

SOCIOLOGY 1000
(3 UT Credits)
Introductory Sociology – Sections A2, C2, D2
Grande Prairie Regional College
(Fall 2007)

Instructor: Alan Segal asegal@gprc.ab.ca

Office Hours: Mondays: 13:00 – 14:00 Or By Appointment

Office: C410, 539-2011

Course Prerequisite: None

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

Required Texts:

Sociology: A Down-to-Earth Approach, 4th Canadian Edition - Henslin...
A Good Book, In Theory - Alan Sears

Assignments:

NOTE: All written work must comply with the College's policy on plagiarism. For a detailed explanation of what it is, refer to page 44 in your Grande Prairie Regional College 2007-8 Calendar.

- All submitted work must clearly stipulate your name, course number and section, and identify which assignment it is. The receipt date and time that accompanies the email message will count as the official submission time for the work you're handing in. You should always request a response from me, indicating I have received your assignment.

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.

- 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.

Three Journals: (F, C+ to B) (19%)

Each journal is **due the first day 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. If you do not hand in a journal you will receive a failing grade on that specific assignment. The three grades will be averaged to produce a single grade.

Major Assignment (F, D- to A+): (27%)

Using at least 6 concepts or theories the books in the course, analyze sociologically one of the following:

1. A book of fiction, a short story, or a body of work by an author of your choice
2. A television program or series, a movie or collection of films
3. A computer game
4. A body of work by a specific creator in any of these areas
5. A song or musical piece, or a body of work by a particular composer.
6. Anything I approve after we have discussed your suggestion.

The **minimum length** of this assignment is 1600 words. The purpose is to use ideas from the course to analyze, as you imagine a sociologist would, whatever you write on.

Due Date: Last class of the semester.

Four Quizzes (F, D to A+): (27%)

All chapters will be included in multiple-choice-type quizzes. The sequence of quizzes will follow the Contents section of the Henslin book, starting with Part 2. The Sears book will not be part of a quiz. All will be done online through Respondus, part of the Blackboard system available at the College. **Dates will be established later. The four quiz results will be averaged into a single grade.**

Midterm Exam (F, D- to A+): (27%)

The midterm will consist of one essay question which you will not know about until the day of the exam. The question will be written to encourage synthesis of ideas in sociology. You may use both assigned books for the course as you compose your response. **Dates to be established.**

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SENT BY EMAIL TO gprc_assignments@yahoo.ca
(DON'T FORGET THE UNDERSCORE IN THE ADDRESS) YOU MUST STATE THE COURSE, SECTION, AND TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT IN THE SUBJECT FIELD.
ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO LATENESS PENALTIES. ONE GRADE LEVEL WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR EVALUATION FOR EACH CALENDAR DAY BEYOND THE DUE DATE.

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 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. If you are absent for more than 5 classes you will not receive a bonus grade. .

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 attain given the number of assignments for the course. In this case, the total will be divided by 15.

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 been entered.

DISCUSSION SEQUENCE

As you consider the questions below for class discussion, keep in mind that quick judgments, 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. Good Book... Chapters 1 and 2

3. Sociology... Chapter 1; Good Book, Chapters 3 and 4

- What are sociological perspectives? How would you describe and explain a non-sociological outlook? Is there such a thing as a sociological fact? If so, what is it? What is a sociological imagination?
- What is a status quo? Provide some examples of this from personal observation.
- Which sociological theories so far impress you the most? Why? If you are unimpressed by any of them, what explains your reaction? What do you expect from a good explanation?
- Did you begin this course with at least an implicit idea of human nature? Does the discussion in Sears' book address what you think or have thought about human nature?

4. Sociology... Chapters 2 & 3; Good Book., Chapter 5

- 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 sociologists refer to when they speak of social relations?

5. Good Book, Chapter 6; Sociology ... Chapter 4

- 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?

6. Sociology ... Chapters 5 and 6

- Prepare to discuss the relationship of social structure and social interaction.
- What do sociologists refer to when they discuss status? What kinds of status do they mention?
- What indicators can you name that display your social status?
- What are institutions? Why are sociologists be interested in them? Can you think of any that are not included in the text?

7. Sociology ... Chapters 7 and 8

- 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 sociologists refer frequently to race, ethnicity, and discrimination as if they are inseparable?

8. Sociology ... Chapter 9

- 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?

9. Sociology ... Chapter 10

- What do sociologists mean when they speak of rationalization?
- What purposes are served or harmed by bureaucracies, organizations, and associations?

10. Sociology..... Chapter 11

- Equality, economy, and work. Explain what is macrosociological and microsociological about these?

11. Sociology..... Chapters 12 and 14

- What varieties of authority and power do sociologists use in their analyses? Do you think some of the distinctions are worthwhile?
- Why do you think I linked a chapter on power and authority to that on religion and education?

12. Sociology..... Chapter 13

- How would you explain 'family' to a being who had no understanding of the concept?
- How easily does your family life fit into the descriptions offered in the text?
- Does the book persuade you that social diversity is accurately and legitimately reflected in the experiences of family in this country?

13. Sociology..... Chapters 16 – 18