



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2013

SO1000 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Sections C2 & N2

(University Transfer: Alberta, Calgary, Lethbridge, Kings, Concordia, Canadian, Athabasca, Augustana, Grant MacEwan)

INSTRUCTOR: Alan Segal

PHONE: 780-539-2011

OFFICE: C410

E-MAIL: asegal@gprc.ab.ca

Mondays and Wednesday: 14:30 – 15:30 After night classes or by

OFFICE HOURS: appointment.

PREREQUISITE(S)/CO-REQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Exploring Sociology: A Canadian Perspective, Second Edition - Bruce Ravelli & Michelle Webber

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Introductory Sociology examines the theories, methods, and substance of sociology. These develop insight into how societies and individuals are shaped and modified by characteristics of social life, such as culture, socialization, stratification, group processes, economics, and social movements.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3 University Credits

DELIVERY MODE(S): Class and Group Discussion, Lectures, Film Analyses

TRANSFERABILITY: *** Grades of 'D' or 'D+' may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students must be aware it is their responsibility to contact receiving institutions to ensure transferability.

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A+	4.0	95 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	90 – 94	
A-	3.7	87 – 89	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B+	3.3	83 – 86	
B	3.0	80 – 82	GOOD
B-	2.7	77 – 79	
C+	2.3	73 – 76	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	65 – 72	
C-	1.7	60 – 64	MINIMAL PASS
D+	1.3	55 – 59	
D	1.0	50 – 54	FAIL
F	0.0	0 – 49	
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

NOTE: On the College's marking grid there is no D-. Therefore no such final mark will be recorded. However, for the course assignments, I will use D- as an additional non-failing mark.

EVALUATION:

Academic assignments for this course emphasize synthesis of ideas from a sociological standpoint, and the best questions you can think of to advance that synthesis. Analysis does not mean just reporting what others have said on a topic. Important as this is, other authors' ideas or conclusions are valuable because they add insight or specific details that help you to ask questions about the topic you have selected. My assignments are a philosophical inquiry that is advanced through your own and others' investigations. Deciding what questions are worth raising is an important part of analysis. Conclusions can be valuable but aren't obligatory for any of my assignments.

Tabulating Grades:

All of your assignments will receive a letter mark. At the end of the course I will add the Total Grade Points you have received based on the letter-grades your assignments have received. The grid above shows you the Grade Point Value for each letter. Maximum Grade Points available from all your assignments for this course is 16.6. Attaining a Grade Point Total of 16.6 is the same achievement as receiving 100%. When I have your Total Grade Point I will divide it by 16.6. A percentage will be derived based on this calculation, and the percentage will be reconverted to a final grade according to the grid above.

Multiple Choice Exam: **(F, D- to B)**

Maximum Grade Points 2.7 Out Of 13.3 = 5% of Your Final Mark

Date of Exam: Last class of November

The exam will cover chapters 2 – 10, 14, 16 - 19.

Sociological Film Analysis (Two): **(F, D- to A+)**

**Maximum Grade Points 8 Out Of 13.3 = 60% of Your Final
Mark**

Dues Dates: Five days after the viewing of the film.

Minimum Length is 1200 words.

Throughout the term films will be shown to you. They will be discussed sociologically, employing a variety of ideas mentioned in the main text. Following the showing of a film, you may be asked to write an essay of at least 1200 words, that sociologically analyzes ideas from the course text. I will select some ideas or theories that must be included in the analysis, and you will add at least the same number from any part of the book, including those we haven't reached or discussed. You should not reduce this to whether the film deserves praise, or your appraisal of the plot design. Your exploration should concentrate on the sociological value of the piece. In all of these you must completely capitalize, or write in bold font, the first use of a theory or concept. I have to be convinced that you understand these; an explanation of them the first time they appear in your essay, therefore, is required. You must display a workable knowledge of the ideas you mention. You gain if you can go beyond what is said in class discussion.

Two Journals: **(F, C- to C+)**

Maximum 4.6 Grade Points Out Of 13.3 = 35% of Your Final Mark

Due Dates: First Class of October and November

Minimum length is 300 words.

Anything pertaining to sociology, class discussions or lectures, class interaction, personal life, relevant to our examination of sociology, or course observations and suggestions, is a suitable topic. No research is expected.

***Grammar is important to communicating precise meaning. Therefore, while it will not be valued as highly as content, it will be evaluated and therefore can affect your mark.**

****JOURNALS ARE SUBJECT TO LATENESS PENALTIES OF ONE GRADE FOR EACH DAY PAST THE DEADLINE. THERE IS ALSO A ONE-GRADE PENALTY FOR ASSIGNMENTS THAT ARE LESS THAN THE MINIMUM LENGTH.**

*****ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SENT BY EMAIL, TO MY COLLEGE ACCOUNT:
asegal@gprc.ab.ca ALSO, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE WORD 'ASSIGNMENT' IN THE SUBJECT LINE,
AND INDICATE WHICH ASSIGNMENT IT IS.**

Discussion Bonus: (A, B, C, D)

Every person in the course may (but not necessarily will), receive a bonus mark based on a combination of the frequency and quality of the participation. Discussion postings to a Moodle discussion forum also will be considered class participation. You will be eligible for a bonus mark only if you display commitment to the course by reading the books and completing all written assignments. Although attendance is not relevant to the regular assignments for the course, it is important to your eligibility for a bonus mark. The bonus mark offers an A, B, C, or D. No plus or minus signs will be used. If you receive a bonus mark, it will be added to your overall grade total prior to working out a final mark. Eligibility for the bonus is nullified if you are absent for more than 4 classes. The bonus will not result in more than a 3-level rise in final grades.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

University courses provide the best intellectual and perhaps social experience, when students arrive prepared for the day's work. My classes are heavily discussion -oriented and therefore require commitment from students.

1. Read assignments.
2. Participate in class conversation about the material.
3. Complete all written work.
4. Indicate on submitted material your name; section and course number; and which assignment is being sent to me.
5. All written work must be sent via email to asegal@gprc.ab.ca You MUST use the word 'assignment' in the subject line.
6. *** Electronic Devices: People who must have contact with others during class time may leave their cell phones on 'vibrate', and leave the room if a response is required. Otherwise, texting or use of phones will result in you having to miss that particular class. Please do not put me in a position of having to do this.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

In an academic setting, presenting others' work as your own is a serious violation. However, referencing articles and books and online academic products do not prevent you from building on their ideas and speculations. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at

<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

1. Introduction to SO1000
2. Chapter 1 - Understanding the Sociological Imagination
3. Chapter 2 - Classical Social Theories
4. Chapter 3 - Modern Social Theories
5. Chapter 5 - Culture
6. Chapter 18 - Social Change, Collective Behaviour, and Social Movements
7. Chapter 7 - Social Inequality
8. Chapter 6 - Socialization and Social Interaction
Chapter 19 - Globalization
9. Chapters 8 and 9 - Gender; Social Inequality
10. Chapters 10 and 16 - Race and Racialization; Work and the Political Economy
11. Chapter 14 - Crime, law, and Regulation
12. Chapter 17 - Mass Media
13. Chapter 12 - Education
14. Chapter 11 - Families
15. Chapter 13 - Religion
16. Chapter 15 - Health, Aging, and Disabilities
17. Chapter 4 - Research, Methodology, and Ethics
18. Chapter 20 - Challenges to the Global Environment