

## SOCIOLOGY 1000

### Introductory Sociology Grande Prairie Regional College Fall 2005-2006

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Office: C410, 539-2011  
Office hours: Mondays: 14:30 –15:30; Tuesdays and Thursdays 15:30 – 16:30.  
Or By appointment

Course Prerequisite: None

**Course Description:** An examination of the theory, methods, and substance of sociology; of society, culture, economy, and individual

**Required Texts:** *Sociology In Our Times: The Essentials* - Kendall, Linden, and Murray

#### **Assignments:**

All written work must clearly stipulate your name, course number, and specific assignment. Omitting any of these will result in a lateness penalty of one day. All written work must be submitted by email. All assignments will be sent to me at [outpost@telus.net](mailto:outpost@telus.net). *The receipt date and time that accompanies the email message will count as the official submission time for the work you're handing in, and no item should be sent as an attachment. If you email your assignment as an attachment I will return it to you without reading it, and this could have an impact on your grade if the assignment is subject to a lateness penalty.*

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

*Real-Life Reports (C+ to B) [Four Expected]:* For each chapter or group of chapters listed at the end of this outline you will submit in class a brief paper on some aspect(s) of local, regional, provincial, or national society, that is evidence of the content of the particular chapter we are discussing in class. Whatever aspect(s) of life in Canada you will refer to, you must show how it fits with the idea[s] of the chapter. You cannot use information that is older than 2 months, and you cannot write only generally about the characteristics you specify. You must include a copy of the article you have selected to discuss, and you may use any worthwhile news source. Three RLRs are due, but you have 10 attempts.

Two Journals (C+ to B): Each journal is due the first class of each month, beginning in October. 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. The purpose is to allow informal communication with the instructor.

Major Assignment (D to A+): Early in the semester we will view *Bowling for Columbine*. There will be a copy as well on reserve in the library. This requirement expects from you at least a 1000 word essay based on the film, in which you will imagine yourself a documentary filmmaker. As you imagine yourself in this career, you will contemplate doing a similar documentary on Canadian society. This assignment asks you to discuss and explain what facets of Canadian life you would explore, expose, analyze, reflect upon. And why any of this would be worthwhile as the subject of a documentary.  
Due Date: Last class of semester.

Discussion Bonus: Everyone 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 Blackboard 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, and completing the required assignments. Although attendance is not relevant to the regular assignments for the course, it is important to your eligibility for a bonus mark. If you are absent for more than 5 classes you will not receive a bonus grade. 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.

Tabulation of Marks: Your final mark will be formulated by adding the grade point value for each letter grade you receive and the bonus mark if you have received one, and dividing by the maximum Grade Point total you can receive given the number of assignments for the course. In this case, the total will be divided by 20.

NOTE: (1) No class averaging will be done. (2) All marks will appear on Blackboard. You are responsible for monitoring your grade input, and informing me that a mark has not appeared for which you deserve credit.

## DISCUSSION SEQUENCE

As you consider the questions below for class discussion, keep in mind that quick judgements, or a quick expression of agreement or disagreement, is not what I expect of you. Think comprehensively and insightfully about these questions. All classes will begin with an overview discussion of the reading, and move on to consideration of specific issues.

### 1. Introduction to course

### 2. Sociology... Chapter 1

- What are sociological perspectives? How would you describe and explain a non-sociological outlook? Is there such a thing as a sociological fact? Is so, what is it? What is a sociological imagination?
- What is a status quo? Provide some examples of this.
- Which contemporary sociological theories are introduced in this chapter? Explain them.

### 3. Sociology... Chapters 2 & 3

- What are culture, subculture, material culture, cultural universals and counterculture?
- Why differentiate values, mores, and norms from each other?
- What are cultural change and culture shock? What reasoning do you think may motivate the authors to connect technology, culture, and change?
- What do we cover in our minds when we think of socialization? How and why do we socialize people? Why do we use the phrase 'agents of socialization'?
- What particular socialization influences do you consider especially significant in your development?
- Have you experienced conflicting types of socialization?

### 4. Sociology ..... Chapter 6

- What logic explains linking deviance and social control? Do you think it valuable to connect crime and deviance?
- Contemplate the theories of deviance and consider if they adequately address questions about human behaviour you may have had in mind?
- Have you ever seen yourself, or been perceived by another, as deviant?

### 5. Sociology ..... Chapter 10

- What do sociologists refer to when they mention gender to others?
- Why do the authors refer to social stratification in their discussion of gender and sex? Before reading this chapter did you think these terms referred to the same characteristics of human life?
- Should sexual orientation matter conceptually to anyone other than a sociologist?
- Having read the chapter, how do you remember the effects of gender socialization in your life?

## 6. Sociology ..... Chapter 9

- What do sociologists mean by race and ethnicity? Do you concur with the significance attributed to these in the book?
- What perspectives on race are introduced in this chapter?
- Why include sections on multiculturalism in a chapter on ethnicity and race?
- Why do race, ethnicity, and discrimination intersect sociologically?

## 7. Sociology ..... Chapters 7 & 8

- Why differentiate between global and general social stratification?
- What relevance has social class and inequality to our consideration of stratification?
- Prepare an explanation of Marxist and Weberian perspectives on class and stratification.
- What do the authors mean by the structural sources of poverty?
- What does 'economy' refer to?
- What ties together development, debt, dependency, and modernization?

## 8. Sociology ..... Chapter 12

- Why do sociologists link, political systems, power, authority, governance, and the economy?
- What ideas and social behaviour are covered by the phrase 'social organization of work'?
- What perspectives of power and political systems are outlined in this chapter?

## 9. Sociology..... Chapters 13 & 14

- What criteria are presented to explain what is a family, a relationship, social problems, diversity?
- What are institutions? Why do sociologists consider them to be so important?
- Given the world's religious diversity, how can sociologists describe religion as a social institution?
- Why do the authors distinguish between religious belief and religious ritual?
- Apply the different sociological theories presented in this text to religion and education in Canada.

## 10. Sociology ..... Chapters 4 & 5

- Explain macro and micro level sociology. Is either more crucial to sociological analysis than the other? If you think not, what kinds of questions might each be more suited to exploring?
- Prepare to discuss the relationship of social structure and social interaction.
- Are social movements equivalent to collective behaviour? Is all collective behaviour organized?
- What are bureaucracies?
- What is 'group think'? Is it more evident in bureaucratic structure than in informal group structure?