

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology 201(L01)-Introduction to Sociology
Course Outline, Spring 2017

Instructor: Steve Dumas	Office Hours: MW 11:00-noon OBA
Email: sfdumas@ucalgary.ca	Lecture Time: MW noon-2:45pm
Office: SS 904	Lecture Room: EDC 179
Phone: (403) 220-3216	

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* (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 and tutorials.

Evaluation

There are three requirements to complete in this course.

Mid-Term Examination I	30%	May 31
Mid-Term Examination II	30%	June 14
Final Examination	40%	Scheduled by Registrar TBA

The first mid-term examination will take place on May 31 at noon. The second mid-term examination will take place on June 14th at noon. 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 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.

NS=New Society

SIQ=Society in Question
Chapters to have read

Date	Topic	NS	SIQ
May 15	Review outline What is sociology?	Chapter 1	Chapters 1, 2, 5
May 17	What is sociology? How to do sociology	Chapter 2	Chapter 4
May 24	Socialization	Chapter 4	Chapters 3, 4
May 29	Culture	Chapter 3	Chapters 8, 9
May 31	Mid-Term I	Based on above chapters	Based on above chapters
June 5	Stratification	Chapter 7	Chapters 10, 11
June 7	'Race' and ethnicity	Chapter 9	Chapters 12, 13
June 12	Sex and gender	Chapter 5	Chapters 15, 16
June 14	Mid-Term II	Based on above chapters	Based on above chapters
June 19	Religion	Chapter 14	None
June 21	Deviance and Crime	Chapter 15	Chapters 21, 22
June 26	Urbanization Conclusion	Chapter 16	None
TBA	Final Examination	Based on above chapters	Based on above chapters

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.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

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/winter-2017-deferred-application-form.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 Tina Miller: email: suypaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.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 **Scurfield Hall - Atrium**. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/building-evacuation/assembly-points>

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/. 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