



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology  
Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

## Soci201 L01 Introduction to Sociology

• Winter 2019 • MWF 12:00 – 12:50 • ST140

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**Phone:** 403-220-6513 (during office hours only)

**Office Hours\*:** Mondays 9:00 – 11:00,

Thursdays 13:00 – 15:00; and by appointment

\*except during the midterm break, on statutory holidays, and the final exam period

### Course Description and Objectives

Sociology is the scientific study of human action and interaction. According to sociologists, our lives are closely intertwined with the societal context in which they take place. This course will introduce you to the discipline of sociology by exploring topics and issues you are probably already familiar with and have discussed before with friends, colleagues, or family. This course goes beyond popular understandings of those issues to understand how society works from a sociological perspective. This course will provide you with the tools to think sociologically and sharpen your “sociological imagination,” which will make you see your everyday world in a new light. Over the course of the semester, we will identify, analyze, explain, and critically discuss the *foundations of sociology* (sociological theories and research methods), the *foundations of society* (e.g. culture, socialization, social interaction, consumption, and deviance), the *dimensions of social inequalities* (e.g. social class, race and ethnicity, gender & sexuality, disabilities), as well as major *social institutions* (e.g. families, the education system, and health & medicine).

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- summarize, compare, and apply theoretical approaches to studying society.
- differentiate and compare methodological approaches commonly used by sociologists.
- describe the sociological imagination using examples from their own lives.
- critically reflect on the relationship between social structures and individual experiences/decisions using examples from their own lives.
- compare and contrast common-sense and sociological explanations of various social phenomena, current social events, and societal conflicts.
- critically debate dimensions of social inequality in Canadian society, making reference to their historical context and institutional embeddedness.
- read efficiently, take lecture notes effectively, and study for exams proficiently.

**Please note:** Topics discussed and material included in this course will be explicit at times (deviance, violence, sexuality, profanity, etc.). You might find yourself reacting to that content with discomfort or distress, either because of personal experiences you had or because it conflicts with your personal convictions. While discomfort is part of any learning process, please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you need support/resources beyond what is provided on D2L.

## Required Readings

(available through the UofC Bookstore or Bound and Copied)

Steckley, John. 2017. *Elements of Sociology: A Canadian Introduction*. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

\*You can rent an e-copy of the textbook here:

<https://redshelf.com/book/596586/elements-of-sociology-596586-9780199019649-john-steckley>

\*Please do **NOT** purchase earlier editions of the text. It will inadequately prepare you for the assessments.

\*A copy of the textbook is available on reserve at the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL).

\* For free study guides and practice quizzes go to:

<https://arc2.oup-arc.com/access/steckley-4e-student-resources>

## Methods of Evaluation

### Assignment Schedule and Outline

	Date due	% of final grade	Material covered
10 Online reading quizzes	see D2L	15	weeks 3-14
Midterm I	February 11	20	weeks 1-4
Midterm II	March 11	30	weeks 5-8
Final Exam	TBD	35	weeks 9-14

\*Please note that I do **NOT** offer extra-credit options for this course beyond what is listed below.

### 10 Online reading quizzes

Studies repeatedly show that students will not complete their readings unless there is some form of incentive attached. However, completing the assigned readings prior to class will greatly facilitate your learning of the material. Completing the assigned readings also allows you to process some of the material prior to class and then contribute meaningfully to group and class discussions. The purpose of the reading quizzes is to encourage you to do your assigned readings and thereby aid you with your class and exam preparation.

I will make 1 ungraded practice quiz, covering chapter 1 of your textbook, available during the first week of classes. Graded quizzes will commence the second week of class. Each quiz will be made available on D2L 1 week before the corresponding chapter is covered in class and must be completed before the beginning of the respective class. For example, the first graded quiz will cover textbook chapter 2 on research methods assigned for week 3 (January 21-25). The quiz will be posted on January 14 after class (12:50) and must be completed **before** class starts on January 21 (12:00 - **noon**). Each quiz has 15 questions and you will have 1 15-minute attempt to complete the quiz. Students with academic accommodations will receive extra time for the reading quizzes as indicated in their academic accommodation letters.

There will be 12 graded quizzes, but only 10 will count toward your total quiz grade. D2L will automatically drop your 2 lowest grades. You can skip 2 quizzes without penalty, or complete all 12 quizzes, in which case only your 10 highest marks will be included in the calculation of your quiz grade. In addition, I am offering 1 extra-credit quiz at the beginning of the semester which will count toward your overall reading quiz grade. Note that the total of all reading quizzes cannot exceed 100%.

If you do not complete a quiz without due cause (as outlined in the assignment policies below), you will receive an automatic grade of 0. More information and a quiz schedule are provided on D2L.

## 2 Midterms

There will be 2 50-minute exams, worth 20% and 30% of your final grade respectively, which might include multiple-choice and true/false questions. The exam format will be announced in class prior to each exam. Questions will cover the assigned readings (irrespective of whether they were discussed in lecture), lecture material, in-class exercises, class discussions, and films. Please refer to the assignment schedule above for material covered in each exam.

### Extra-credit work

To encourage you to develop and refine key academic skills, you can earn extra-credit for this course by completing *Success Seminars* offered by the *Student Success Centre (SSC)*. Seminars focus on central skills such as time management, academic reading, effective note-taking, getting the most out of lectures, preparing for multiple choice exams, and more. For each seminar you complete, you will receive 1 percentage point bonus on your final exam grade (so, for example, 79+1=80%; however, your final exam grade cannot exceed 100%). You can take as many seminars as you wish; you will receive extra credit for up to 3 of them. **Note: if you cannot make it to a workshop you booked, you must cancel it to make your spot available to another students. I will deduct 1 point from your extra-credit total for each “no show” on your registration page.** In order to receive credit, documentation of completion will be required. It is your responsibility to select, book, attend, and provide proof of completion for those workshops. To receive extra-credit, the seminar must be completed in the winter 2019 semester, seminars must be identified as *Success Seminar* by SSC, and you must take 3 distinct seminars. Documentation of attendance must be provided no later than the day of the final exam. Please follow the detailed instructions provided on D2L under CONTENT → SUCCESS SEMINARS. A link to the Students Success Centre is provided on D2L under CONTENT → CAMPUS RESOURCES.

### Final Exam Information

The final exam for this course is scheduled by the Office of the Registrar; the schedule will become available later in the semester. Please note travel arrangements are NOT a valid reason to miss the final exam. Please DO NOT make travel arrangements until you know your final exam schedule. The 2-hour final exam will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions and will comprise 35% of your final grade. Questions will cover the assigned readings (irrespective of whether they were discussed in lecture), lectures, in-class exercises, class discussions, and films. The final exam is not cumulative. Please refer to the assignment schedule for material covered in the final exam.

### Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

## Course Policies

### *Attendance, Participation, and Classroom Etiquette*

Regular attendance and reading the assigned material, an open mind, as well as your active and meaningful participation is required for this class to reach its fullest potential and to make it a rewarding experience for you and me. Lectures will build on, but not necessarily summarize the assigned reading. I expect you to have critically read the assigned texts, that you are an active participant in class discussions, and that your contributions are informed by the assigned reading.

I expect you to be on time so that other students in the class are not interrupted by your late arrival. During lectures, please make sure not to distract your fellow students in any way. If you come late or need to leave class early, please sit somewhere you can settle down or leave without disrupting others. If you miss a class, you will miss material relevant to your success in this course and it is your responsibility to obtain notes from one of your class mates.

Please keep in mind that all participants in this class are diverse in terms of their positions in complex social hierarchies organized around social class, race, ethnicity, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientation, age, disabilities, etc. Material discussed in class will at times reflect, at times challenge or even contradict your own life experiences. In an effort to make this course welcoming and safe for all, please interact with all participants (fellow students, instructor, TA, and guest speakers) professionally and respectfully.

### *Lecture Slides*

PowerPoint slides for each lecture will be posted on D2L in advance of the lecture during which they will be covered. PowerPoint slides posted on D2L will provide a lecture outline, but not complete lecture content. It is your responsibility to complete each slide during lecture. I suggest printing off the slides and bringing them to class to assist your note-taking. I strongly recommend taking notes by hand rather than electronically. I provided helpful note-taking resources on D2L for those of you not used to taking notes by hand.

### Recording of Lectures

Note that the audio or video recording of lectures and taking pictures of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are **NOT** permitted without explicit authorization. To do so without the instructor's authorization constitutes academic misconduct, according to the University of Calgary Calendar. For more information, see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5-1.html>.

### Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Note that publicly sharing lectures notes and exam questions on 3<sup>rd</sup> party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, etc. is **NOT** permitted. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy: [http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy\\_1.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/non-academic-misconduct-policy_1.pdf).

## Reappraisal of Grades and Academic Appeals

If you chose to contest a grade you received for an assignment, please refer to the UofC Calendar for more information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>) and follow the procedures outlined therein. Please note that the re-evaluation of course work can lead to the grade being raised, lowered, or it might remain the same.

## Technology Use

Please note that the use of laptops or tablets during lectures is restricted to the left and right isles in the lecture hall. The centre isle is a distraction free zone and the use of laptops and tablets is not permitted there. Please use electronic devices during lectures for class-related purposes only. I recommend you turn off your Wi-Fi to help you stay focused during class. Please make sure to mute your phones at the beginning of class, and refrain from using them during lecture.

## E-mail

Please send emails only from your ucalgary account. Please put your course and section number in your email's subject line. It is courteous to include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails will be answered within one business day. I tend to not check or answer emails on weekends. Please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Questions about the course content, concerns about grades, or personal issues should be discussed in person during my office hours. If you have a specific course-related question, please check the course outline first.

## Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point at the Professional Faculties Food Court.

## Handing in Papers and Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

## Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research involving 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, you must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing your plans with me, to determine if ethics approval is required.

## Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>.

## Absences and Deferrals

It is your responsibility to complete all assessments listed in this course outline. If at all possible, you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test as scheduled or submit an assignment on time. All requests for a deferral of an exam or assignment due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar. Valid reasons to miss an assessment are: illness, domestic affliction, religious conviction, and student athletes travelling for competitions. Travel arrangements, misreading of the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment responsibilities are **NOT** valid reasons to miss an assessment.

### *Missed Midterms:*

In case of an excused absence from a midterm, the weight of the missed exam will be transferred to the final exam.

### *Deferred Final Exam Form:*

Please note that requests to defer a Registrar-scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>.

## Student Representation

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington ([suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)). For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

## 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. You can also contact Campus Security from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

## Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

## Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)

## Thrive Priority Support Network

Your academic success and personal well-being are important to me. Please feel free to contact me at any time you need academic or personal support and I will help you identify the appropriate resources. Please note that I am working closely with the Thrive Priority Support Network, which seeks to identify students who are facing academic challenges and provide appropriate support services early. This tool monitors this course's D2L gradebook for sudden changes in a student's academic performance and alerts academic development specialists, who will then reach out to the student to touch base. Engagement with the academic development specialist is entirely voluntary and all information is confidential. More information is provided here:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/advising/thrive>.

## Course Schedule

Subject to change. Changes will be announced and discussed in class.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
<b>1. THE FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY</b>			
1	January 11	Course Welcome	
2	January 14-18	1.1. Introduction to Sociology 1.2. Theories and Approaches	Chapter 1
3	January 21-25	1.2. Theories and Approaches, cont'd 1.3. Social Research Methods	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
<b>2. SOCIAL STRUCTURES</b>			
4	January 28-February 1	2.1. Culture	Chapter 3
5	February 4-8	2.2. Socialization, Social Roles & Interactions	Chapter 4 & 5
6	<b>February 11</b> February 13-15	<b>Midterm #1</b> 2.3. Deviance	Chapter 6, Ch. 14 (pp. 410-21)
7	February 18-22	MIDTERM BREAK – NO CLASS	
8	February 25-March 1	2.4. Consumption	D2L
<b>3. SOCIAL DIFFERENCE</b>			
9	March 4-8	3.1. Social Inequality	Chapter 7, Ch. 14 (pp. 424-27)
10	<b>March 11</b> March 13-15	<b>Midterm #2</b> 3.2. Disabilities, Health, and Medicine	Chapter 13
11	March 18-22	3.3. Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 8, Ch. 14 (pp. 421-24)
12	March 25-29	3.4. Gender and Sexuality	Chapter 9
<b>4. SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>			
13	April 1-5	4.1. Family	Chapter 10
14	April 8-10 April 12	4.2. Education BSD – NO CLASS	Chapter 12
<b>Final Exam Period: April 15-27</b>			
<b>Please note travel arrangements are <u>NOT</u> a valid reason to miss the final exam. Please <u>DO NOT</u> make travel arrangements until you know your final exam schedule.</b>			