

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
(<http://soci.ucalgary.ca>)

**SOCIOLOGY 309 (Alberta Society)**

**Course Outline, Winter 2015**

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

**This course makes use of D2L to communicate information to students. To access D2L, go to <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca>**

**Instructor:** Tom Langford    Office: SS 924            langford@ucalgary.ca

**Office Hours between Monday 12 January and Wednesday 15 April:** Wednesdays and Fridays, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., or by appointment (but CANCELLED during Reading Week, and on Friday 3 April). Remember that you can always ask me a quick question at the end of our classes.

**Email guidelines:** Please use email to inform me of something important (e.g., you are sick and will be missing a 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 my scheduled time office hours. For more complicated questions and discussions, please speak to me in person.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course looks at the development of Alberta society from the 1800s up until the present time, and projects the potential trajectories of societal development throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century as high carbon systems of production and consumption are increasingly called into question and likely replaced due to the adverse consequences of climate change.

The course is organized in line with sociologist John Urry's recommendation that "societies should be examined through the patterns, scale and character of their resource-dependence and resource-consequences." The first part of the course will be concerned with understanding the developments and conflicts between 1800 and 1947 that have had lasting consequences for Alberta's present day social institutions, patterned social inequalities and culture; special attention will be given to the colonial and neo-colonial subjugation and resistance of First Nations and Métis peoples. This 150 years can be divided between two eras: early low carbon forms of social organization that, beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, gave way to a nascent high carbon society centred on the production, distribution and consumption of coal.

The second part of the course will examine the high carbon social systems and social practices, and the petro-politics, which have characterized Alberta since the massive oil discovery at Leduc in 1947. This period extends up until the present day with tar sands mining in the Fort McMurray area and hydraulic fracking for natural gas throughout Alberta dominating the provincial economy, and carbon-based global energy companies shaping the provincial political agenda. Meanwhile, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have risen from about 300 parts per million (ppm) in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century to approximately 400 ppm today, evidence consistent with the theory of anthropogenic climate change. Alberta is the major carbon producer in Canada, and one of the world's leading producers of oil from tar sands. If John Urry is correct when he terms climate as "the key category of the twenty-first century," then understanding the present configuration and possible futures of Alberta society requires taking seriously the implications of climate change.

During the second part of the course we will read John Urry's book *Climate Change & Society*. In lecture periods and through supplementary readings we will "Alberta-ize" the content of Urry's book in order to begin to address the question of "Climate Change and Alberta Society." To take an example, we will trace the major changes in rural and urban social worlds with the ascendancy of high carbon systems and practices, and consider how post-carbon rural and urban social worlds would be different. As time permits, we will also delve into other distinctive features of contemporary Alberta society such as the patterns of religious affiliation and practice, the social organization of care for young children, demographic change in Alberta since 1947, and the contemporary importance for the Alberta labour force of both temporary foreign workers and fly in/fly out workers from others parts of Canada.

### REQUIRED BOOK

Urry, John. 2011. *Climate Change & Society*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

### OTHER REQUIRED READINGS

In addition to readings from the Urry 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 D2L. (Be sure to log into the U of C library web site before trying to access these readings.) Other readings have been published by Open Source publishers or magazines that operate without firewalls (e.g. [www.thetyee.ca](http://www.thetyee.ca)), so you will be able to 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 D2L. Finally, there are chapters from books and articles from journal issues that have not yet been digitized. Paper copies of these readings will be placed on reserve in the TFDL 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 file or watch/listen to a video file during the course of the term.

### SCHEDULE OF READINGS

The **Reading Schedule** is posted on D2L. There will be assigned reading (or listening/viewing) for each week that the course runs. I will try to assign a reasonable number of pages of reading in any one week. Sometimes there will be reading questions to accompany a particular reading. My expectation is that you will carefully read whatever is assigned, and answer any reading questions. Please try to keep up with the assigned readings since it will enhance your understanding of the materials we cover in class and your ability to participate with insight 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.

### STUDENT EVALUATION

#### **(1) Glenbow Museum Visit (centred on the Blackfoot Gallery) and Follow-up Assignment**

**(A) Date/Time.** The museum visit must be completed and your completed assignment posted to the D2L Drop Box sometime between Tuesday 20 January and Sunday 8 February ([see Glenbow Museum hours to help plan your visit](#)).

**(B) Time to Budget for the Museum Visit.** You should leave yourself at least two hours to tour the Blackfoot Gallery at the Glenbow, and to find the relevant parts of the Mavericks Exhibit.

**(C) Bonus Group Tour of the Blackfoot Gallery led by a Glenbow Educator.** While you are welcome to undertake this museum visit at your convenience (either on your own or in conjunction with other students in the class), if there is sufficient demand I will organize one or two group tours of the Blackfoot Gallery which will be led by a Glenbow educator. For one of these special tours to run, we will need a minimum of 15 students to sign up. Unfortunately the special tours are unavailable on the weekend. Since the only weekday night when the Glenbow is open late is Friday, I am trying to organize a Bonus Group Tour on a Friday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. but this may not be possible. We will sort out the details for potential bonus group tours in the second week of classes.

**(D) Cost.** The cost for a single entry into the Glenbow Museum is \$10 + GST if you present a valid student card. However the cost for a student membership for an entire year (includes unlimited entries to the Museum) is only \$20 plus GST. If there is any chance that you might want to visit the Glenbow again in 2015, I'd recommend purchasing the student membership. Please note that if you decide to take part in the bonus group tour led by a Glenbow educator, there will be an additional charge (\$4 plus GST regardless of whether you have paid \$10 for a single entry or purchased a yearly membership).

(E) **Assignment.** Before you go to the Glenbow, print off the assignment questions that will be posted on D2L no later than January 19. This will give you guidance on what to look for when you tour the Blackfoot Gallery and Mavericks Exhibition.

(F) **What to hand in through D2L.** (1) Your answers to the assignment questions. (2) A scan of your receipt for admission to the museum (not necessary if you take part in a bonus group tour since I will take attendance on those occasions). You can also show me a copy of your receipt immediately after class one day if you don't have access to a scanner.

(G) **Value.** 10%. (Those who take part in a Bonus Group Tour will receive a 1% bonus mark.)

**(2) Mid-Term Test # 1, Friday February 13, 11:00 to 11:50**

(A) **Format:** True/false, multiple choice and short answer questions on material covered between Jan. 12 and Feb. 13. This includes lecture content, assigned readings, assigned audio or video files and the field trip.

(B) **Value:** 25% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.

**(3) Mid-Term Test # 2, Friday March 27, 11:00 to 11:50**

(A) **Format:** True/false, multiple choice and short answer questions on material covered between 23 February and 27 March. This includes lecture materials, assigned readings, and assigned audio or video files.

(B) **Value:** 25% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.

**(4) Final Examination, to be scheduled by the Registrar in the April 18-29 period**

(A) **Format:** The final exam will consist of two parts:

(1) True/false, multiple choice and short answer questions on material covered between 30 March and 15 April. This includes lecture materials, assigned readings, and assigned audio and video files.

(2) Essay questions on the topic of "Climate Change and Alberta Society." In answering these questions you can draw upon material covered in any part of the course and should definitely draw upon the readings from *Climate Change & Society*. You will be given a short list of essay questions no later than the last day of classes (15 April). The essay questions that appear on the final examination will be drawn from this list.

(B) **Value:** 30%, 35% or 40%, whichever is most favourable to you

## IMPORTANT NOTES

(1) Late Penalty. Except in the cases of documented illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to the instructor's attention before the due date of the assignment, a penalty of 10% 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. This term make-up tests must be written on Tuesday evenings starting at 5 p.m.

(3) *Deferred Term Work Form*:

Deferral of term work past the end of a term 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 on between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Arts Student Centre (SS 102) 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 2014-15*, p. 52). Please review the University of Calgary's policies for dealing with student misconduct, particularly plagiarism and cheating (see pp. 52-55 of the *Calendar*).

(6) Handing in the assignment, return of mid-term tests, and release of grades.

1. Students are requested to use the Digital Drop Box to submit the assignment. Please do not pass in any work at the Sociology Main Office. Assignments will be returned by email.
2. Your mid-term tests will be returned in class. You can also make an appointment to pick them up from my office.
3. Check D2L for a record of your marks on different course components.
4. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

(7) Ethics Research. 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 Student Accessibility Services (MSC 452, 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 Student Accessibility Services 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 the lecture classroom (ICT 116), please proceed to the assembly point in the Social Sciences Food Court. The back-up assembly point is the Professional Faculties Food Court.

(11) **Student Representation.** The 2014-15 Students' Union VP Academic is Hana Kadri [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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>

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