



# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Winter 2020  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Sociology  
Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Sociology			
Course Number	Sociology 201		
Pre/Co-Requisites	N/A		
Instructor Name	Stephen Dumas	Email	<a href="mailto:sfdumas@ucalgary.ca">sfdumas@ucalgary.ca</a>
Instructor Email Policy	Email is a convenient way for students to communicate with professors. If not used properly, however, email can become problematic. Before sending an email, please attempt to obtain information from the course outline or during lectures. Please email me for administrative purposes only, for example, to set up an appointment. Please do not use email as a substitute for an office visit. Questions regarding course content, student challenges, grades, or other personal issues should be dealt with in person during office hours.		
Office Location	SS904	Office Hours	During the university closure, correspondence with students will take place via email.
Telephone No.	403-220-3216		
TA Name	Mojtaba Rostami	TA Email	<a href="mailto:mojtaba.rostami1@ucalgary.ca">mojtaba.rostami1@ucalgary.ca</a>
TA Office Location	SS943	TA Office Hours	During the university closure, correspondence with students will take place via email.
Class Dates	Jan 13, 2020-April 15, 2020		
Class Times	During the university closure, all material will be disseminated on D2L, and students can access that information at any time.		

<b>Class Location</b>	During the university closure, we will work in a virtual environment.
-----------------------	---

### Course Description

Why do members of society behave the way that they do? Are we simply creatures of rational choice? Do our biological and psychological compositions largely dictate our actions? How does society affect our behaviour? What is sociology and how does it aid us in explaining human behaviour? We will explore these questions through our readings and congenial class discussions. As I expect students to be active producers rather than passive consumers of idea, there will be considerable class time to analyze and discuss these issues. Upon successful completion of Introduction to Sociology, students will be able to think critically about social issues and events, demonstrate familiarity with key concepts in the discipline, and display a practical ability to apply major theoretical perspectives to social processes.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Students in Introduction to Sociology should concentrate on how to:

1. Outline the five general sociological perspectives (functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, feminisms, and post-structuralism), and apply them to social interactions and structures.
2. Differentiate between micro-level, macro-level, and global-level sociological approaches.
3. Explain the epistemological bases of different types of sociological knowledge and the basic methods used to generate knowledge.
4. Outline the most prominent explanations on how socialization and culture form our social selves.
5. Explain how social stratification, “race” and ethnicity, and sex and gender affect social opportunities.
6. Differentiate how the classic sociological thinkers approached religion in society.
7. Briefly outline the main sociological explanations influencing involvement in crime and deviance.
8. Identify the main ways in which urbanization, population, and the environment are changing our social world.
9. Assess the possibilities for inducing positive social change.

### Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

The following texts are required reading in this course:

Brym, R. J. (2017). *New society* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Toronto: Nelson.

Brym, R. J. (2014). *Society in question* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Toronto: Nelson.

Please note that the books above can be accessed online or rented from the Bookstore for a reduced price.

During the university closure, slide shows will be disseminated via D2L as was done previously. In order to ensure that those slides are well understood, additional annotated lectures will fill in any missing information.

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Please review the “Schedule of readings” on D2L. **While the sequence of readings remains the same, the date for the second mid-term has changed (see below).**

## Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Before the university closure, students in this class had the opportunity to write one in-class examination consisting of multiple choice and true-false questions. It was worth 30%. Consistent with the previous outline, there are no deferred examinations in this class due to limited resources. As before, if a student is absent from a mid-term examination, then their final grade will be calculated by evenly dividing marks achieved on the written mid-term examination and the final examination (50%-50%). That policy will remain in place.

The remaining 70% will be captured by two multiple choice and true-false examinations that will take place online. Further instructions detailing how this will be carried out will take place via a D2L News Item and electronic mail. The second mid-term examination is still worth 30% and the final examination is worth 40%. The next mid-term (now online) will take place on Tuesday, **March 26th** at regular class time and the final examination will take place as per the existing **final examination schedule** available on your student centre. You will have 50 minutes to complete the second mid-term, and 60 minutes to complete the final examination giving students approximately 1 question or less per minute as has been my general convention in previous years teaching this class. Students with accommodation letters will continue to have those adjustments in place.

Given the size of our class, technological complications are certain to arise and some people may require further accommodations. In these unusual circumstances, the instructor will identify alternative means of assessment. Given that face-to-face interactions are currently prohibited, this might include testing over the phone for a few students. The use of discretion will be applied rarely, but fairly.

## Final Exam Information

The final examination is worth 40% of the final grade and will be in true-false and multiple choice format. It is still not cumulative, but will be administered online as above.

## 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 performance
A-	85 - 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 - 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 - 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 - 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 - 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 - 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 - 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 - 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 - 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

### Passing Grades

In order to pass the course, students must obtain 50% or more overall as per the grading scale.

### Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. This will now be done via electronic mail. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

### Inclusivity

We live in a diverse social world. Although diversity is often considered visible, that is often not the case. We frequently do not know what challenges others face because all aspects of their lives are simply not visible. Some students may live with a physical disability that is not always apparent, manage a learning disability, face anxiety and depression, or deal with internalized homophobia or transphobia. While it is impossible to know everyone's wants and needs, it is possible and important to generate an atmosphere of mutual respect and support. Student Accessibility Services provides examination accommodation for those who need it. In class, students should feel free to make the instructor aware of their preferred form of reference, and ideas on how to create a more effective and welcoming learning environment for everyone.

## Handing in Papers, 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 can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

## 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 Faculty 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.

## Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

## Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

## 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.html>

## Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

**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 can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

**Deferred Term Work Form:** Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at: [https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf)

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

## Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at: <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.

## Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

## Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

## Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/) or email [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca).

## Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca); Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

## Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

## Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://>

[www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk](http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk). Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.