



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**  
**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2011.**  
**SO 1000 – INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Nancy Robbins    **E-MAIL:**    nrobbins@gprc.ab.ca

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Macionis, J. J. & Gerber, L.M. (2011). *Sociology* (7<sup>th</sup> edition). Toronto: Prentice Hall.

Students are encouraged to purchase the text as an e-book if they would prefer that format.

Other readings may be assigned throughout the term and supplied by the instructor.

**CALENDAR 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 covered.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** This course involves 3 hours of instructional time per week.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** The course work includes lectures, class discussions, online discussion, in-class exercises, quizzes and written assignments.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- 1.) To have a comprehensive introduction to the discipline of sociology.
- 2.) To understand the work and research of sociologists
- 3.) To conduct sociological research in a topic of interest that relates to the discipline of sociology.

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability

## GRADING CRITERIA:

Chapter Quizzes	30%
Sociological Investigation Proposal	15%
Webpage Resources Exercise	5%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Survey	10%
Class Participation / Online Discussion	5%
Term Paper	25%
Total	100%

### Chapter Quizzes:

Quizzes are to be completed weekly on Moodle. The quizzes consist of multiple choice objective questions related to the class topic. Students will have one week to complete the quiz on Moodle. There are 12 quizzes in total.

### Sociological Investigation Proposal:

**Pre-Assignment task:** Email the instructor a brief overview of your topic for approval.

Using your sociological imagination, design a research project. You are not required to carry out your research project (at this time) but instead are asked to consider steps one through six of sociological investigation discussed in class. Remember to keep your research project small as you are only one person and without any funding.

**Step one:** What is your social problem? Why did you choose it and why is it significant to you? Go through the four steps of the sociological imagination handout to determine your topic. Be sure to include all the work up to date that has been completed on your topic including the class exercises on free writing, brainstorming and the four steps of the sociological imagination handout.

**Step two:** Where would you search for your literature review and secondary analysis? What areas would you research and why? Who are the “experts” in your area of study? What sources will you read to understand your topic?

**Step three:** What are your main concepts? How are they defined? What is your research question?

**Step four:** What do you need for your research? Who are some problems you may encounter? How much will it cost and who will pay? What kind of equipment will you need? Can you do the work yourself?

**Step five:** Are there any ethical considerations? Why or why not? If yes, what are they? Do you need a consent form? How will it look? Refer to the ethical guidelines discussed in class and discuss how you will ensure these guidelines are met. Will you keep your subject anonymous?

**Step six:** What methods will you use? Why? Will you use multiple methods? Who is your population and what is your sample? Will you do quantitative or qualitative research? Why? How will you carry out the research? Why did you choose your particular method? What will your method look like?

Note: it is recommended that you choose a survey as your method as you will be expected to carry out your research for your final paper.

This assignment is about 5 pages

## Webpage Resources Exercise:

In this assignment, you will evaluate three webpage resources for your assignment. Of these five resources, you should include and discuss the following:

- One resource that is credible and should be used for your research with a brief discussion why this is a credible source
- One resource that is not credible that you have dismissed with a brief discussion why this is not a credible source
- One resource from Wikipedia with your opinion as to why or why not Wikipedia is a valid or invalid academic source

Correct citation is expected for all three resources.

This assignment should be one to two pages.

## Annotated Bibliography

### **Part One:**

Students are first required to finalize their research question. Your research question is the question that your research project will answer. Your research question should be one concise statement or question.

### **Part Two:**

Students are required to submit a minimum of 8 sources (other than the textbook) related to their research question that they will review for their final paper. These 8 sources must include:

1. Information from Statistics Canada
2. Information from a government website (federal or provincial) that is related to your topic AND/OR an organization that works on resolving your issue.
3. At least two academic articles

With each source, write a brief statement (less than 3 lines) how this topic will contribute to your research question and final paper.

Students are expected to use previous resources discussed in other exercises in this assignment.

This assignment should be one to two pages.

## Survey:

Part One: Create your survey that you will hand out to your subjects for completion.

Part Two: Include a description of your sample.

Part Three: Review your ethical considerations of consent and anonymity of your subjects.

Part Four: Include a brief discussion on how you will analyze your survey after it is completed by your sample.

Once your survey is reviewed by the instructor and you have made the appropriate changes, you can post your survey online. Students are encouraged to use survey monkey to add them with their responses ONCE the survey has been approved by the instructor. Students are also encouraged to share this link with their classmates. The link for survey monkey MUST be shared with the instructor and discussed as part of the methodology of the final paper.

Please note, however, survey monkey results and related tools will not be accepted as part of the submitted final paper. Students are only permitted to use survey monkey as a tool for generating responses.

This assignment is one to two pages.

## Class Participation/Online Discussion:

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Online discussion will be posted on Moodle throughout the term.

## Term Paper:

The final paper is a continuation of all the work completed throughout the term and a result of the ideas and methodology discussed in the proposal. Students are permitted to re-submit work that has been completed throughout the term provided that comments and corrections are noted.

More information on the final term paper will be distributed later in the term.

<b>GRADING CRITERIA: GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE</b>			
<b>GRADING CONVERSION CHART</b>			
<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>A<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>90 – 100</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>85 – 89</b>	
<b>A<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>80 – 84</b>	<b>FIRST CLASS STANDING</b>
<b>B<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>77 – 79</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>73 – 76</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>B<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>70 – 72</b>	
<b>C<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>67 – 69</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>63 – 66</b>	
<b>C<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>60 – 62</b>	
<b>D<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>55 – 59</b>	<b>MINIMAL PASS</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>50 – 54</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0 – 49</b>	<b>FAIL</b>
<b>WF</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline</b>

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Due dates: Due dates are assigned for a reason. Late work is usually marked with grade deductions and will be accepted in extenuating circumstances; but note, extensions are RARELY given! However, if needed, please see me to discuss why you cannot meet a deadline for the written assignment. Late work is subject to penalties regardless of the circumstances.

Submission of papers: Assignments and papers are to be submitted on time, typed, spell checked, and emailed to the instructor.

I will email you to let you know that I have received your assignment. If you don't hear from me, then I haven't received your paper – it is YOUR responsibility to follow up!

Questions regarding assignments: I am always available for questions by email or in person. Please be sure to consult with me prior to the due date.

Class Participation and Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for this course. Please let me know in advance if you are unable to attend classes.

Behaviour in class: Please come to class prepared for the day's discussion and topic. Respect of your fellow students is a given. While you may disagree with your colleague's opinion to specific issues, please show respect and dignity to each other.

Abuse of any kind is not tolerated or acceptable.

## **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Please refer to the following website for the College's policy on plagiarism and cheating:  
<http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/admissions-guide-2011-2012/html/50.html>

## **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

Unless otherwise stated, all classes are on Fridays at 1:00 pm.

- September 9    **The Sociological Perspective**  
Reading: Chapter 1 (pages 1-13)
- September 16    **Sociological Investigation**  
Reading: Chapter 2  
Quiz #1 (this quiz is available for two weeks until September 30)
- September 23    **Culture and Society**  
Reading: Chapter 1 (pages 14-25); Chapter 3; Chapter 4  
Quiz #2 (quiz open until September 30)
- September 30    **Socialization / Social Interaction in Everyday Lives / Groups and Organizations**  
Reading: Chapter 5; Chapter 6 (pages 127-130); Chapter 7 (pages 147-157)  
Quiz #3 (quiz open until October 7)  
Sociological Investigation Proposal Due
- October 7        **Sexuality**  
Reading: Chapter 8  
Quiz #4 (quiz open until October 14)
- October 14      **Deviance**  
Reading: Chapter 9  
Quiz #5 (quiz open until October 21)  
Webpage Resources Exercise Due
- October 21      **class rescheduled**

October 28     **Social Stratification / Social Class / Global Stratification**  
Reading: Chapter 10 (pages 223-237); Chapter 11; Chapter 12  
Quiz #6 (quiz open until November 4)

November 4    **Gender**  
Reading: Chapter 13  
Quiz #7 (quiz open until November 11)  
Annotated Bibliography due

**Monday November 7 at 6:00 pm**     **Race and Ethnicity**  
Reading: Chapter 14  
Quiz #8 (quiz open until November 14)  
Survey due

November 11   **No classes – Remembrance Day**

**Monday November 14 at 6:00 pm**     **Aging / Health and Medicine / Religion**  
Reading: Chapter 15; Chapter 21; Chapter 19 (pages 457-462)  
Quiz #9 (quiz open until November 21)

November 18   **Work / Education / Politics**  
Reading: Chapter 16 (pages 374-378; 384-392); Chapter 20 (pages 485-500); Chapter 17  
(pages 407-417)  
Quiz #10 (quiz open until November 25)

November 25   **Class rescheduled**

December 2    **Family**  
Reading: Chapter 18  
Quiz #11 (quiz open until December 9)

December 9    **Population / Environment / Collective Behaviour, Social Movements & Social Change**  
Reading: Chapter 22 (pages 529-536; 546-552); Chapter 23; Chapter 24 (pages 284-587)  
Quiz #12 (quiz open until December 16)

December 16   **Final paper due**