

University of Calgary
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology
Sociology 205 - Canadian Society
Course Outline, Winter 2008

Instructor: Steve Dumas
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Hours: TBA

Office: SS952
Office Hours: MWF 12:30-1pm/2-
2:30 or by appointment
Classroom: ST 140

Introduction: This course will introduce students to some of the most salient social issues in Canadian society. We will begin by considering the question of Canadian identity. Does Canada possess a unique identity? How should this be determined? What effects have been realized by the policy of Multiculturalism? We will also examine how Canada has dealt with issues such as persistent poverty, sexualities, crime and violence, racism, and others. We will examine why these issues are so important and how the state has traditionally attempted to resolve these matters. From our readings and congenial class discussions, we will explore these issues by considering how various sociological theories approach them. I expect students to be active producers rather than passive consumers of ideas. Thus, classes will involve a measure of discussion rather than just formal lecturing.

Required Text: In addition to various readings posted on Blackboard, we will use Samuelson, L. & Antony, W. (Eds.) (2007). *Power and resistance: Critical thinking about Canadian social issues*. (4th ed.). Halifax: Fernwood Publishing. This comprehensive collection of readings will address the issues identified above. A reading schedule follows the course outline. Students will be expected to carefully consider each assigned chapter/reading before class and make use of slide show notes available to you on Blackboard. Please realize that these files do not represent an exhaustive set of notes and are not an alternative to attending class regularly.

Evaluation

There are three requirements to complete this course.

1. Mid-term I 30% (Feb 11th)
2. Mid-Term II 30% (March 14th)
3. Final exam 40% (TBA scheduled by the Registrar's Office)

All tests will be in multiple choice format. Examinations will be based upon lectures and assigned readings. Thus, it is imperative that you complete all assigned readings (before each class).

Grading Scheme

A+ > 90%	B+ 77%-79%	C+ 67%-69%	D+ 57%-59%
A 85%-90%	B 73%-76%	C 63%-66%	D 53%-56%
A- 80%-84%	B- 70%-72%	C- 60%-62%	F <53%

Reading Schedule

The reading schedule is offered to you as a general guide. It is expected that some topics and readings may deserve further treatment and consequently more class time.

Date	Topic	Chapter
January 14	Introduction	None
January 16	Components of a Society	Introduction
January 18	The Canadian State	1
January 21	The Canadian State	1
January 23	Persistent Poverty	7 Blackboard Reading
January 25	Persistent Poverty	7 Blackboard Reading
January 28	Persistent Poverty	7 Blackboard Reading
January 30	Ethnic Relations and Multiculturalism	6 Blackboard Reading
February 1	Ethnic Relations and Multiculturalism	6 Blackboard Reading
February 4	Ethnic Relations and Multiculturalism	6 Blackboard Reading
February 6	Aboriginal Economic Development	5
February 8	Aboriginal Economic Development	5
February 11	Mid-Term	None
February 13	Crime in Canada	15
February 15	Crime in Canada	15
February 25	Crime in Canada	15
February 27	Crime in Canada	15
February 29	Sexuality in Canada.	4
March 3	Sexuality in Canada.	4
March 5	Sexuality in Canada.	4
March 7	Violence in Canadian families	2
March 10	Violence in Canadian families	2
March 12	Violence in Canadian families	2
March 14	Mid-Term	None
March 17	Families and Canadian Social Policies	11 Blackboard Reading
March 19	Families and Canadian Social Policies	11 Blackboard Reading
March 24	Families and Canadian Social Policies	11 Blackboard Reading
March 26	Education	12 Blackboard Reading

March 28	Education	12 Blackboard Reading
March 31	Education	12 Blackboard Reading
April 2	Health Care	13 Blackboard Reading
April 4	Health Care	13 Blackboard Reading
April 7	Health Care	13 Blackboard Reading
April 9	Our Environment	14 Blackboard Reading
April 11	Our Environment	14 Blackboard Reading
April 14	Our Environment	14 Blackboard Reading
April 16	Globalization	8
April 18	Globalization	8
	Final	

As this schedule is designed to be flexible, attendance at each class is very important in order to be aware of any potential changes. Also note that some of the films we will watch depict violent and graphic behaviour.

Exam Policies: You must provide advanced notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination 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 physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you must arrange to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

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 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.

Academic Misconduct: Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

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 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.**

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of 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 their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.