
- Time will be set aside in the discussion group where you will be encouraged to collectively think critically about the material you are exposed to in the weekly required readings, lectures and videos. Through these activities you will be given an opportunity to apply your sociological knowledge to your own lives and to the broader society in which you live.

Student Responsibilities

Keys to success in this course include regular class attendance and participation, and keeping up-to-date with assigned readings. You are especially encouraged to contribute to class discussions.

Late Assignments / Deferred Exam Policy

Assignments must be submitted in class at the **BEGINNING** of the scheduled class on the due date. A **3% penalty** will be applied if an assignment is submitted after the lecture, through to midnight of that first day.

THERE IS A 5% PENALTY PER DAY FOR LATE ASSIGNMENTS - unless there is a valid emergency or health reason for the delay. As detailed below, verification of this will be required.

Student paper drop-off box

If you are going to be absent on the date an assignment is due, you must have someone deliver your work to the Sociology Department at UBC prior to the beginning of class. The paper/assignment **must** be date-stamped and deposited in the **student paper drop-off box** located outside of the General Office in the ANSO building.

Please DO NOT slide papers or assignments under any of our office doors.

Missed exams

You are expected to attend all exams at the appropriate time and date unless there is a valid emergency or health reason for not doing so. You should always phone and leave a message if you are unable to attend an exam. If you are unable to get hold of Dr. Debra Pentecost in her office by phone: (604) 822-5625 then contact by email. You will be expected to provide written, formal proof of the problem you experienced (e.g.: doctor's note, service station bills, towage fees, obituaries etc.). In all cases, it is your responsibility to contact Dr. Pentecost PRIOR TO the scheduled exam and arrangements will be made for a make-up exam, unless an emergency precludes such contact.

If medical, emotional or personal problems affect your attendance or academic performance, please contact the faculty of **Arts Academic Advising** Office, Buchanan D111, 1866 Main Mall, phone (604) 822-4028.

Early Alert:

In addition to the services provided by Arts Academic Advising, the university has launched a website, "Early Alert," designed to aid students who are facing difficulties. During the term your tutorial assistants and myself will do our best to reach out and offer support if we are concerned about your academic performance or wellbeing. You are also encouraged to speak with any one of us should you need assistance.

Faculty may identify concerns that we have about students using "Early Alert." The program allows academic, financial, or mental health concerns to be identified sooner and responded to in a more coordinated way. This will provide students with the earliest possible connection to resources like academic advising, financial advising, counseling, or other resources and support to help you get back on track.

The information will be treated confidentially and would be sent because the tutorial assistants and myself care about student academic success and wellbeing. For more information, please visit earlyalert.ubc.ca.

Important dates

Last date for withdrawal without a "W" on your transcript: Sept. 19th, 2014.

Last date for withdrawal with a "W" on your transcript: Nov. 21st, 2014

Course Policies

- The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre.
- The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and exams.
- Please let Dr. Pentecost know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds.
- Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume that they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing. Students have the right to view their marked final exams with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The exam remains the property of the university and will not be returned to the student.

Tutoring

Students who have tutors should be aware that tutors should not do the student's work for them. Reviewing graded work with a tutor is encouraged.

Academic Integrity - Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of another author's research, ideas or language without proper attribution. There are many ways to do plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious form of academic misconduct. Please review the UBC Calendar "Academic regulations" for the university policy of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty.

For detailed information, visit the UBC Library Plagiarism Resource Centre or the Faculty of Arts Academic Integrity website. <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoiding-plagiarism>

Topics and Reading Requirements

Readings: **Macionis** = *Society: The Basics*
Course Reader = Reader available at "Copiesmart"
MySocLibrary = In MySoclab, under "Student Resources" go to "MySearchLab."
Click on MySocLibrary. Articles are listed alphabetically.

1) Sept. 3

Course Overview

- Why Study Sociology? The value of Sociology
- Critical Thinking

Readings:

Macionis: Ch. 1: pgs 2-8

Sept. 5

Discussion Groups Cancelled First Week

2) Sept. 8/10/12

Society through a Sociological Lens

- A Sociological Imagination
- Private troubles/Public issues
- Origins of Sociology

Readings:

Course Reader: "Why is There Misery in the World?"

MySocLibrary: "The Promise"

Macionis: Ch. 1: pgs 8-10.

3) Sept. 15/17/19

Theoretical Approaches

- Marx, Durkheim, Weber
- Sociological Paradigms/Different kinds of Sociology

Readings:

Macionis, Ch. 1: pgs 10-21 (begins at "Sociological Theory")

4) Sept. 22/24/26

Early Female Sociologists+ Modern & Postmodern Societies

Readings:

Macionis, Ch. 1: pgs 13-14

Course Reader: "Women and the Birth of Sociology"

Macionis, Ch. 16

5) Sept 29/Oct 1/3

Methods: The Sociological Investigation

- Methods & Techniques of Social Research
- Quantitative and Qualitative

Readings:

Macionis, Ch. 1: pgs 18-19, 21-34

6) Mon, Oct 6

Methods con't

Reading:

MySocLibrary: "Sense and Nonsense about Surveys"

Wed, Oct 8

**** Midterm Exam ****

Fri. Oct 10

Discussion Groups Cancelled

Section 2

7) Oct 13

Thanksgiving – Holiday – Class Cancelled

Oct 15/17

Culture

- What is Culture?

Macionis, Ch. 2

Course Reader: "India's Sacred Cow"

8) Oct 20/22/24

Socialization I

- Theoretical Perspectives on Socialization
- Agents of Socialization

Readings: Macionis, Ch. 3

9) Oct 27/29/31

Socialization II – Total Institutions

- Total Institutions
- Film: *Anybody's Son Will Do*

Readings:

Macionis, "Resocialization" pgs 81-82

Course Reader: Erving Goffman, Excerpt from "Asylums" (pgs 3-35)

Course Reader: "Anybody's Son Will Do"

10) Nov 3/5/7

Social Interaction in Everyday Life

Readings:

Macionis, Ch. 4

MySocLibrary: "Suspended Identity: Identity Transformation in a Maximum Security Prison"

11) Nov 10/12/14

The Mass Media I

- Critical Perspectives on the Mass Media
- Political Economy

Readings:

Course Reader: "Media" Nick Dyer-Witheford
(chapter divided over two weeks)

Course Reader: "Interview with Noam Chomsky"

12) Nov 17/19/21

The Mass Media II

- Media Effects and Media Audiences

Readings:

Course Reader: "Media" Nick Dyer-Witheford (con't)

13) Nov 24/26/28

Gender

- Essentialism vs. Social Construction
- Learning our sexual identity
- Mass Media as an Agent of Socialization

Readings:

Macionis, Ch. 10: pgs 252-260

Course Reader: "The Body Beautiful: Adolescent Girls and Images of Beauty"

The December Exam will be in the Exam Period (Dec. 2nd – Dec. 17th) and will cover the period from Week 7 to Week 13.

Term Two - Lecture Topics and Required Readings

- 1) Jan 5/7/9 **Approaches to Studying Social Problems**
 ○ Critical Constructionism
 ○ Ideology and Hegemony
Readings:
Course Reader: “An Introduction to the Sociology of Social Problems”
- 2) Jan 12/14/16 **Deviance**
 ○ Social Construction of Deviance
 ○ Street Crime, Corporate Crime
Readings:
Macionis, Ch. 7
Course Reader: “Masked Racism: Reflections on the Prison Industrial Complex”
MySocLibrary: “Beyond Crime and Punishment: Prisons and Inequality”
- 3) Jan 19/21/23 **Social Stratification – Inequality in Canada**
 ○ Explanations of Social Stratification
 ○ The Widening Gap Between Rich and Poor
Readings:
Macionis, Ch. 8
- 4) Jan 26/28/30 **Hurricane Katrina**
Reading:
Course Reader: “Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters”
- 5) Feb 2/4/6 **Race and Ethnicity + Gender Stratification**
 ○ The Social Construction of Difference
Readings:
Macionis, Ch. 11
Macionis, Ch. 10: pgs 258-278
- 6) Feb 9 **Family Day – Holiday – Class Cancelled**
Feb 11 **** Midterm Exam ****
Feb 13 **Discussion Groups Cancelled**

Feb 16th – 20th **READING BREAK -- YAY!!**

- 7) Feb 23/25/27 **Global Stratification**
 ○ Defining Globalization / Identity & Social Relations
Readings:
 Macionis, Ch. 9
 MySocLibrary: "The Uses of Global Poverty: How economic inequality benefits the West"
- 8) Mar 2/4/6 **Economics and Politics**
 ○ Economic Systems / Corporations /War /Costs of Militarism
Readings:
 Macionis, Ch. 12
 MySocLibrary: "Uncle Sam Wants Them"
- 9) Mar 9/11/13 **War and Peace**
 ○ Film: *Why We Fight*
Readings:
 MySocLibrary: "Blowback"
 Course Reader: "Battle Scars: Global Conflicts and Environmental Health"
 Online version can be accessed at:
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1253679/>
- 10) Mar 16/18/20 **Environment & Society I**
 ○ Environmental Paradigms
 ○ Political Economy of the Environment
Readings:
 Course Reader: "Sociology and the Environment"
 MySocLibrary: "The Scarcity Fallacy"
- 11) Mar 23/25/27 **Environment & Society II**
 ○ Toxic Waste
 ○ Nuclear Accidents
Readings:
 Posted on Connect: "Chernobyl's Lasting Consequences" (1 page only)
 "Nuclear Accidents Calendar" at: (open PDF version)
<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/publications/reports/nuclearaccidentscalendar>
 Michael Klare, "Avenging Planet" at
http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175379/tomgram%3Amichael_klare%2C_avenging_planet/#more
- 12) Mar 30/Apr 1 **The Hopes and Fears that Shape New Technologies**
 ○ Online selves & communities / YouTube
Readings: TBA
- April 3rd **Holiday – Good Friday -Discussion Groups Cancelled**
- 13) April 6 **Holiday – Easter Monday - Lecture Cancelled**
 April 8/10 **Finish New Technologies - Review for Final Exam**

Final Exam Period: April 14 - April 29, 2015
