

University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology 205 - Canadian Society
Course Outline, Winter 2012

Instructor: Steve Dumas
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Hours: TBA

Office: SS 904
Office Hours: T/R 11:00-
noon or by appointment
Classroom: CHC 105

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 in the introduction. The reading schedule starts on the next page. 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% (February 7th)
2. Mid-Term II 30% (March 13th)
3. Final exam 40% (TBA scheduled by the Registrar's Office)

Tests will be in multiple choice and short answer 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

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 Schedule

| Date | Topic | Readings |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| January 10 | Introduction | None |
| January 12 | Components of a Society | Introduction |
| January 17 | The Canadian State | 1 |
| January 19 | Persistent Poverty | 7 |
| January 24 | Persistent Poverty | 7 |
| January 26 | Ethnic Relations and Multiculturalism | 6 |
| January 31 | Ethnic Relations and Multiculturalism | 6 |
| February 2 | Aboriginal Economic Development | 5 |
| February 7 | Mid-Term I | None |
| February 9 | Crime | 15 |
| February 14 | Crime | 15 |
| February 16 | Sexuality | 4 |
| February 28 | Sexuality | 4 |
| March 1 | Violence and Families | 2 |
| March 6 | Violence and Families | 2 |
| March 8 | Families and Canadian Social Policies | 11 |
| March 13 | Mid-Term II | None |
| March 15 | Families and Canadian Social Policies | 11 |
| March 20 | Education | 12 |
| March 22 | Education | 12 |
| March 27 | Health Care | 13 |
| March 29 | Health Care | 13 |
| April 3 | The Environment | 14 |
| April 5 | The Environment | 14 |
| April 10 | Globalization | 8 |
| April 12 | Globalization and Review | 8 |

Emergency evacuations:

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the *Professional Faculties Food Court*.

Deferrals:

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay 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 physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus 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://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.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).

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: Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. 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. Written 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, phone 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 in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and 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 be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.