

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
(www.soci.ucalgary.ca)**

SOCIOLOGY 309 (Alberta Society)

Course Outline, Winter 2008

Safewalk/Campus Security: 220-5333, ANYTIME

This course makes use of Blackboard to communicate information to students. To access Blackboard, go to: blackboard.ucalgary.ca OR my.ucalgary.ca

Instructor: Tom Langford
Office: SS 954 Phone: 220-6500

**Drop-In Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.(cancelled on Feb. 18); and
Fridays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (cancelled on Feb. 22 and March 21)**

If you have questions or concerns, please try to speak to me after class or in my office hours. If neither of these options is possible, you can send me an email: langford@ucalgary.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes an historical approach to understanding the key features of contemporary Alberta society. Among the questions we will consider are:

- How are contemporary relations between First Peoples and other Albertans connected to the military conquest of First Nations and the Métis in the 19th century?
- In what ways is contemporary Alberta similar to and different from the Alberta of the past?
- Is Alberta as a society becoming more or less distinctive compared to the rest of Canada?
- “How do current forms of [political] alienation compare with the two major protest movements of the past – the United Farmers of Alberta and Social Credit?”
- How did the discovery of oil at Leduc in 1947 change the direction and pace of social change in Alberta?
- Why have conservative movements and parties received such strong support in Alberta in the years since the Second World War? Concomitantly, why is Alberta the only Western Canadian province that has never elected an NDP provincial government?
- How have economic booms and economic busts affected Alberta society?
- What was the character of racialization and ethnic stratification in Alberta during the first decades of the 20th century? Are the current patterns of racialization and ethnic stratification different from the historical patterns?

- Is religion a defining characteristic of contemporary Alberta?
- What is the current state of rural Alberta, and what are its prospects for the future?
- What are the key environmental issues in contemporary Alberta and why are environmental groups relatively well supported by many Albertans?
- How has the computer revolution changed Alberta society?

REQUIRED BOOKS

(1) Van Herk, Aritha. 2001. *Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta*. Toronto: Penguin Canada. [MAVERICKS in the schedule of readings]

(2) Norton, Wayne and Tom Langford. 2002. *A World Apart: The Crowsnest Communities of Alberta and British Columbia*. Kamloops: Plateau Press. [CROWSNEST in the schedule of readings]

OTHER REQUIRED READINGS

In addition to readings from the two required books, you will be required to complete a number of additional readings. Some of these readings are journal articles available online through the University of Calgary library. They are designated LIBRARY ONLINE in the schedule of readings. Other readings are chapters from books or articles from journal issues that have not yet been digitized. Paper copies of these readings have been placed in the reserve section of the Mackimmie Library and are designated RESERVE in the schedule of readings. Finally, a few readings have been placed on the Soci 309 Blackboard site and are designated as BLACKBOARD in the schedule of readings.

ASSIGNED LISTENING AND VIEWING

You will be required to listen to a few audio files and perhaps view a video file or two during the course of the term. Many of the audio files are in The CKUA Sound Archives, found at http://66.244.199.219/CKUA_Archives/eng/index.aspx. Once you are at the homepage for this site, move your cursor across the menu items at the top until you get to “sound archive”. This yields a drop down menu of four items. Click on search. After this, put the appropriate tape number in the search engine at the bottom of the page.

ASSIGNED READING, LISTENING and/or VIEWING SCHEDULE

There will be assigned reading, listening and/or viewing prior to each class. Please try to keep up with these assignments since it will enhance your understanding of the materials we cover in class and your ability to participate in our classroom discussions. Also please keep in mind that you are responsible for and will be tested on material covered in assigned readings and assigned audio/video files even if there is no time to discuss that material in our classes.

The **Assigned Reading, Listening and/or Viewing Schedule** is found on Blackboard. As of January 11 it lists assignments for the first four weeks of classes. The Schedule will be updated as we get into the term. You will always have at least two weeks' advance notice to complete any assigned material.

STUDENT EVALUATION

(1) Mid-Term Test # 1, Friday February 15, 3 to 4:15 p.m.

(A) Format: True/false, multiple choice and short answer questions on material covered between Jan. 14 and Feb. 15. This includes the assigned readings and assigned audio or video files.

(B) Value: 20% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.

(2) Participation in Field Trip to the Mavericks display at the Glenbow Museum followed by a Blackboard submission on the trip

(A) Commitments This field trip will involve a 3-4 hour time commitment over and above attendance at lectures. Students will be responsible for their transportation to the Glenbow and a special reduced Glenbow admission charge (amount TBA). Prior to the trip, students will be assigned questions and organized into small groups (maximum of 4 in a group). It is recommended that the members of a group arrange to tour the Mavericks display at the same time. Group members will be able to alert each other to relevant materials. Furthermore, it will be helpful if group members sit down together after the tour and discuss how to answer the assigned questions. Each student is required to submit short answers to these questions through the Blackboard Digital Drop Box within 24 hours of the conclusion of your field trip. The answers will be marked.

(B) Date/Time: Please complete the field trip sometime between Saturday 16 February and Sunday 16 March.

(C) Value: 10%

(3) Mid-Term Test # 2, Friday April 4, 3 to 4:15 p.m.

(A) Format: True/false, multiple choice and short answer questions on material covered between 16 February and April 4.

(B) Value: 20% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.

(4) Final Examination, to be scheduled by the Registrar in the April 21-30 period

(A) Format of Part A: True/false and multiple choice questions on material covered between April 7 and 18.

(B) Value of Part A: 10%

(C) Format of Part B: Preassigned essay questions covering material from the entire course.

(D) Value of Part B: 30%

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Late Penalty. Except in the cases of documented illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to the instructor's attention prior to 16 March, a penalty of 5% of the assigned mark per day will be assessed if answers based upon the Glenbow field trip are submitted late.

(2) A student who has a legitimate reason for being unable to write the mid-term test must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. At his discretion, the instructor will transfer the percentage weight to another component of the course, or set a make-up test. Make-up tests must be written as soon as possible at the Department of Sociology make-up test sessions, Thursday evenings starting at 5 p.m.

(3) Students who miss the 15 February mid-term because they hope to start Reading Week a bit early will not be given the opportunity to write a make-up test. Therefore, if you have already made travel plans for Reading Week, and you are currently scheduled to leave Calgary before our mid-term on the afternoon of Friday 15 February, please change your travel plans.

(4) The quality of a student's writing is a factor in the evaluation of a student's work in this course, particularly in Part B of the final examination.

(5) "Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge" (*Calendar 2007-08*). Please review the University of Calgary's policies for dealing with student misconduct, particularly plagiarism and cheating.

<<www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/2007/how/How_LB.htm>>

(6) The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments or tests or projects from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Graded work must be returned to students individually. If you miss the class where work is handed back, please arrange to pick it up directly from the instructor at his scheduled office hours.

(7) 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.

(8) Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online through the University of Calgary system for students.

(9) 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.

(10) The grades for a course component may be scaled to conform to departmental norms.

LETTER GRADES

At the end of the term numerical marks are totalled and a final letter grade is assigned on the following basis:

<u>Percentage Range</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage Range</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
Less than 50	F	72-75	B-
50-53	D	76-79	B
54-58	D+	80-84	B+
59-62	C-	85-89	A-
63-66	C	90-94	A
67-71	C+	95 and higher	A+