

**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**Grande Prairie Regional College**

**Sociology 1000 Introductory Sociology**

**3(3-0-0) UT**

**Winter 2009      SO1000 D3**

**Instructor:** Dianne McDonald    **Office:** C 214

**Room:** B208-Mon. & Wed.    **Time:** 10:00 to 11:20    **Phone:** (W) 539-2987 (H) 513-9775

**Office hours:** Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 2:30 to 4pm

**By appointment or drop-ins welcome**

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**Course 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 explored. Transfer: UA, UC, UL, AU, CU, CUC, KUC, AUC

**Objectives:**

The aim of this course is to provide an introduction to the 'sociological perspective' and the sociological/social science enterprise. Central to the sociological perspective is that there is a close relationship between the ways people interact with each other, and how organizations and institutions impact upon or govern their interaction. We will explore this two-way relationship by studying the fundamental principles by which societies and cultures are organized, and by examining the variety and kinds of organizations, institutions and behavior patterns people have created and engage in. The interdisciplinary and professional nature of social science research will be stressed in this course.

**Required Texts:**      Society: The Basics, Macionis, John J. et al

**Term Work Value:**

<b>Theme Papers (4)</b> Feb. 16, Feb. 27, Mar.20, Apr. 10 .....	40%
<b>Sociology Matters (2)</b> Jan.12 to Apr. 14.....	5%
<b>Participation/Initiative</b> .....	10%
<b>Learning Summary</b> .....	10%
<b>Mid Term</b> week of Feb. 23.....	15%
<b>Final Exam or Research Paper (1500 words)</b> Dec. 10.....	20%

**SO 1000 Introductory Sociology**

## THEME PAPERS

Each student will submit four (4) “Theme Papers” based on the text or other readings or news events. These typed papers must be double spaced and contain approximately four hundred (400) words. The purpose of this assignment is to provide the student with an opportunity to think critically about the course readings and to write an essay which **synthesizes explanation** and **personal reflection**. Students are encouraged to draw on lived experiences, when appropriate.

The **Theme Paper** should address one theme covered in the readings of the previous weeks from the date of the last submission. The Theme Paper will provide a critical reflection in which the students explore their own thoughts, reactions, and responses to lived experiences which the course has made them see either in a new or a different light. Each theme Paper will also be graded for **composition**; here **grammar**, **clarity** and **spelling** will be important.

## SOCIOLOGY MATTERS

Each student will be required to make a presentation to the Sociology 1000 class on any **local, national or international news events or situations** that has occurred in the last twelve months. This presentation will show a relationship between the event and specific sociological perspectives or sociological theories that have been discussed in class. Students will draw random dates for their two (2) class presentations. All presentations must be referenced. Each presentation is to take no more than five (5) minutes and is worth 5% of the final grade.

## PARTICIPATION/INITIATIVE

The class **Participation Grade** is determined by evaluating a student’s contribution to the classroom learning environment. The **Initiative Grade** is designed to encourage students to initiate consultation with the instructor. Each student is expected to have at least **two** consultations with the instructor during the semester. The student will then have the opportunity to go over assignment drafts, seek extra resources or discuss assignments or tests.

## LEARNING SUMMARY

At the conclusion of this course students will be asked to write a **Learning Summary** of everything they have learned in the course. This summary will include key concepts and examples of how these sociological concepts can be applied to society here in our immediate community or in the global community. The **Learning Summary** should contain between 600 and 800 words.

## BASIC EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

- 1) Attend all classes. Come prepared with assignments and readings completed. Be prepared to participate actively in your learning.
- 2) "Theme papers" will lose marks if they are significantly less or more than the **required** word length.
- 3) Students are required to make two copies of each of the four "Theme papers".
- 4) Each student is responsible for any changes to this syllabus which may be announced when the student is not in class.
- 5) Please see the College Calendar on "Plagiarism" under Student Conduct (page 49) Plagiarism is never allowed. Plagiarism includes representing the ideas or words of another person as your own without proper acknowledgment and extends to the work of other students, the Internet, books, magazines, journals, TV shows, films, etc. This would not only include direct copying without citing the source, but paraphrasing as well.

## Grading Conversation Chart

Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage Range	Description
A+	4.0		<i>Outstanding</i>
A	4.0	95 - 100	<i>Excellent</i>
A-	3.7	90 - 94	
B+	3.3	85 - 89	
B	3.0	80 - 84	<i>Good</i>
B-	2.7	75 - 79	
C+	2.3	70 - 74	
C	2.0	65 - 69	<i>Satisfactory</i>
C-	1.7	60 - 64	
D+	1.3	55 - 59	
D	1.0	50 - 54	<i>Minimal Pass</i>
F	0.0	Below 50	<i>Fail</i>

Students earning 69% or less on any assignment may request a rewrite.