

Sociology 210A-001 (3 credits) **CANADIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

Winter 2015 – Term 1 (September – December 2015)

Instructor: Dr. Debra Pentecost

Office: ANSO 156

Office hours: Mondays, 12:00-1:30 or by appointment

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

Email: Debra.Pentecost@ubc.ca

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Location: IBLC 261 (1961 East Mall)

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, 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.
- **Additional Required Readings:** will be posted to our course Connect website.

Course Evaluation:

- Midterm exam: 25% (Monday, Oct 19th – Week 7)
- Short Papers
 - Canadian media company profile 15% (Monday, Nov 9th)
(1250-1500 words)
 - Film write-up 25% (Wednesday, Dec 2nd)
Choice from two documentaries
(1500-1750 words)
- Final Exam 25% (In final exam period)
- Class attendance/Participation 10% (**Lecture log optional**)
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 **2% penalty** will be applied if an assignment is submitted after the lecture, through to midnight of that first day.

THERE WILL BE A 3% 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 www.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 two weeks 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.

Respectful Learning Environments

We will work to maintain the highest standards of respect inside of the SOCI 210 classroom. This includes respect towards each other, towards me, and extending from me to each of you.

I am here to support your academic learning and welcome opportunities outside of official class time for students to review course material. This support can take place during official office hours or by appointment. Email is generally not a good place to discuss substantive questions or engage in debates concerning course material.

Use of Laptops & Electronic Devices

Carrying on with our discussion of respectful learning environments, much has been discussed about the distracting and disruptive potentials of cell phones and laptops in the classroom. Recognizing that it can be very hard to resist checking email, viewing posts, texting, or surfing the web in class, **please refrain from doing so**. Professors do know when students are not paying attention and are engaged elsewhere. Such use is also distracting for your fellow students and this is not respectful of their learning space. **Please do not use your laptop for anything other than taking notes and activities related to class**. Please also refrain from using any handheld devices during class and remember to put these devices on silent mode and keep them out of sight for the duration of the class.

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) Sept 9 | <u>Introduction to Course</u> |
| 2) Sept 14
Monday reading: | <u>Understanding Social Problems</u>
<u>Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power and Resistance: Ch. 1 "Social Problems and Social Power" |
| Sept 16 | <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) Sept 21/23 | <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) Sept 28/30 **The Decline of the Canadian Welfare State**
- Norene Pupo, “The rise of the state in a restructured economy”
 - Susan McDaniel & Heidi MacDonald, “To Know Ourselves – Not” (both readings available on Connect)
- 5) Oct 5/7 **Neoliberalism & Globalization**
- Joanne Naiman, “Neoliberalism and Globalisation”
 - Corey Dolgan & Chris Baker, “The Whole Wide World Around: Globalization and its Discontents” (both readings on Connect)
- 6) Oct 12 **** Class Cancelled ** Thanksgiving Holiday**
- Oct 14 **Resistance**
- Power and Resistance: Ch. 6 “Power, Resistance, and the Global Economic Crisis”
- 7) Oct 19 **MIDTERM** (In-class)
- Oct 21 **Focus on the Mass Media**
- “The Structure and Role of Ownership” (available on Connect)
 - **(Canadian media company assignment handed out)**
- 8) Oct 26/28 **The Environment I: The Alberta Tar Sands** **** Film Assignment #1 ****
- Power and Resistance: Ch. 12 “Energy, Climate Change and the Politics of Sustainability”
 - TBA
- 9) Nov 2/4 **Alberta Tar Sands (con’t)**
- 10) Nov 9 **The Environment II: Food Security** **** Film Assignment #2 ****
- “The Impact of Agricultural Biotechnology on Social Cohesion”
 - Emily Eaton, “Regulating and Promoting Biotechnology in Canada”
- Nov 11 **** Class Cancelled – Remembrance Day ****
- 11) Nov 16 **Food Security (con’t)**
- Power and Resistance: Ch. 11 “It begins with Food: Food as Inspiration and Imperative for Social Change”
 - Gabriela Pechlaner, “The Sociology of Agriculture in Transition: The Political Economy of Agriculture after Biotechnology” (On Connect)
- Nov 18 **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) Nov 23/25 **Punishment and Rehabilitation: (con’t)**
- 13) Nov 30/Dec 2 **Constructing “Canadian Identity”**
- Patricia Cormack & James Cosgrave, “Our Game’: Hockey, Civilizing Projects and Domestic Violence.” (available on Connect)