

**DEPARTMENT OF arts and education**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2018**

**SO1000 (N2): INTRODUCTORY SOCIOLOGY – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

**Instructor:** Dr. Neal A. Smithwick **E-mail:** [nsmithwick@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:nsmithwick@gprc.ab.ca)

**Office:**  C410 **Phone:** 780-539-2973

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 11:30-12:30; Wednesdays 2:30-3:30; Thursdays 11:30-12:30;

or anytime by appointment.

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines the theory, methods, and substance of sociology. How societies and individuals are shaped and modified by culture, socialization, deviance, stratification, group processes, industrialization, and social movements will be covered.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** None.

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Macionis, J. and L. Gerber. 2018. *Sociology: Ninth Canadian Edition*. Don Mills, Ontario: Pearson Canada Inc.

* Supplemental readings will be provided for free on our Moodle web-site.
  + Be certain to follow our course outline carefully in order to complete readings prior to each lecture.

## **DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lectures & Discussions

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students will:

* Be shown how to apply the theories and methodologies of sociology as a science, and how it relates to people’s individual lives.
* Be introduced to essential sociological concepts, perspectives, and their historical foundations.
* Be provided with strong foundational knowledge in preparation for further studies in sociology.
* Be familiarized with the key sociological concepts, theories and debates in present society.
* Be shown that economic and political inequality is a common feature in all capitalist societies.
* Utilize empirical evidence that race, class, and gender are categorization systems that are socially created and designed to rationalize the uneven distribution of privilege.
* Discuss how institutions are socially constructed in order to enforce and regulate such privilege.
* Encouraged to develop essential skills in critical thinking, writing, referencing and research.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Upon completion of the course, students will:

* Define a range of sociological concepts used within substantive fields of social science.
* Illustrate the applicability of sociological concepts to everyday life.
* Identify and explain the methodological approaches and techniques used by social scientists, including their ethical principles.
* Identify social forces and institutions that shape people’s lives, often constraining their individual choices.
* Describe the process of socialization, and how skills, norms and values are learned.
* Analyze social inequality as a social (rather than as an individual) phenomenon.
* Identify, race, class, ethnicity, and gender as important dimensions of inequality in Canadian social history, and the global spread of such relations.

**TRANSFERABILITY:** UA, UC, AU, UL, AF, CU, CUC, GMU, KUC

**\*Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities**. Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

**EVALUATIONS:**

Test #1: 12.5% (October 1)

Test #2: 12.5% (November 5)

Final Exam: 30% (TBA)

Critical Reflection Assignments: 20% (4 x 5% each: See course outline)

Research Outline Assignment: 25% (December 3)

**Please note: It is simply unfair to alter the course evaluation for any individual. Therefore, under any conditions, there will be no alternative tests or assignments if you miss or do poorly on a requirement.**

* **Furthermore, it is your responsibility to track your own grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.**

**Submission & Late Policies:**

* Equally important to learn and apply professional communication skills, such as writing proper e-mail messages, it is very important to learn to meet deadlines. Complete your assignments on time!
* Late and/or incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0%, unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me **well in advance of any due date**.

**Tests and Final Exam**

The two Mid-Term Tests (12.5% each) and Final Examination (30%) will consist of any combination of multiple choice, true/false, matching, or short answer questions. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. The two mid-term test materials are *not* cumulative, but the final exam is.

**Critical Reflection Assignments**

There will be four, semi-formal critical reflections due throughout the course. Select any topic of interest in which we are studying. You should write about a topic that is discussed or read during the course scheduled time period, but you may only chose such a topic once. These are to be submitted as **hard copies** at the beginning of class on the respective due dates, and are to be typed with double spacing, proper paragraphing and grammar. These reflections do not require citations or outside resources. Each reflection will be approximately 500 words, utilizing the proper academic writing guidelines (provided). Learn time management! For these assignments, late papers are unacceptable.

* Time permitting, there may be class time provided to work on these assignments.
* Two Clear Objectives:

1. Basic academic writing **structure** of an essay **body**.
2. Basic academic writing **grammar**.

**Research Outline Assignment**

There will be a research project assigned during the first weeks of the course. This is essentially a “non-essay” assignment, in which students will learn strategies for locating peer reviewed, academic resources, and then organizing research into a logical essay outline. A late penalty will be enforced should you miss the class on the date which it is due.  **Hard copies only**. Essentially, you will be submitting a detailed research *outline* (rather than a completed formal essay) which includes paraphrasing research and utilizing proper citations.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

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| **Alpha Grade** | **4-point Equivalent** | **Percentage Guidelines** |  | **Alpha Grade** | **4-point Equivalent** | **Percentage Guidelines** |
| A+ | 4.0 | 90-100 |  | C+ | 2.3 | 67-69 |
| A | 4.0 | 85-89 |  | C | 2.0 | 63-66 |
| A- | 3.7 | 80-84 |  | C- | 1.7 | 60-62 |
| B+ | 3.3 | 77-79 |  | D+ | 1.3 | 55-59 |
| B | 3.0 | 73-76 |  | D | 1.0 | 50-54 |
| B- | 2.7 | 70-72 |  | F | 0.0 | 0-49 |

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings/Assignments Due** |
| Sept.  10 | Introduction to the course, and  Sociological Perspectives. | Chapter 1.  Miner, Horace. 2014. “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” (*Moodle link*).  Chapter 4 will be utilized as essential reference material for learning the basic sociological perspectives in this course. |
| Sept.  17 | Social Scientific Research Methods. | Chapter 2. |
| Sept.  24 | Culture. | Chapter 3.   * **Reflection #1 is due (hard copy only).** |
| Oct.  1 | **Test #1** | * Basic Academic Writing Workshop. |
| Oct.  15 | Socialization. | Chapter 5.   * **Reflection #2 is due (hard copy only).** |
| Oct.  22 | Social Stratification and Inequality. | Chapters 10 and 11.   * **Reflection #3 is due (hard copy only).** |
| Oct.  29 | Race and Ethnic Relations. | Chapter 14. |
| Nov.  5 | **Test #2** | * Basic Academic Writing Workshop. |
| Nov.  19 | Gender Relations. | Chapter 13.   * **Reflection #4 is due (hard copy only).** |
| Nov.  26 | The Institution of Family. | Chapter 18. |
| Dec.  3 | The Economy and Globalization  in the 21st Century. | Chapters 12 and 16.  **\*Research Outline Assignment due at the beginning of class. Hard copies only.** |

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Attendance and Exam Policies:

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as are your participation in class discussions and group discussions.

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student’s learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). *Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.*

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes by asking fellow students for the material covered, and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and/or notes that may be due.

***PLEASE NOTE:***

In order to fair to everyone in this course, **I will not alter the evaluation**, so any missed testing or assignments will not be accommodated.

Statement of Plagiarism and Cheating:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/>or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

* Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.
* **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Come and see me during my office hours, and I will assist you or point you towards other suitable sources of support. If you are scheduled to attend lectures or have other commitments during my office hours, please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

**Moodle:**

This course will make extensive use of our web-site on Moodle to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

Academic Misconduct:

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

• Plagiarism or the submission of another person’s work as one’s own.

• The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating).

• Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work.

• Substitution in an examination by another person.

• Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment.

• Breach of confidentiality.

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the GPRC credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

**SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS:**

Counselling and Disability Services:

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

Students with Disabilities:

It is the College’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please let your instructor know immediately so options can be discussed. You are also welcome to contact Accessibility Services to establish reasonable accommodations. https://www.gprc.ab.ca/services/accessibility/

Learning Support Centre:

The Learning Support Centre is accessible though the Library at the Main campus of GPRC, where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The Learning Support Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to GPRC students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.

Professional Conduct:

* Please be aware that I respect that everyone’s time is precious and valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.
* Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, “how do I get an ‘A’?” Instead, ask yourself, “how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective and outlook on the real world?”

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

**Additional Information:**

* Please only use your **GPRC e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
* Always include “SO 1000” in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
* Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails *formally*, as you will need to do on a regular basis upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!