

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
(www.soci.ucalgary.ca)**

**SOCIOLOGY 309 (Alberta Society)**

**Course Outline, Winter 2012**

**Safewalk/Campus Security: 220-5333, ANYTIME**

This course makes use of Blackboard to communicate information to students. To access Blackboard, go to: [blackboard.ucalgary.ca](http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca) OR [my.ucalgary.ca](http://my.ucalgary.ca)

**Instructor:** Tom Langford Office: SS 924 langford@ucalgary.ca  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. from 10 January to 10 April (not including reading week) OR by appointment (please email a request).

**Teaching Assistant (part-time):** Ali Kamal [Ali will be coordinating the two assignments in this course. His contact information will be posted on Blackboard.]

**Email guidelines:** Please use email to inform me of something important (e.g., you are sick and will be missing the mid-term test), to ask a question that I can answer with a simple Yes or No (e.g., Is the material on rural Alberta covered on the mid-term?) or to book an appointment outside of the scheduled time for questions. For more complicated questions and discussions, please speak to me in person

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course takes an historical approach to understanding the key features of contemporary Alberta society. Approximately the first half of the course will be concerned with understanding the developments and conflicts between 1800 and 1980 that have had lasting consequences for Alberta's present day social institutions, patterned social inequalities and culture. The second half of the course will examine Alberta society "today." The single most important topic tackled in the second half will be the impact of the oil and gas industry (including the tar sands, unconventional gas, and coal bed methane) on the character of work, family life, health, social inequalities, democracy and politics in Alberta. A conventional introductory sociology course covers in turn a variety of important topics such as deviance and crime, social movements, immigration and population change, racialization, families and urbanization. Having turned the first half of this course over to an historical survey, there will not be enough time in the second half to cover a long list of specific sociological topics. What I can promise is that, as long as time permits, we will delve into a few specific sociological topics on Alberta such as religion, the social organization of care for young children, and temporary foreign workers in the workforce.

### REQUIRED BOOK

Nikiforuk, Andrew. 2010. *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*, revised and updated. Greystone Books: Vancouver. [**Note: this book is not expected to arrive in the book store until February.**]

### OTHER REQUIRED READINGS

In addition to readings from the Nikiforuk book, you will be required to complete a number of additional readings. Some of these readings are journal or magazine articles available online through the University of Calgary library. They are designated LIBRARY ONLINE in the schedule of readings posted on Blackboard. Other readings have been published by Open Source publishers so that you can access them through a direct link that will be provided in the schedule of readings. Some other readings have been scanned and are available in the Course Documents section of Blackboard. Finally, there are several chapters from books or articles from journal issues that have not yet been digitized. Paper copies of these readings will be placed on reserve in the digital library and are designated RESERVE in the schedule of readings.

### ASSIGNED LISTENING AND VIEWING

As an alternative to a reading, you will occasionally be required to listen to an audio or video file during the course of the term. Instructions for accessing these files will be provided in the weekly schedule of readings.

### SCHEDULE OF READINGS

There will be assigned reading/listening/viewing for each week that the course runs. I will try not to assign too many pages of reading in any one week. Given this, my expectation is that you will carefully read whatever is assigned. Please try to keep up with these assigned readings/listenings/viewings since it will enhance your understanding of the materials we cover in class and your ability to participate in our classroom discussions. Also please keep in mind that you are responsible for and will be tested on material covered in assigned readings and assigned audio/video files even if there is no time to discuss that material in our classes.

The **Reading Schedule** is posted on Blackboard and is organized by week.

**STUDENT EVALUATION****(1) Assignment # 1 (A structured assignment involving a trip to the Glenbow Museum in downtown Calgary.)**

(A) **Date/Time**. This assignment must be completed on Saturday 28 January or Sunday 29 January. (The Glenbow is open between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 12 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sundays.) If you work on both of these days, please reschedule one of your work shifts so that you can complete this assignment.

(B) **Completion Time**. You should leave yourself at least two hours to work at the museum to complete the assignment.

(C) **Collaborating**. You are free to tour the museum gallery and talk things over with a friend (either a fellow Soci 309 student or someone else) but you must hand in your own independent work.

(D) **Cost**. The cost for a single entry into the Glenbow Museum is \$9 if you present a valid student card. Since you will be required in Soci 309 to go to the Glenbow on two occasions, you might want to consider buying a one-year student membership to the Glenbow for \$35. It would give you unlimited entries into the Glenbow over that year.

(E) **Details**. Details of the assignment will be provided no later than 24 January. You must complete the assignment and pass it in on the same day that you tour the museum.

(F) **Value**. 7%

**(2) Mid-Term Test # 1, Thursday February 16, 2 to 3:15 p.m.**

(A) **Format**: True/false, multiple choice and (possibly) short answer questions on material covered between Jan. 10 and Feb. 16. This includes lecture content, assigned readings, assigned audio or video files and Assignment # 1.

(B) **Value**: 20% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.

**(3) Assignment # 2 (A structured assignment involving a trip to the Glenbow Museum in downtown Calgary.)**

(A) **Date/Time**. This assignment must be completed on Saturday 17 March or Sunday 18 March. (The Glenbow is open between 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 12 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sundays.) If you work on both of these days, please reschedule one of your work shifts so that you can complete this assignment.

(B) **Completion Time**. You should leave yourself at least two and a half hours to work at the museum to complete this assignment.

(C) **Collaborating**. You are free to tour the museum gallery and talk things over with a friend (either a fellow Soci 309 student or someone else) but you must hand in your own independent work.

(D) **Cost**. See above under Assignment # 1.

(E) **Details**. Details of the assignment will be provided no later than 13 March. You must complete the assignment and pass it in on the same day that you tour the museum.

(F) **Value**. 8%

**(4) Mid-Term Test # 2, Thursday 29 March, 2 to 3:15 p.m.**

- (A) **Format:** True/false, multiple choice and (possibly) short answer questions on material covered between 17 February and 29 March. This includes lecture materials, assigned readings, assigned audio or video files and Assignment # 2.
- (B) **Value:** 20% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.

**(5) Final Examination, to be scheduled by the Registrar in the April 16-25 period**

- (A) **Format:** True/false, multiple choice and (possibly) short answer questions on all material covered in the course. This includes lecture materials, assigned readings, assigned audio and video files, and both assignments.
- (B) **Value:** 25% or 35% or 45%, whichever is most favourable to you

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT

At the end of the course numerical marks are totalled and a final letter grade is assigned on the following basis:

Percentage Range	Letter Grade
-----	
49 or less	F
50-53	D
54-58	D <sup>+</sup>
59-62	C-
63-66	C
67-71	C <sup>+</sup>
72-75	B-
76-79	B
80-84	B <sup>+</sup>
85-89	A-
90-94	A
95 or higher	A <sup>+</sup>

**IMPORTANT NOTES**

(1) Late Penalty. Except in the cases of documented illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to a teaching assistant's attention before the due date of an assignment, a penalty of 20% of the assigned mark per day will be assessed any late work.

(2) A student who has a legitimate reason for being unable to write a mid-term test must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. At his discretion, the instructor will transfer the percentage weight to another component of the course, or set a make-up test. Make-up tests must be written as soon as possible at a scheduled Department of Sociology make-up test session.

(3) How to arrange for deferred work at the end of a term.

*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:

[http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM\\_0.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf)

*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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.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).

(4) The quality of a student's writing is a factor in the evaluation of a student's work in this course.

(5) "Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge" (*Calendar 2011-12*, p. 48 ). Please review the University of Calgary's policies for dealing with student misconduct, particularly plagiarism and cheating (see pp. 48-51 of the *Calendar*).

(6) Handing in assignments outside of class, return of tests and assignments, and release of final grades.

1. When students are unable to submit assignments in class, they should make arrangements to hand in the assignments directly to the teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.

2. Assignments and midterms will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and 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 any of their work returned by mail must supply a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the instructor. Otherwise unclaimed assignments will be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of the term.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

(7) **Ethics of Research:** 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.

**(8) Academic Accommodation**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 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.**

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

(10) **Emergency evacuations.** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom (ST145), please proceed to the assembly point in the Professional Faculties - Food Court (alternate is Education Block – Food Court).