

Sociology 307:01: Sociology of First Nations in Canada
University of Calgary
Winter 2016

Professor: Dr. Cora J. Voyageur
Office: SST 906
Class: Tuesday & Thursday Room: ICT 114 9:30-10:45
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 - 3:00 or by appointment
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Sociology Website: www.soci@ucalgary.ca

Course Prerequisite: Sociology 201 or the consent of the Professor.

Course Description: The course is an overview of critical historical and contemporary issues facing First Nations people in Canada. It is designed to introduce the student to areas of First Nations/Settler perspective, the definition of Aboriginal people in Canada, and First Nations involvement with some of the major institutions in Canadian society. Course materials will provide both historical and contemporary examples of the First Nations experience in Canada. The justice system, treaties, community economic development education, politics, demography, urbanization, women's issues, portrayal in popular culture and other topics will be explored. Contemporary issues that arise during the term will also be discussed in class.

Course Objectives:

1. To provide students with a factual basis from which to assess issues and situations regarding First Nations in the Canadian historical and contemporary context.
2. To explore historical and contemporary government policy and legislative initiatives and assess their subsequent impact for First Nations people and Canadian society.
3. Identify changes to Indian/First Nations policy and explore how these changes were shaped by events in Canadian society.
4. To identify some key issues for First Nations people in Canadian society and to propose possible solutions.
5. To discuss and remain aware of various First Nations issues that may arise from time to time during the term.

Class Format:

Class sessions will combine several formats: lectures based on the text, small and large group discussions of issues raised in lectures, reserve readings, guest lectures, class presentations, videos, and class questions. I generally do not cover the assigned readings in class and lecture from additional materials on the topic. Therefore, you are responsible for any assigned readings. **Please be ready to answer or discuss course-related questions posed by the professor at any time throughout the class.**

Required Texts:

1. Cora J. Voyageur, David Newhouse, and Dan Beavon. (2011) *Hidden in Plain Sight: Contributions of Aboriginal Peoples to Canadian Identity and Culture. Volume 2* Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
2. Saul, John Ralston. (2014) *The Comeback*. Toronto: Penguin Books

The assigned readings will *generally (but not exactly)* correspond with the topics covered in the lectures. Thus, lecture topics should serve as a tentative guide and may be adjusted by the professor.

Course Evaluation:

PLEASE NOTE: Receiving credit in all components of this course is mandatory to obtain a passing grade.

1. Examinations: 55%

There will be 1 midterm and 1 final examination comprising of multiple choice questions, definition, short answer and long answer questions. The exams will cover lectures, guest lectures, videos and readings scheduled up to the exams. This means that students will also be responsible for readings/topics **not yet covered** in class.

The exams are **non-cumulative**. This means that midterm exam will cover materials from the first day of class to the class before the midterm; while the final exam will cover materials from the first class after the midterm to the last day of class. Student presentations will be included on the final exam.

The dates and assigned weights for exams are as follows:

Midterm	March 3	25%
Final Examination	Date set by Registrar	30%

Examination dates are strictly enforced. If you miss the midterm for a documented (a note from your doctor, etc. is required) and legitimate reason, **you must contact me within 48 hours of the missed midterm** exam. If you do not contact me within the allotted time period you will

receive a score of zero for the midterm. If you miss the midterm, the Sociology Department office and I will determine a suitable date for your make up exam.

If you miss the final exam for a valid and documented reason, please contact the **Registrar's Office within 48 hours of the missed exam**. You must apply for a deferred exam no later than the deadline indicated in the 2015/16 University of Calgary Calendar. Otherwise, University regulations state that you receive a score of zero on the final exam.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out. It is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf> Once an extension date has been agreed between the instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by the Associate Dean (Students).

2. Group Poster Presentation: 35%

Students must complete group poster presentation for this course. Students must work in groups of 4 or 5. The group poster presentation has 2 parts: the proposal (due February 11) and the completed poster must be turned in at the end of term for marking. Students will create a poster which highlights an historical or contemporary contribution made to Canadian society by a First Nations person, group, event or community. You may choose a legislative change, an event, a technological advancement, or complete a biography on a prominent First Nations person. You must convince the world that this particular person, thing, or event is worth knowing about. Be creative!

***Proposal* 5%**

Students (you and your group members) must jointly write a 4-page research proposal that explains the topic you plan to research and a 2-page annotated bibliography. Since this is a research project, the annotated bibliography must have at least 5 academic sources -- only one of which can be from the Internet. The Internet source must be a government, institutional or educational website. You can use books, academic articles, newspaper, magazine articles, and limited Internet information. This proposal is due on February 11.

***Group Poster Presentation* 20%**

The group work will be presented to the class in March in a 30-minute presentation. Students are expected to incorporate easily readable text, photographs, maps, graphs, etc. into their poster presentation. Please prepare handouts for your fellow students. I will allow class time for group members to confer. Class presentations begin in mid-March.

***Colleague Assessment* 10%**

You must "pull your own weight" as a group member. This means you must do your part of the assignment and make yourself available to work on the project. Failing to do so could have dire consequences for you since each of your group members will evaluate your contribution to the

group project on a scale from 0 – 10. If you receive a participation grade of "0" from all of your fellow group members then you will not receive a grade for the poster presentation, and thus, FAIL THE COURSE. In addition, if the marks you give to your fellow group mates are completely out of line with the rest of your group, I will ask you to justify them. The colleague assessment will occur in early April.

3. In-class Pop Quizzes: 10%

Throughout the course I will give five in-class pop quizzes worth 2% each. These quizzes will be based on information from that day’s class. Your answers must be turned in at the end of the class.

Grading System:

Each exam, the presentation, and the group research projects will be worth 100 points. Final grades will be assigned according to the University of Calgary's 4-point grading system based on the following percentage distributions:

Percentage	Grade	Meaning
95+	A+	Outstanding
90 - 94	A	
88 - 89	A-	Very Good
84 - 87	B+	
80 - 83	B	
76 - 79	B-	Good
72 - 75	C+	
68 - 71	C	
64 - 67	C-	
60 - 63	D+	Fair
55 - 59	D	Minimal Pass
0 -54	F	Fail

PLEASE NOTE: The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your professor.

Other Student Related Matters:

Protection of Privacy: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having student’s retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside instructor’s office, the department office, etc. 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 their assignment from the instructor, they may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment”.

Research Ethics: Students are advised that any research with human subjects such as interviews (including interviews with family and friends), opinion polling, and unobtrusive observation must

have the approval of the Department of Sociology's Ethics Committee. Students MUST NOT undertake research projects with human subjects without discussing the topic with me and getting my approval to proceed.

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.

Student Representation: The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the Professional Faculties - Food Court

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-2-1.html>

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/. 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_0.pdf

Exam Policies: You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. 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.

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

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's main office. 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. **Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department and can only be accessed online.**

Professor/Student Communication: This course makes use of Desire2Learn to communicate with students. Please access D2L by going to: d2l.ucalgary.ca OR my.ucalgary.ca.

My Expectations

Classroom Etiquette:

Please get the most of your (or your parent's) hard-earned tuition dollars by devoting your class time to classroom activities. Please ensure that your cell phones, blackberries, pagers, or any other electronic devices are turned off and remain off for the duration of the class.

Those who choose to ignore this rule will be asked to leave my classroom immediately. Students who have been asked to leave my classroom must meet with me before returning. Students taking class notes on a laptop computer will be asked to close their laptops from time to time to answer questions and/or engage in classroom discussions. Please use your laptop computer only for taking class notes in this class.

For those taking notes of a laptop, please be aware that your screen is visible to those both beside you and behind you. I have received many complaints from fellow classmates who have been forced to endure distracting, offensive and otherwise unsuitable images from others' laptops.

Please be on time for class since arriving late is distracting to both me and your fellow students.

My Teaching Philosophy:

I love to teach and I hope it shows. I believe that learning is an active rather than a passive activity. I want to assist you on your learning journey. Although attendance is not mandatory, I urge you to attend class regularly. I will not post my lecture materials or give you my lecture notes if you are absent.

Class discussions, issues raised in class, and information obtained from videos, lectures and other class activities can be give you some valuable insights. They will help you with assignments and exams. You will not have access to that information unless you attend class.

I strive to provide a safe and non-competitive learning environment. However, students may periodically be taken out of their comfort zone. I encourage class discussion as a means of exploring topics, ideas, and controversies. Your point of view is important but it may be challenged by me or by your fellow students. We may be dealing with sensitive, and sometimes contentious, issues in class. Your opinion may differ from those of your classmates. So please, remain open-minded and remember to be respectful of opinions that differ from your own.

**Proposed Course Schedule
Sociology 307:01
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Week	Week of:	Topic:	Readings:
1	January 11	Introduction	Intro - Hidden in Plain Sight (HIPS)
2	January 18	Perspective: First Nations	Saul Chapters 1 - 3 Saul Chapters 4 - 6
3	January 25	Definition of Aboriginal People Demographics	HIPS: Heber Saul Chapters 7 - 9
4	February 1	Government Policy Assimilation/Residential Schools	Saul Chapters 10 - 12 HIIPS: Duhaime
5	February 8	Indian Treaties/Métis Scrip/Claims Proposal Due on Thursday	HIPS: Meijer-Drees Saul Chapters 13 – 15
6	February 15	Reading Week	No Readings
7	February 22	Identity	HIPS: Sioiu HIPS: Nurse
8	February 29	Leadership & Women's Issues Midterm on Thursday	Saul: Chapters 16 - 18
9	March 7	Justice System	HIPS: LaPrairie (Reserve) HIPS: Chiste (Reserve)
10	March 14	Economic Development Presentations Begin	Saul Chapters 19-20
11	March 21	Presentations continue	HIPS: Lackenbauer
12	March 28	Truth and Reconciliation Presentations continue if needed	HIPS: Rabb
13	April 4	Aboriginals in the Arts	HIPS: Wright-McLeod HIPS: Shead
14	April 11	Course Wrap-up	No Readings