

**The University of Calgary**  
**Faculty of Arts**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 201(L01)-Introduction to Sociology**  
**Course Outline, Fall 2015**

Instructor: Steve Dumas

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Office: SS 904

Phone: (403) 220-3216

Office Hours: M 9:00-10:00am

M 11:00am-noon or by  
appointment

Lecture Time: MWF 12:00pm-12:50pm

Lecture Room: ST 140

Teaching Assistants:

TBA

TBA

TBA

Offices: TBA

Hours: TBA

### **Introduction**

Why do members of society behave the way they do? Are we simply creatures of rational choice? Do our biological/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 ideas, 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.

### **Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

It is expected that students in Introduction to Sociology will be able 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 Text**

For this class, we will use the following package available in hard copy or electronic form:

Brym, R.J. (Ed.). (2014). *New society* (7th ed.). Toronto: Nelson.  
 Brym, R.J. (Ed.). (2014). *Society in question* (7th ed.). Toronto: Nelson.

The latest versions of these books are recommended. There have been important changes to the latest edition of *New society* and significant changes to *Society in question*. If students choose to utilize an older edition of either book, it is their responsibility to identify all revisions. Please note that there are electronic copies of these books through Nelson Publishing. This comprehensive collection of readings will address the issues identified above in the introduction. Students will be expected to carefully consider each assigned reading before class and make use of slide show notes available on D2L. Please realize that these files do not represent an exhaustive set of notes and are not an alternative to regularly attending classes and tutorials.

**Evaluation**

There are three requirements to complete in this course.

Mid-Term Examination	40%	October 19
Tutorial Assignments	20%	See Tutorial Outline
Final Examination	40%	Scheduled by Registrar TBA

The mid-term examination is on October 19 and the final will be announced by the Registrar's Office. They are not cumulative and will be in multiple choice and true-false format. All lecture and reading material is subject to evaluation. Therefore, it is important that students attend all classes and examine every reading in order to meet the demands of this course.

**Tutorials**

The teaching assistants will provide you with an outline of what will be covered during tutorials, and it will be available on Desire2Learn. In a nutshell, they will consist of watching videos, responding to questions about social issues, and completing various written assignments. More information will be made available in the first tutorial that will take place during the second week of classes.

**Grading Scheme**

The following grading scheme will be used in this course.

A+ > 95%	B+ 80%-84.99%	C+ 67%-69.99%	D+ 54%-58.99%
A 90%-94.99%	B 75%-79.99%	C 63%-66.99%	D 50%-53.99%
A- 85%-89.99%	B- 70%-74.99%	C- 59%-62.99%	F <49.99%

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

### **Reading/Class Schedule**

Before reviewing the schedule below, please be aware that it is expected to be flexible. Some topics may require more time than scheduled. Students should ensure that they have completed the readings before each class.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter(s) to have read</b>
Sept 9	Introduction	None
Sept 11	What is sociology?	Chapter 1
Sept 14	What is sociology?	Chapter 1
Sept 16	How to do sociology	Chapter 20
Sept 18	How to do sociology	Chapter 20
Sept 21	How to do sociology	Chapter 20
Sept 23	Socialization	Chapter 3
Sept 25	Socialization	Chapter 3
Sept 28	Socialization	Chapter 3
Sept 30	Culture	Chapter 2
Oct 2	Culture	Chapter 2
Oct 5	Stratification	Chapter 6
Oct 7	Stratification	Chapter 6
Oct 9	Stratification	Chapter 6
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day. No classes.	None
Oct 14	"Race" and ethnicity	Chapter 8
Oct 16	"Race" and ethnicity	Chapter 8
<b>Oct 19</b>	<b>Mid-Term Examination</b>	<b>Based upon all lecture material and readings in both the reader and text</b>
Oct 21	Sex and gender	Chapters 4 and 7
Oct 23	Sex and gender	Chapters 4 and 7
Oct 26	Sex and gender	Chapters 4 and 7
Oct 28	Sex and gender	Chapters 4 and 7
Oct 30	Religion	Chapter 13
Nov 2	Religion	Chapter 13
Nov 4	Religion	Chapter 13
Nov 6	Deviance and crime	Chapter 14
Nov 9	Deviance and crime	Chapter 14
Nov 11	Reading Days. No classes.	None
Nov 13	Reading Days. No classes.	None
Nov 16	Deviance and crime	Chapter 14
Nov 18	Deviance and crime	Chapter 14
Nov 20	Urbanization	Chapter 15
Nov 23	Urbanization	Chapter 15
Nov 25	Urbanization	Chapter 15

Nov 27	The environment	Chapter 16
Nov 30	The environment	Chapter 16
Dec 2	Politics and social movements	Chapter 18
Dec 4	Politics and social movements	Chapter 18
Dec 7	Conclusion	None

### **Grade Reappraisal**

Within two weeks of the date of the return of the exam, students seeking reappraisal may submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of the mark. The instructor will reconsider the assigned grade and book a time to meet with the student. A re-assessed grade may be increased, decreased, or remain the same.

### **Technology Use**

Electronic devices are common in Canadian classrooms. While they can be very effective in assisting students in the learning process, they can also be very distracting if not used properly. Students are encouraged to reflect on how their use of electronic devices affects their learning and how it affects others around them.

### **Email**

Electronic mail is a convenient way for students to communicate with professors. If not used properly, however, email use can become problematic. Before sending an email, please attempt to obtain information from the course outline. 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 my office hours.

### **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 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.

### **Ethics 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 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.

### **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>

### **Deferrals**

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component 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 health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

**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://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp\\_Su\\_DFE\\_App.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.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).

### **Student Representation**

The 2015-16 Students’ Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: [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/role>

### **Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at **Professional Faculties Food Court**. Please check these

assembly point locations for all of your classes at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **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.

### **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 living 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\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)