



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Social Sciences

**SOC 100 - INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL
STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION**
Fall 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Information:

- (a) Instructor: Dr. Peter Maidstone
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Calendar Description:

An introduction to the basic principles and methods of sociology. Emphasis will be placed upon society as institutionalized human behaviour, the various factors which control it or alter it, and the effects upon the individual and the group. The major objective of the course is to develop a critical understanding of modern society.

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 critical orientation 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 our society. The course is not intended as a survey of sociological theory, but rather utilizes theory as a means to introduce the student to a sociological perspective.

Students will be able to:

- demonstrate that the sociological perspective is a valid approach to studying, understanding, explaining, and predicting patterns of human behaviour, social structure and organization.
- define the major concepts of sociology and use them to examine human behavior and the social world.
- identify and describe the major sociological perspectives of functionalism, social conflict, interactionism and feminism.
- apply the major sociological perspectives to examine research, social interaction, culture, inequalities, social institutions, and social change.
- identify the historical roots and the current directions of sociology.
- describe the influences of social structure and organization on their lives, the times in which they live, and their society.

Required Texts:

Naiman, Joanne. *How Societies Work: Class, Power, and Change in a Canadian Context* (4th ed.). Fernwood, 2008.

Evaluation Procedures:

First Exam: (30%)

The exam will be an "objective style" multiple-choice exam, but will attempt to test one's conceptual rather than factual knowledge. It will focus on material covered to date in the course, and will be written in class on October 15/16.

Second Exam: (35%)

The second exam will have the same format as the first. It will be based on material covered in the lectures and readings. It will be written in class on November 12/13.

Third Exam: (15%)

The third exam will retain the same format as the other exams. It will focus upon areas covered since the second exam. It will be written in class December 3/4.

First Essay (10%):

Each student is responsible for completing a seven hundred and fifty word typewritten analysis of a current Canadian newspaper or magazine article. This assignment, which will be explained more fully in class, will be evaluated on a Pass-Fail basis. A copy of the article together with the analysis is due October 29/30.

Second Essay: (10%)

Each student is responsible for completing a seven hundred and fifty word typewritten analysis of the textbooks. This assignment, which will be explained more fully in class, will be evaluated on a Pass-Fail basis. A copy of the analysis is due November 26/27.

Grading System:

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B = 73 - 76%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89%	B- = 70 - 72%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 80 - 84%	C+ = 65 - 69%	
B+ = 77 - 79%	C = 60 - 64%	

Required Reading:

- The student will be required to read selected chapters of the text.
- In addition to the above readings, the student may be required to read selected articles on reserve in the library.

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/2-5.html

Course Topic Areas:

a. **What is Sociology?**

Objective: to gain an understanding of the sociological perspective by examining the following topics:

- A definition of sociology
- The value of sociology
- The characteristics of science
- Sociology as a science
- How sociology differs from the other social sciences

b. **Research Methods**

Objective: the aim of this unit is to give the student an introduction to the major types of research designs and the steps involved in the research process. Topics to be covered include:

- What is methodology?
- What are the different approaches to doing research? (quantitative vs. qualitative)
- Types of research designs, and the special uses of each.

c. **The Problem of Knowledge**

Objective: to develop an awareness of the problems sociology faces in differentiating itself from common sense knowledge and establishing itself as a science. Topics to be examined include:

- Is sociology a science? (an analysis of this debate)
- The value-free debate
- The Hawthorn effect
- Culture-free concepts
- Sociology and its involvement in the "real" world
- What is social reality?
- Is reality constructed?
- Subjectivity and science

d. **Models of Society**

Objective: to convey to the student an understanding of a number of current major paradigms in sociology, and the roots of these perspectives in the work of the "classical" theorists. The student will be given an insight into the differences between the functionalist, conflict, interactionist, and feminist paradigms. The substantive topics to be explored in terms of the above aims are social stratification, deviance, gender, and politics.

e. **The Question of Human Nature**

Objective: the aim of this section is to make the student aware of the various conceptions of human nature which underpin the paradigms which have been examined. This unit will focus on the implications of each conception of human nature for the type of social organization that is possible, and how these implications are expressed in social theories.

f. **Introduction to Social Theory**

Objective: to introduce the student to sociological theory and to trace its roots to social theory. Topics to be covered include:

- A definition of theory.
- The differentiation between common sense, sociological, and social theory.
- The history of social theory.
- The relationship of the emergence of social theory to the development of sociology as a discipline.
- The relationship of theory to ideology.
- The approach and uses of the sociology of knowledge.

g. **Karl Marx**

Objective: the aim of this unit is to impart to the student an understanding of the dialectical paradigm, and a materialist perspective. Marx's views of social class, social change, historical development, consciousness, and ideology will be examined with the intention of illustrating the contrast between a critical and a positivist interpretation of society.

h. **Empowering Knowledge**

Objective: the aim of the final unit is to draw some conclusions about the role that sociological knowledge can play in enabling us to take control of, or, as one author puts it, "restore balance" to our lives, our society, and the planet.