
Camosun College
School of Arts & Science
Social Sciences Department

Sociology 100
Social Structure & Organization

Fall, 2002

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @

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Intended Learning Outcomes

To introduce a sociological perspective, and to give the students an opportunity to become familiar with the basic concepts of sociology. The course will focus on the “classic” tradition in sociological thinking. There will be an emphasis upon examining this thought in terms of its influence upon the current major paradigms of sociology and its relevance to our lives and society. The course is not intended as a survey of sociological theory, but rather utilizes theory as a means to introduce the students to a sociological perspective. The intended learning outcomes of the course are twofold:

- (a) the students will be able to view and analyze social phenomena with greater insight, which will enable them to better understand themselves, their society, and the times in which they live; and
- (b) the course will also prepare the students for further study in the social sciences through their grasp of the historical roots and the contemporary directions of the discipline of sociology.

Required Text

John Macionis, et al *Society: The Basics* Second Canadian Edition
Prentice-Hall Canada, 2002

Method of Instruction

The course will be based on a series of lectures, followed by seminar-type discussions in which the students are urged to participate.

Basis of Student Assessment

Evaluation will be based on three in-class examinations, each accounting for one-third of the final grade. Examinations will cover material from the readings, lectures, and discussions. All examinations will be graded anonymously and on the basis of their sociological quality and English proficiency.

In evaluating the examination papers the emphasis will be on understanding and analysis, rather than recitation of facts. Avoid memorizing sentences, in particular when it is not clear to you what the sentences mean. Papers indicating memorization will receive a grade of Zero. As for analysis, your learning strategy should be to understand the relationships among facts, not the facts alone. Another important aspect of your paper is illustration. After discussion and analysis, give examples from current or historical developments in society. This will show that you understand the concepts and theories and are able to apply them to society as tools for analysis. More specifically, the exam paper must:

1. show a full understanding of the thesis and the main arguments of the topic;
2. cover all the major components of the topic;
3. be organized and cohesive;
4. be written in clear English and communicate ideas effectively;
5. focus on the topic and avoid unrelated material from other topics or elsewhere;
6. avoid “fillers”, padding, repetitions, and vague generalities which can be used for any exam topic; and
7. illustrate the theory by giving appropriate examples, thus “applying” the theory to society.

Examination Procedures

The dates of the first and second examinations will be chosen in consultation with students in order to minimize the chances of their having to write several examinations in the same week. The third examination will be held during the exam week. **Students are strongly advised not to make travel plans until after the Christmas final examination schedule is posted. We cannot schedule other examination times for students who make travel plans that disregard the examination schedule set by Camosun College.** All examinations must be written in the section of the course in which the student is officially registered.

A grade of Zero will be granted for absence during examination, unless the student produces a medical certificate confirming serious illness and writes the substitute exam within one week of recovery.

The examination papers for the first and second examinations must be claimed by the student in person during the class session in which the papers are returned or the following session.

Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%	B = 75 - 79%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 90 - 94%	B- = 70 - 74%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 85 - 89%	C+ = 65 - 69%	I = See Calendar for Details
B+ = 80 - 85%	C = 60 - 64%	AUD = Audit

W = Official withdrawal has taken place.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:

- (i) giving, receiving, or obtaining unauthorized information during any type of examination or test;
- (ii) obtaining or providing unauthorized questions or answers relating to any examination or test prior to the time of the examination or test;
- (iii) asking or arranging for another person to take any examination or test in one's place;
- (iv) plagiarizing, that is, appropriating the work of another or parts or passages of another's writing, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as a product of one's own mind or manual skill.

Academic misconduct will result in a grade of "F" for the entire course. The students should note that in accordance with the college policy quoted above, mere access to unauthorized information (for example, texts or lecture notes) constitutes academic misconduct. It is not necessary for the instructor to prove that the information has been used by the student.

Tape-Recording in the Classroom

In order to ensure free and open discussion of controversial ideas by the students, tape-recording of the proceedings is not permitted in class. Exceptions, however, will be made for students who are visually impaired or are unable to write due to physical disability.

Procedure Changes

In order to deal with the day to day management of the course, new procedures or revisions to procedures may be implemented from time to time throughout the semester.

Such procedures and revisions will be announced in class for two consecutive sessions before they are implemented. It is the responsibility of each student to keep informed of such developments.

All matters that are not covered by this course outline are governed by official college policies and procedures.

Course Content and Study Guide

1. Introduction of the course
The Sociological Perspective: Issues and Controversies
(pp. 3-14 of Required Text)
Is sociology a science, and can it make a difference in people's lives?
2. **Sociological Research Methods**
(pp. 15-23 of Required Text)
Why does sociology adopt the research methods discussed in the chapter?
3. **Culture**
(pp. 30-53 of Required Text)
Does account for the immense similarities and differences in the ways people feel and behave?
4. **Socialisation:**
(pp. 54-77 of Required Text)
Does society shape what a person can and will become, or are people prisoners of their genetic endowment?
5. **Social Structure and Social Interaction in Everyday Life**
(pp. 78-99 of Required Text)
Do they adequately explain why human affairs do not usually dissolve into a "war of all against all"?
6. **Social Groups and Formal Organizations**
(pp. 100-125 of Required Text)
More efficient, effective and humane ways of organizing a complex social world?
7. **Deviance and Crime**
(pp. 126-151 of Required Text)
A matter of social definition or an objective condition?
8. **Stratification and Social Class**
(pp. 176-205 of Required Text)
Opportunity for social mobility or inevitable process of oppression?
9. **Sex and Gender Relations:**
(pp. 230-253 of Required Text)
Will gender inequality and oppression diminish in a post-modern society?

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10. **Race and Ethnic Relations:**
(pp. 254-275 of Required Text)
Vertical Mosaic, Salad Bowl or a Melting Pot?
11. **Central Institutions of Society:**
The Family and Religion
(pp. 308-341 of Required Text)
How do they intersect to produce fruitful and futile individuals and societies?
12. **Central Institutions of Society:**
Education and Health/Medicine
(pp. 342-373 of Required Text)
Can they eliminate poverty and inequality?
13. **Central Institutions of Society:**
Economics and Politics
(pp. 276-307 of Required Text)
What are their interrelationships, and what are Their Impact on the individual, family, religion, education, health and medicine?
14. **Population and the Environment**
(pp. 347-382 and 390-399 of Required Text)
Environmental Destruction: Rapid Population Growth or Social Structure and Organisation?
15. **Social Change: Modern and Postmodern Societies**
(pp. 406-429 of Required Text)
Would you characterize Canada as a modern or postmodern society? Why?

Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

Students are encouraged to utilize support services available at the Writing Centre to prepare for their essay exams.

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-8