



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

Faculty of Arts  
Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>  
Sociology 201(L03)-Introduction to Sociology  
Course Outline, Fall 2018

Fall 2018	TuTh 9:30am-10:45am	ICT 102
-----------	---------------------	---------

**Instructor:** Steve Dumas

**Office:** SS 904

**Email:** [sfdumas@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sfdumas@ucalgary.ca)

**Phone:** 403-220-3216

**Office Hours:** TuTh 10:45am-noon

**Teaching Assistant:** Sweta Gosh

**TA Email:** [sweta.ghosh1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sweta.ghosh1@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** TBA

### Introduction

Why do members of society behave the way 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 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 to social processes.

## **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.). (2017). *New society* (8th 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.

## Evaluation

There are three requirements to complete in this course.

Mid-Term Examination I	30%	Oct 9
Mid-Term Examination II	30%	Nov 1
Final Examination	40%	Scheduled by Registrar TBA

The first mid-term examination will take place on Oct 9th at 9:30am in our regular lecture theatre. The second mid-term examination will take place on November 1st at 9:30am in our regular lecture theatre. The final examination will be announced by the Registrar's Office. Examinations are **not cumulative**. Examinations 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.

## 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-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

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.

Date	Topic	Chapters to have read NS=New Society SIQ=Society in Question
September 6	Review outline	None
September 11	What is sociology?	NS=1, SIQ=1,2, 5
September 13	What is sociology?	NS=1, SIQ=1, 2, 5
September 18	How to do sociology	NS=2
September 20	How to do sociology	NS=2
September 25	Socialization	NS=4
September 27	Socialization	NS=4
October 2	Culture	NS=3, SIQ=8, 9
October 4	Culture	NS=3, SIQ=8, 9
October 9	<b>Mid-term examination I</b>	Based on all readings and lecture material above
October 11	Stratification	NS=7, SIQ=10, 11
October 16	Stratification	NS=7, SIQ=10, 11
October 18	"Race" and ethnicity	NS=9, SIQ=12, 13
October 23	"Race" and ethnicity	NS=9, SIQ=12, 13
October 25	Sex and gender	NS=5, SIQ=15, 16
October 30	Sex and gender	NS=5, SIQ=15, 16
November 1	<b>Mid-term examination II</b>	Based on all readings and lecture material above
November 6	Religion	NS=14

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapters to have read NS=New Society SIQ=Society in Question</b>
November 8	Religion	NS=14
November 20	Deviance and crime	NS=15, SIQ=21, 22
November 22	Deviance and crime	NS=15, SIQ=21, 22
November 27	*Urbanization	NS=16
November 29	*Urbanization	NS=16
December 4	Conclusion	None
December 6	Review	None

*\*If time permits.*

### **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 of the return of each examination grade, 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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

**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://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/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).

### **Student Representation**

The 2018-19 Students’ Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington: email: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca). For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student’s Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

### **Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the Energy, Environment and Experiential Learning building (EEL). 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” lines located across Campus.

## **Academic Accommodation**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](https://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy). Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy). Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

## **Student Resources**

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)