

## Sociology 201: Introduction to Sociology

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Sociology is a broad discipline comprising an enormous variety of theories, methods, and studies that address a level of human experience is different from that addressed by other sciences. Sociology is unique in its consistent emphasis on a distinct level of reality—the social—to account for personal experience as well as the experience of groups of persons, from couples (at the “micro” level of sociological work) to nations (at the “macro” level), acting in concert. Sociology also concerns, in the first place, the existence, definition, and the availability for study of this thing called “society,” and it is with this core theoretical issue that this course begins.

We will not be able to uncover the entire field of sociology in this course. My agenda is to expose as much as possible, and especially to apprise everyone of the uniqueness of sociology as a discipline among the social sciences, and of the usefulness of sociology in understanding the place of social forces in determining and understanding individual, group-based, and collective behaviour.

Required Text:

Macionis, J and L Gerber. 2008. Sociology. Sixth Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada. Do not purchase earlier editions!

The powerpoint slides for all of my lectures is available on my course website. You can follow the links to the "201" folder, or click on the direct URL for the PPT directory: [https://webdisk.ucalgary.ca/~jmanzo/public\\_html/lectures/201/](https://webdisk.ucalgary.ca/~jmanzo/public_html/lectures/201/). The files are labelled in ways that should make it clear which files attach to which sections in the course outline, but I will try to clarify this where necessary.

Course Requirements:

There are four formal grade components, as follows:

1. Two in-class tests will respectively constitute 20% and 20% of your final grade. The tests will consist of 20 multiple choice items and are not cumulative with respect to topics covered. The tests will take place in class, in our regular lecture location. The first test will take place on Wednesday February 10 and the second on Monday, March 29. Not less than five days before the midterms and final exam, I post a STUDY GUIDE to my course website concerning topics to be covered and

comprising questions from which the essays will be drawn. Please start checking the course website at least a week before the tests for this study guide.

2. A final exam, which is cumulative with respect to topics covered, will be given at a date to be scheduled during the exam period. The final exam will also be worth 45% of your semester grade and will consist of both multiple choice and essay components.

3. Tutorial work will constitute 15% of your final grade. Tutorials begin in the SECOND week of the term and attendance is compulsory. In some weeks, pursuant to announcements made in lecture and via blackboard, tutorials may be cancelled.

Tutorial work will comprise in-class and formal writing aspects; the in-class component will constitute 5% of your semester grade, and 10% for the writing component. The details of these assignments will be devised and organized by your TA and they will announce them as early in the semester as possible.

## Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+	96-100
A	90-95
A-	85-89
B+	80-84
B	74-79
B-	70-73
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	0-49

**Exam Policies:** I do not allow deferred first tests; if you miss the first test, the weight of that test is simply applied to your second test. If you have missed the SECOND TEST for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a "make up" test as close to the original exam as possible, or to have the test waived and the weight of the missed test be added to that of the final exam if Professor Manzo and the student agree to this option. The date and location of make-up tests will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

**Research Ethics :** Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the

Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct: cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

### Academic Accommodation

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 403-220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

### Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

### Note on Course Outline:

You will note that I have organized this course to encompass seventeen topics, or modules. I have not assigned dates to these, because I can never be certain that I will cover all of a topic on a particular date, or if/when I may have to be absent. Generally, I will cover one topic per lecture, but instead of attaching a date to each, I simply refer to them as "sections." All chapter references are to the text.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND LECTURE TOPICS. Please note that we have a new edition of the textbook and as such this schedule is subject to modification.

1: Introductory.

2: The Perspectives of Sociology; Foundational Theories. Reading: Chapters 1 and 4.

- 3: Methods of Sociological Inquiry. Reading: Chapter 2.
- 4: Everyday Life. Reading: Chapter 6.
- 5: Socialization. Reading: Chapter 5.
6. Aging and the Life Course. Reading: Chapter 15.
- 7: Gender and Sexuality. Reading: Chapters 8 and 13.
- 8: Groups, Organizations and Bureaucracy. Reading: Chapter 7
- 9: Marriage and Family. Reading: Chapter 18.
- 10: Conformity, Deviance, and Crime. Reading: Chapter 9.
- 11: Social Class and Social Inequality. Reading: Chapters 11.
- 12: Political Sociology. Reading: Chapters 17 and 23.
- 13: Religion. Reading: Chapter 19.
- 14: Health and Medicine. Reading: Chapter 21.
- 15: Race and Ethnicity. Reading: Chapter 14
- 16: International Inequality. Reading: Chapter 12.
17. Demography. Reading: Chapter 22.