

Sociology 210A-002 (3 credits)
CANADIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE
Winter 2014 – Term 2 (January – April 2015)

Instructor: Dr. Debra Pentecost

Office: ANSO 156

Office hours: Wednesday, 2:00-3:30 or by appointment

Office telephone: (604) 822-5625 (no voicemail)

Email: Debra.Pentecost@ubc.ca

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 4:00 - 5:20 pm

Location: Geography 200

Course Description

The objective of this course is the development of a *sociological* understanding of the society we live in. In so doing we will critically examine Canada's social structure. Through exploration of a number of key issues, questions, and debates we will examine relevant topics, such as: the power of the mass media; the rise of neoliberalism and the impacts of globalization; in addition to a focus on issues of gender, racism, war, science and technology and the environment. We will also highlight historical and contemporary forces of resistance and change.

Organization:

The course will be organized as a combination of lectures, videos and class discussions. Attendance is an essential component of the course. Therefore, students are expected to read all assigned readings and to come to class prepared to *actively* participate both in the large lecture format and in small groups. Lectures will introduce material to provide context for, or supplement, required reading material. Group activities, such as discussions, video viewing and problem solving, will reinforce and assess understanding of both required reading and lecture material.

Required Texts:

- **Textbook:** Samuelson, Les and Wayne Antony (eds). 2012. *Power and Resistance: Critical Thinking about Canadian Social Issues*. 5th edition. Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing.
- **Courseware Reading Package**
Available for purchase from "**Copiesmart.**" Location: 103-5728 University Boulevard.
Telephone: 604-222-3189

Course Evaluation:

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| • Midterm exam: | 25% | (Wed Feb 25th) |
| • Film Writings | | |
| ○ 1 st film write-up
(1500 words) | 20% | (Wed Mar 18th) |
| ○ 2 nd film write-up
(1500 words) | 20% | (Wed Apr 8th) |
| • Final Exam | 25% | (In final exam period) |
| • Class attendance/Participation | 10% | (Lecture log optional)
Explanation on following page |

- **Lecture Log:** Comprised of journal entries where you write down comments/questions that arise for you during our class time. Many students will not be avid contributors to class discussion and the lecture log is a place to keep track of your responses to the course content. The lecture log **is not** comprised of your lecture notes.

Student Responsibilities

Keys to success in this course include regular class attendance and participation, and keeping up-to-date with assigned readings. Second-year courses can be intensive and it is imperative that you keep current with your readings. You are especially encouraged to contribute to class discussions.

Late Assignments / Deferred Exam Policy

Assignments must be handed in, 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 WILL BE 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.

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 assignments under 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 if you are unable to attend an exam. If you are unable to get a hold of Dr. Debra Pentecost in her office, please 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, unless an emergency precludes this, and arrangements will be made for a make-up exam.

If medical, emotional or personal problems affect your attendance or academic performance, please contact the faculty of **Arts Academic Advising Office**, Buchanan D111, 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 I will do my best to reach out and offer support if I am concerned about your academic performance or wellbeing. You are also encouraged to speak with me 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 faculty care about student academic success and wellbeing. For more information, please visit earlyalert.ubc.ca.

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 Debra 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 Dishonesty - 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>

Readings - Topics and Reading Requirements

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| 1) Jan 5/7 | <u>Introduction to Course</u>
Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power and Resistance: Ch. 1 "Social Problems and Social Power"
(read for Wednesday, Jan 7) |
| 2) Jan 12/14 | <u>Economics and Poverty</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power and Resistance: Ch. 5 "Persistent Poverty in Canada: Causes, Consequences and Solutions" |
| 3) Jan 19/21 | <u>Transformations to Canadian Health Care</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power and Resistance: Ch. 14 "Privatization is not a cure: Health care reform in Canada" |
| 4) Jan 26/28 | <u>The Decline of the Canadian Welfare State</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course Reader: Gary Teeple, "The decline of the Canadian Welfare State" |

- 5) Feb 2/4 **Globalization**
- Course Reader: “The Corporate Century”
 - Course Reader: “The Whole Wide World Around: Globalization and its Discontents”
- 6) Feb 9 **Family Day – Holiday – Class Cancelled**
- Feb 11 **Resistance**
- Power and Resistance: Ch. 6 “Power, Resistance, and the Global Economic Crisis”
 - Course Reader: Susan George, “Conclusion and Speech at Porto Allegre 2003”
- Check out the home page of the World Social Forum:
http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/index.php?cd_language=2
 Also check out this report from UK newspaper *The Guardian*:
<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/world-social-forum>
- February 16 – 20th** **READING BREAK – YAY!!**
- 7) Feb 23 **Resistance (con’t) + Review for midterm**
- Feb 25 **MIDTERM** (In-class)
- 8) Mar 2/4 **The Environment I: The Alberta Tar Sands ** Film Assignment #1 ****
- Power and Resistance: Ch. 12 “Energy, Climate Change and the Politics of Sustainability”
 - Course Reader: Zoe Cormier, “I’ll Die Doing This.”
- 9) Mar 9/11 **Focus on the Mass Media**
- Course Reader: “The Structure and Role of Ownership”
- 10) Mar 16/18 **The Environment II: Food Security ** Film Assignment #2 ****
- Course Reader: “The Impact of Agricultural Biotechnology on Social Cohesion”
 - Course Reader: Rachel Carson, “The Obligation to Endure.”
 - Course Reader: David Suzuki, “Finding a New Path.”
- 11) Mar 23 **Food Security (con’t)**
- Power and Resistance: Ch. 11 “It begins with Food: Food as Inspiration and Imperative for Social Change”
- Mar 25 **Punishment and Rehabilitation: Restorative Justice**
- Power and Resistance: Ch. 16 “Crime as a Social Problem”
 - For historical background: Read Power and Resistance: Ch. 7 “We Were Not the Savages’: Indian Residential Schools” (supplementary reading)
- 12) Mar 30/Apr 1 **Punishment and Rehabilitation: (con’t)**
- 13) April 6 **Holiday – Easter Monday – Lecture Cancelled**
- April 8 **National Media Events: Constructing “Canadian Identity”**
- Course Reader: “National Media Events”