

# Sociology 310A-001 Canadian Society

Winter 2017 – Term 1 (September – December 2017)

**Instructor: Dr. Debra Pentecost**

**TA: David Champagne**

Office: ANSO 156

Office hours: Monday, 12:00 -1:30

or by appointment on Wednesday

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

**Location:** MATX 1100

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## Course Description

The course examines selected features of the social organization of Canadian society, applying a critical sociological lens to the society in which we live. It does so through examining social, political, economic, and cultural issues important to the analysis of the past, present and future directions of Canadian society. We will investigate how contemporary social relations are organized through various social institutions and processes. In doing so we will examine central processes shaping Canadian society, including colonialism, multiculturalism, immigration, racism, mass and social media, the welfare state, globalization and economic restructuring. In addition, the production and maintenance of power, privilege and inequality will be highlighted with attention to their intersection with different axes, including ethnicity, racialization, class and gender.

In order to further develop and enhance critical thinking, students will work on integrating key theoretical perspectives in Sociology with an examination of the empirical evidence regarding the pressing social issues facing Canadian society.

### Organization:

The course will be organized as a combination of lectures, class discussions and videos. 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 Readings:

- **Textbook:** Antony, Wayne, Jessica Antony, and Les Samuelson (eds). 2017. *Power and Resistance: Critical Thinking about Canadian Social Issues*. Sixth edition. Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing.
- **Additional Course Readings:** Will be available through our **Course Connect** site, uploaded under the tab "**Library Course Reserves**"

## Course Evaluation:

- **Midterm exam:** 20% (Wed Oct 16th)
- **Research Paper** (2 parts)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> submission 10% (Wed Oct 25th)  
Includes paper proposal + beginning of content analysis protocol
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> submission – final paper 35 % (Wed Nov 29th)  
(3000 – 3750 words)
- **Final Exam** 25% (In final exam period)
- **Class attendance/Participation** 10% (**Lecture log** optional)
  - Includes in-class small group discussions

**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 course content. Please note: The lecture log **is not** comprised of your lecture notes.

## 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.

**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 email as soon as you know you are unable to attend an exam. 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.

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.

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.

For more information, please visit

<https://facultystaff.students.ubc.ca/systems-tools/early-alert/information-students>

## 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 must not do a student's work for them.**

## Respectful Learning Environments

We will work to maintain the highest standards of respect inside the SOCI 310 classroom. This includes respect towards each other, towards me, and extending from me to each of you.

We are 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

Relevant to 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 therefore 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 Integrity

Academic Integrity is an integral part of all universities, and violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated, even when they are unintentional. This means that it is important for you to take the time to review and familiarize yourself with relevant UBC policies.

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 "Campus-wide Policies and Regulations," under "Academic Honesty and Standards" for the university policy of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty.

For detailed information, visit the UBC Library Plagiarism Resource Centre

- Academic Integrity + Plagiarism: <http://help.library.ubc.ca/planning-your-research/academic-integrity-plagiarism/>
- UBC Learning Commons "Academic Integrity" webpage: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/academic-integrity>

## **Readings - Topics and Reading Requirements**

### ***Power & Resistance* Course Reserve**

- 1) Sept 6                   **Introduction to Course**
  
- 2) Sept 11/13           **Understanding Social Problems**  
Monday:               *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 1 “Social Problems and Social Power”  
Wednesday:       *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 2 “Matters of the State Still Matter”
  
- 3) Sept 18/20           **The Role of the State – Power of Mass Media**  
Monday:               *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 2 (con’t)  
Wednesday:       Course Reserve: Gasher, Mike. “The Structure and Role of Ownership”
  
- 4) Sept 25/27           **Economics and Poverty**
  - *Power & Resistance*: Ch 6 “Persistent Poverty: A Matter of Political Will”
  - Course Reserve: Liu, Sikee & Nicholas Blomley. “Making News and Making Space: Framing Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside”
  
- 5) Oct 2/4               **Health Care**  
Course Reserve:
  - Zuberi, Daniyal. “Contracting Out Hospital Support Jobs: The Effect of Poverty Wages, Excessive Workload, and Job Insecurity on Work and Family Life.”
  - Stinson, Jane et. al. “The Pains of Privatization”
  
- 6) Oct 9                 **\*\* Class Cancelled \*\* Thanksgiving Holiday**
  
- Oct 11                   **Universities Inc.**  
*Power & Resistance*: Ch. 9 “Corporatizing Public Universities”  
Course Reserve: Noack, Andrea. “Assembling our Tool Kit: Interrogating Representations and Discourses”
  
- 7) Oct 16               **Midterm (in-class)**
  
- Oct 18                   **Framing Social Problems: Content analysis + framing**  
Course Reserve:
  - Gilchrist, Kristen. “Exploring Differences in Canadian Local Press Coverage of Missing/Murdered Aboriginal and White Women”
  - Jiwani, Yasmin & Mary Lynn Young. “Missing and Murdered Women: Reproducing Marginality in News Discourse”
  - Chow-White, Peter & Rob McMahon. “Examining the ‘dark past’ and ‘hopeful future’ in representations of race and Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission”
  
- 8) Oct 23/25           **Framing (con’t) + First Nation Poverty**
  - “Framing” readings from Oct. 18 (con’t)
  - *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 3 “Death by Poverty: The Lethal Impacts of Colonialism”
  - Course Reserve: Tarachansky, Lia. “In Their Backyard: Turning Indigenous Lands into Toxic Dumps for Canadian Industry”

- 9) Oct 30/Nov 1      **Indigenous Resistance**  
*Power & Resistance*: Ch. 5 “Crime as a Social Problem: Social inequality and Justice”
- 10) Nov 6/8      **The Road Forward**
- *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 7 “Embodied Oppression: The Social Determinants of Health”
  - *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 16 “‘Twitter Revolution’ or Human Revolution?: Social Media and Social Justice Activism”
- 11) Nov 13      **\*\* Class Cancelled \*\* Remembrance Day Observed**
- Nov 15      **The Alberta Tar Sands**
- *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 10 “Power, Participation and State Legitimacy in the Alberta Tar Sands: The Rise and Fall of a Democratic Mirage”
  - Course Reserve: Westman, Clinton. “Cautionary Tales: Making and Breaking Community in the Oil Sands Region”
- 12) Nov 20/22      **The Alberta Tar Sands** (con’t)  
 Course Reserve: Lozowy, Andriko. “Where is Fort McMurray?: The Camera as a Tool for Assembling Community”
- 13) Nov 27/29      **Drug Prohibition and Legalization**  
*Power and Resistance*: Ch. 14 “Making Drug Use into a Problem”

**Final Exam Period – Runs from December 5<sup>th</sup> – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**