

SYLLABUS

Welcome to Introductory Sociology! SOC 1200

This course is designed to introduce you to the diversity of concepts, principles, procedures, and facts that comprise an introduction to the discipline of sociology. A quick perusal of the table of contents in your textbook demonstrates that during this course you shall investigate a variety of topics.

Learning sociology is like learning the lessons of any other discipline. For most of us, this means both fun and work. I am sure that some of the topics included in this course you shall find taxing or tedious; others, you shall find interesting and relevant. In all areas, however, I have tried to make the approach as interesting as possible. Based on over three decades of helping students master the fundamentals of my discipline, I feel confident in telling you that, if you are willing to put in the time and effort, this course will move you along the path of becoming a more liberally educated, socially aware person.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The University of Manitoba *Undergraduate Calendar* describes this course as follows:

A systematic introduction to the scientific perspective of sociology. The following areas will be treated: culture, socialization, groups, social stratification, associations, collective behaviour, and urban and political institutions.

For various reasons, modern societies predispose us to interpreting individual and organizational conduct in individualistic terms. When a marriage falls apart, one of the partners is blamed. When corporations fail, the result is attributed to corrupt management. To a limited extent, such individualistic interpretations are helpful. Marriage partners are imperfect; organizations' managers are deficient. But that is not the whole story.

Sociology seeks to add to our understanding of individual and social events by revealing how social relationships, connections, or bonds shape outcomes. Sociology shifts our attention from the character of persons to the nature of their relationships. In doing so it reveals that there are more forces at work shaping outcomes than individual talents and effort.

Perhaps an analogy is helpful. You have probably heard about scientific experiments that run rats through mazes. These experiments compare how the characteristics of different types of rats affect their speed at solving the maze. Smart rats are compared to stupid ones; neurotic rats are compared to balanced ones; and so on. These experiments focus on individualistic explanations. A sociological perspective is less interested in the characteristics of the rats and, instead, focuses on the characteristics of the maze.

We all live in social worlds that present us with differential choices and chances. Social life is a maze where different people start in different locations and have different opportunities to complete the maze successfully. Sociology is interested in the different types of mazes societies create, who starts where in the race, and how the constructed mazes affects winners and losers.

COURSE GOALS

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Recognize how the sociological perspective contributes to understanding individual and organizational action.
2. Explain how competing sociological theories add valuable insights.
3. Describe and employ sociological concepts to interpret events.
4. Recite fundamental social facts and definitions.
5. Analyze the structure of Canadian society.
6. Apply sociological concepts and principles to concrete circumstances.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required

Bookstore

The following required materials are available for purchase from the [University of Manitoba Bookstore](#). Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

Textbook

Brym, Robert, Lance Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, and John Lie. (2016). *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World* (Fifth Canadian Edition). Toronto: Nelson Canada.

Important Note: You must obtain the "bundled" 5th edition of the textbook. "Bundled" means that the textbook includes a special card and code that gives you access to the online study guide, called MindTap. If there is any doubt, here is the technical information used by the bookstore to order the properly bundled textbook.

- **KIT: SOC YOUR COMPASS 5E + MINDTAP**
- **ISBN 0176706402**

You must get both the 5th edition of the book and the MindTap (online study guide access). Earlier editions of the book are *not acceptable* and you will need to access the MindTap materials every week. The use of the online study guide (MindTap) is explained in the orientation materials that I prepared.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to help you advance toward two goals, including (i) to understand and comprehend the basic concepts, principles, facts, and theories of the sociological discipline, and (ii) to practice applying sociological concepts and principles to real world circumstances.

To these ends, the weekly structure of course requirements is standardized and includes three components. First, you are assigned a chapter from the textbook they are required to study. Second, a short mini-lecture on a theme related to the chapter reading is provided. Third, you complete specified exercises related to the week's reading.

This three-component weekly schedule is designed to engage students in the *consumption* of sociological concepts, principles, and ideas. In addition to this weekly programme of activity, during the course students will engage in two exercises that allow them to participate in the *production* of sociological insights. These exercises in developing the sociological imagination include the following.

Data Analysis Exercises: Using analytical tools provided in Week 2, you will work on analyzing and interpreting empirical evidence related to a sociological issue. A data analysis and interpretation exercise will be presented near the beginning of each unit of the course. You will work on each exercise during the unit and will be tested on this material as part of the unit test.

Sociological Analysis Project: This project requires students to produce a 5 minute digital presentation that illustrates a sociological concept, principle, or theme. In this exercise you will have the opportunity to explore a sociological topic in some depth. Suggestions for topics and presentation approaches will be provided.

Topics

The course content is divided into five units. Each unit covers 4 textbook chapters, associated videos, mini-lectures, and assignments. The weekly themes of each of the course units are outlined below.

UNIT 1	FUNDAMENTAL FEATURES
<i>Week 1</i>	The Sociological Perspective
<i>Week 2</i>	Sociological Research
<i>Week 3</i>	Culture
<i>Week 4</i>	Society
<i>Week 5</i>	<i>Unit 1 Test</i>
UNIT 2	MICRO TO MACRO LINKAGES
<i>Week 6</i>	Socialization
<i>Week 7</i>	Social Interaction
<i>Week 8</i>	Deviance and Crime
<i>Week 9</i>	Social Stratification
<i>Week 10</i>	<i>Unit 2 Test</i>

UNIT 3 INEQUALITIES

Week 11	Globalization
Week 12	Race and Ethnicity
Week 13	Gender Stratification
Week 14	The Economy and Work
Week 15	<i>Unit 3 Test</i>

UNIT 4 BASIC INSTITUTIONS

Week 16	Functions of Government
Week 17	Families
Week 18	Belief Systems
Week 19	Learning
Week 20	<i>Sociological Analysis Group Project</i>
Week 21	<i>Unit 4 Test</i>

UNIT 5 SOCIAL CHANGE

Week 22	Population Quantity and Quality
Week 23	Biophysical Environment
Week 24	Health
Week 25	Social Change
Week 26	Unit 5 Test

CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR

For information on contacting your instructor as well as other important information from your instructor see the Instructor Letter on the lessons tab.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

The contribution of each course component to your final grade is as follows:

5 Unit Tests (5 X 12%)	60 percent
Sociological Analysis Project	30 percent
Course Participation	10 percent
Total	100 percent

Grades for each of these components will be posted on the course web site as they become available. Following this format, students can check their grades to be sure that course components have been completed, that their grades are recorded accurately, and to calculate where they stand in terms of course performance.

The following table indicates how the final grades in the course are translated into letter grades. Students should note, however, that, for multi-section courses like Introductory Sociology, the Department of Sociology follows the Senate guidelines that require inter-section comparison of final grades. Following this policy, the department reserves the right to adjust students' final grades so they are aligned with historical norms.

Grading Scale

Letter grade	Percentage range	Description
A+	90 – 100	Exceptional
A	80 – 89	Excellent
B+	75 – 79	Very good
B	70 – 74	Good
C+	65 – 69	Satisfactory
C	60 – 64	Adequate
D	50 – 59	Marginal
F	less than 50	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Examination Impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba *Undergraduate Calendar*. Note: These policies are also located in your *Distance and Online Education Student Handbook* or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

Assignments

Unit Tests (5 X 12% = 60%)

Upon completion of each of the five units, you will take an online test. These tests occur during the test weeks identified on the course schedule. Each unit test come in two separate components. The first component will be multiple choices questions related to all materials in the unit, including the textbook chapters, mini-lectures, MindTap work, and data analysis exercises. The second component will involve a written element related to your understanding of the data analysis exercises.

Sociological Analysis Project (30%)

This assignment allows you to connect abstract sociological concepts, principles, and ideas and connect them to concrete realities. In doing so, the goal is to give you practice in applying a sociological imagination. The details of this year's project will be distributed in November.

Course Participation (10%)

A large sample of very talented people are enrolled in this course. Course participation is a win-win situation for all those involved. Your participation helps solidify your understanding of the course material and gives each of us the opportunity to learn from others.

Note: Detailed instructions about all of the assignments will be posted in the assignment section in your course website.

Assignment due dates

Consult your course Calendar for the assignment due dates.

Examination

Note: The final exam will be conducted at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus or at an alternate location off-campus. **All students must declare** an exam location. The Registrar's Office is responsible for scheduling the final exam. Once finalized, the exam date and time information will be posted on the University of Manitoba Exam site.

The final examination will be 3 hours in length. It will be a cumulative examination, covering all the course material (except the sociological analysis project). Slightly more weight (i.e., more questions) will be given to the fifth unit of the course. The format of the final examination will be similar to that of the unit tests. In this way, the unit tests are "rehearsals" of the examination. The examination will include only objective (i.e., machine scored) questions. A description of the final examination format (including number and types of questions) will be posted near the end of the term.

DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION (DE) STUDENT RESOURCES

In your course website there are links for the following:

- Contacting Distance and Online Education Staff
- Distance and Online Student Handbook
- Distance and Online Education Website

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lance W. Roberts is a professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Manitoba and a Fellow of St. John's College. In addition to his regular teaching assignments at the University, he has a long-time involvement with distance education projects through the Extended Education, University of Manitoba, teaching during summer session as well as through independent studies and audioconferencing.

Professor Roberts maintains an active research program in the areas of social psychology and the sociology of education. His recent books include *Multicultural Variations* (McGill-Queen's University Press) and *Understanding Social Statistics* (Oxford University Press). He has received numerous teaching awards and is co-author of the 55h edition of your textbook.

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